

FRONT

Actual Size : 560 X 210 mm

IN33931

RALEF Etoricoxib Tablets

COMPOSITION

RALEF 60 (Etoricoxib Tablets 60 mg)
Each film coated tablet contains
Etoricoxib 60 mg
Colour: Lake of Indigo Carmine, Yellow Oxide of Iron and Titanium Dioxide
Excipients q.s.

RALEF 90 (Etoricoxib Tablets 90 mg)
Each film coated tablet contains
Etoricoxib 90 mg
Colour: Titanium Dioxide
Excipients q.s.

RALEF 120 (Etoricoxib Tablets 120 mg)
Each film coated tablet contains
Etoricoxib 120 mg
Colour: Lake of Indigo Carmine, Yellow Oxide of Iron and Titanium Dioxide
Excipients q.s.

DOSAGE FORM:

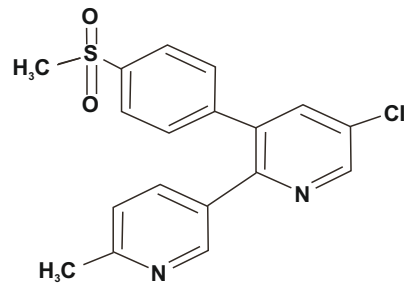
Oral Tablets

DISTRIBUTION CATEGORY:

Prescription Only Medicine or POM

DESCRIPTION:

It is chemically 5-Chloro-6-Methyl-3-(4-(Methylsulfonyl)Phenyl)-2,3-Bipyridine. Its empirical formula is C₂₆H₂₀ClN₂O₂S with a molecular weight of 358.84. Etoricoxib has the following structure:



EXCIPIENT LIST

RALEF 60 (Etoricoxib Tablets 60 mg) contains:
Anhydrous Dibasic Calcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Povidone, Purified Water, Magnesium Stearate and Instacoat Aqua III A03R00286 Green (Hypromellose, Lactose Monohydrate, Triacetin, Carnauba Wax, Titanium Dioxide, Lake Indigo Carmine, Yellow Iron Oxide).

RALEF 90 (Etoricoxib Tablets 90 mg)
Anhydrous Dibasic Calcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Povidone, Purified Water, Magnesium Stearate and Instacoat Aqua III A03R10311 White (Hypromellose, Lactose Monohydrate, Triacetin, Carnauba Wax, Titanium Dioxide).

RALEF 120 (Etoricoxib Tablets 120 mg) :
Anhydrous Dibasic Calcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Povidone, Purified Water, Magnesium Stearate and Instacoat Aqua III A03R00290 Green (Hypromellose, Lactose Monohydrate, Triacetin, Carnauba Wax, Titanium Dioxide, Lake Indigo Carmine, Yellow Iron Oxide).

CLINICAL PARTICULARS

Therapeutic indications

Ralef is indicated in adults and adolescents 16 years of age and

older for the symptomatic relief of osteoarthritis (OA), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), ankylosing spondylitis, and the pain and signs of inflammation associated with acute gouty arthritis.

Ralef is indicated in adults and adolescents 16 years of age and older for the short-term treatment of moderate pain associated with dental surgery.

The decision to prescribe a selective COX-2 inhibitor should be based on an assessment of the individual patient's overall risks.

NOTORIOUS EFFECTS OF EXCIPIENTS

All the excipients present in **RALEF (Etoricoxib Tablets)** are inactive in nature and are safe for use in oral formulations, hence less likely to cause any adverse effects.

POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

Posology

As the cardiovascular risks of etoricoxib may increase with dose and duration of exposure, the shortest duration possible and the lowest effective daily dose should be used. The patient's need for symptomatic relief and response to therapy should be re-evaluated periodically, especially in patients with osteoarthritis.

Osteoarthritis

The recommended dose is 30 mg once daily. In some patients with insufficient relief from symptoms, an increased dose of 60 mg once daily may increase efficacy. In the absence of an increase in therapeutic benefit, other therapeutic options should be considered.

Rheumatoid arthritis

The recommended dose is 60 mg once daily. In some patients with insufficient relief from symptoms, an increased dose of 90 mg once daily may increase efficacy. Once the patient is clinically stabilized, down-titration to a 60 mg once daily dose may be appropriate. In the absence of an increase in therapeutic benefit, other therapeutic options should be considered.

Ankylosing spondylitis

The recommended dose is 60 mg once daily. In some patients with insufficient relief from symptoms, an increased dose of 90 mg once daily may increase efficacy. Once the patient is clinically stabilized, down-titration to a 60 mg once daily dose may be appropriate. In the absence of an increase in therapeutic benefit, other therapeutic options should be considered.

Acute pain conditions

For acute pain conditions, etoricoxib should be used only for the acute symptomatic period.

Acute gouty arthritis

The recommended dose is 120 mg once daily. In clinical trials for acute gouty arthritis, etoricoxib was given for 8 days.

Postoperative dental surgery pain

The recommended dose is 90 mg once daily, limited to a maximum of 3 days. Some patients may require other postoperative analgesia in addition to Etoricoxib during the three day treatment period.

Doses greater than those recommended for each indication have either not demonstrated additional efficacy or have not been studied. Therefore:

The dose for OA should not exceed 60 mg daily.
The dose for RA and ankylosing spondylitis should not exceed 90 mg daily.
The dose for acute gout should not exceed 120 mg daily, limited to a maximum of 8 days treatment.

The dose for postoperative acute dental surgery pain should not exceed 90 mg daily, limited to a maximum of 3 days.

Special populations

Elderly patients

No dosage adjustment is necessary for elderly patients. As with other drugs, caution should be exercised in elderly patients.

Patients with hepatic impairment

Regardless of indication, in patients with mild hepatic dysfunction (Child-Pugh score 5-6) a dose of 60 mg once daily should not be exceeded. In patients with moderate hepatic dysfunction (Child-Pugh score 7-9), regardless of indication, the dose of 30 mg once daily should not be exceeded.

Clinical experience is limited particularly in patients with moderate hepatic dysfunction and caution is advised. There is no clinical experience in patients with severe hepatic dysfunction (Child-Pugh score ≥ 10); therefore, its use is contra-indicated in these patients.

Patients with renal impairment

No dosage adjustment is necessary for patients with creatinine clearance ≥ 30 ml/min. The use of etoricoxib in patients with creatinine clearance <30 ml/min is contra-indicated.

Pediatric population

Etoricoxib is contra-indicated in children and adolescents under 16 years of age.

Method of administration

Ralef is administered orally and may be taken with or without food. The onset of the effect of the medicinal product may be faster when Etoricoxib is administered without food. This should be considered when rapid symptomatic relief is needed.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.
- Active peptic ulceration or active gastro-intestinal (GI) bleeding.
- Patients who, after taking acetylsalicylic acid or NSAIDs including COX-2 (cyclooxygenase-2) inhibitors, experience bronchospasm, acute rhinitis, nasal polyps, angioneurotic oedema, urticaria, or allergic-type reactions.
- Pregnancy and lactation.
- Severe hepatic dysfunction (serum albumin <25 g/l or Child-Pugh score ≥ 10).
- Estimated renal creatinine clearance <30 ml/min.
- Children and adolescents under 16 years of age.
- Inflammatory bowel disease.
- Congestive heart failure (NYHA II-IV).
- Patients with hypertension whose blood pressure is persistently elevated above 140/90 mmHg and has not been adequately controlled.
- Established ischemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease, and/or cerebrovascular disease.

SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

Gastrointestinal effects

Upper gastrointestinal complications [perforations, ulcers or bleedings (PUBs)], some of them resulting in fatal outcome, have occurred in patients treated with etoricoxib. Caution is advised with treatment of patients most at risk of developing a gastrointestinal complication with NSAIDs; the elderly, patients using any other NSAID or acetylsalicylic acid concomitantly or patients with a prior history of gastrointestinal disease, such as ulceration and GI bleeding.

There is a further increase in the risk of gastrointestinal adverse effects (gastrointestinal ulceration or other gastrointestinal complications) when etoricoxib is taken concomitantly with acetylsalicylic acid (even at low doses). A significant difference in GI safety between selective COX-2 inhibitors + acetylsalicylic acid vs. NSAIDs + acetylsalicylic acid has not been demonstrated in long-term clinical trials.

Cardiovascular effects

Clinical trials suggest that the selective COX-2 inhibitor class of drugs may be associated with a risk of thrombotic events (especially myocardial infarction (MI) and stroke), relative to placebo and some NSAIDs. As the cardiovascular risks of etoricoxib may increase with dose and duration of exposure, the shortest duration possible and the lowest effective daily dose should be used. The patient's need for symptomatic relief and response to therapy should be re-evaluated periodically, especially in patients with osteoarthritis.

Patients with significant risk factors for cardiovascular events (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, and smoking) should only be treated with etoricoxib after careful consideration. COX-2 selective inhibitors are not a substitute for acetylsalicylic acid for prophylaxis of cardiovascular thrombo-embolic diseases because of their lack of antiplatelet effect. Therefore antiplatelet therapies should not be discontinued.

Renal effects

Renal prostaglandins may play a compensatory role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. Therefore, under conditions of compromised renal perfusion, administration of etoricoxib may cause a reduction in prostaglandin formation and, secondarily, in renal blood flow, and thereby impair renal function. Patients at greatest risk of this response are those with pre-existing significantly impaired renal function, uncompensated heart failure, or cirrhosis. Monitoring of renal function in such patients should be considered.

Fluid retention, edema and hypertension

As with other medicinal products known to inhibit prostaglandin synthesis, fluid retention, edema and hypertension have been observed in patients taking etoricoxib. All Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs), including etoricoxib, can be associated with new onset or recurrent congestive heart failure.

For information regarding a dose related response for etoricoxib. Caution should be exercised in patients with a history of cardiac failure, left ventricular dysfunction, or hypertension and in patients with pre-existing edema from any other reason. If there is clinical evidence of deterioration in the condition of these patients, appropriate measures including discontinuation of etoricoxib should be taken.

Etoricoxib may be associated with more frequent and severe hypertension than some other NSAIDs and selective COX-2 inhibitors, particularly at high doses. Therefore, hypertension should be controlled before treatment with etoricoxib and special attention should be paid to blood pressure monitoring during treatment with etoricoxib. Blood pressure should be monitored within two weeks after initiation of treatment and periodically thereafter. If blood pressure rises significantly, alternative treatment should be considered.

Hepatic effects

Elevations of alanine aminotransferase (ALT) and/or aspartate aminotransferase (AST) (approximately three or more times the upper limit of normal) have been reported in approximately 1% of patients in clinical trials treated for up to one year with etoricoxib 30, 60 and 90 mg daily. Any patients with symptoms and/or signs suggesting liver dysfunction, or in whom an abnormal liver function test has occurred, should be monitored. If signs of hepatic insufficiency occur, or if persistently abnormal liver function tests (three times the upper limit of normal) are detected, etoricoxib should be discontinued.

General

If during treatment, patients deteriorate in any of the organ system functions described above, appropriate measures should be taken and discontinuation of etoricoxib therapy should be considered. Medically appropriate supervision should be maintained when using etoricoxib in the elderly and in patients with renal, hepatic, or cardiac dysfunction.

Caution should be used when initiating treatment with etoricoxib in patients with dehydration. It is advisable to rehydrate patients prior to starting therapy with etoricoxib.

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs and some selective COX-2 inhibitors during post-marketing surveillance. Patients appear to be at highest risk for these reactions early in the course of therapy with the onset of the reaction occurring in the majority of cases within the first month of treatment. Serious hypersensitivity reactions (such as anaphylaxis and angioedema) have been reported in patients receiving etoricoxib. Some selective COX-2 inhibitors have been associated with an increased risk of skin reactions in patients with a history of any drug allergy. Etoricoxib should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Etoricoxib may mask fever and other signs of inflammation. Caution should be exercised when co-administering etoricoxib with warfarin or other oral anticoagulants.

The use of etoricoxib, as with any medicinal product known to inhibit cyclooxygenase / prostaglandin synthesis, is not recommended in women attempting to conceive.

INTERACTION WITH OTHER MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERACTION

Pharmacodynamic interactions

Oral anticoagulants: Patients receiving oral anticoagulants should be closely monitored for their prothrombin time INR, particularly in the first few days when therapy with etoricoxib is initiated or the dose of etoricoxib is changed.

Diuretics, ACE inhibitors and Angiotensin II Antagonists: NSAIDs may reduce the effect of diuretics and other antihypertensive drugs. In some patients with compromised renal function (e.g. dehydrated patients or elderly patients with compromised renal function) the co-administration of an ACE inhibitor or Angiotensin II antagonist and agents that inhibit cyclo-oxygenase may result in further deterioration of renal function, including possible acute renal failure, which is usually reversible. These interactions should be considered in patients taking etoricoxib concomitantly

with ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II antagonists. Therefore, the combination should be administered with caution, especially in the elderly. Patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring of renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy, and periodically thereafter.

Acetylsalicylic Acid: In a study in healthy subjects, at steady state, etoricoxib 120 mg once daily had no effect on the anti-platelet activity of acetylsalicylic acid (81 mg once daily). Etoricoxib can be used concomitantly with acetylsalicylic acid at doses used for cardiovascular prophylaxis (low-dose acetylsalicylic acid). However, concomitant administration of low-dose acetylsalicylic acid with etoricoxib may result in an increased rate of GI ulceration or other complications compared to use of etoricoxib alone. Concomitant administration of etoricoxib with doses of acetylsalicylic acid above those for cardiovascular prophylaxis or with other NSAIDs is not recommended.

Cyclosporine and tacrolimus: Although this interaction has not been studied with etoricoxib, co-administration of cyclosporine or tacrolimus with any NSAID may increase the nephrotoxic effect of cyclosporine or tacrolimus. Renal function should be monitored when etoricoxib and either of these drugs is used in combination.

Pharmacokinetic interactions

The effect of etoricoxib on the pharmacokinetics of other drugs
Lithium: NSAIDs decrease lithium renal excretion and therefore increase lithium plasma levels. If necessary, monitor blood lithium closely and adjust the lithium dosage while the combination is being taken and when the NSAID is withdrawn.

Methotrexate: Adequate monitoring for methotrexate-related toxicity is recommended when etoricoxib and methotrexate are administered concomitantly.

Oral contraceptives: Etoricoxib 60 mg given concomitantly with an oral contraceptive containing 35 micrograms ethinyl estradiol (EE) and 0.5 to 1 mg norethindrone for 21 days increased the steady state AUC_{0-24h} of EE by 37%. Etoricoxib 120 mg given with the same oral contraceptive concomitantly or separated by 12 hours, increased the steady state AUC_{0-24h} of EE by 50 to 60%. This increase in EE concentration should be considered when selecting an oral contraceptive for use with etoricoxib. An increase in EE exposure can increase the incidence of adverse events associated with oral contraceptives (e.g., venous thrombo-embolic events in women at risk).

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT): Administration of etoricoxib 120 mg with hormone replacement therapy consisting of conjugated estrogens (0.625 mg PREMARIN™) for 28 days, increased the mean steady state AUC_{0-24h} of unconjugated estrone (41%), equilin (76%), and 17-β-estradiol (22%). The effect of the recommended chronic doses of etoricoxib (30, 60, and 90 mg) has not been studied. The effects of etoricoxib 120 mg on the exposure (AUC_{0-24h}) to these estrogenic components of PREMARIN were less than half of those observed when PREMARIN was administered alone and the dose was increased from 0.625 to 1.25 mg. The clinical significance of these increases is unknown, and higher doses of PREMARIN were not studied in combination with etoricoxib. These increases in estrogenic concentration should be taken into consideration when selecting post-menopausal hormone therapy for use with etoricoxib because the increase in oestrogen exposure might increase the risk of adverse events associated with HRT.

Prednisone/prednisolone: In drug-interaction studies, etoricoxib did not have clinically important effects on the pharmacokinetics of prednisone/prednisolone.

Digoxin: Patients at high risk of digoxin toxicity should be monitored for this when etoricoxib and digoxin are administered concomitantly.

Effect of etoricoxib on drugs metabolised by sulfo-transferases
Etoricoxib is an inhibitor of human sulfo-transferase activity, particularly SULT1E1, and has been shown to increase the serum concentrations of ethinyl estradiol. While knowledge about effects of multiple sulfo-transferases is presently limited and the clinical consequences for many drugs are still being examined, it may be prudent to exercise care when administering etoricoxib concurrently with other drugs primarily metabolised by human sulfo-transferases (e.g., oral salbutamol and minoxidil).

Effect of etoricoxib on drugs metabolised by CYP isoenzymes

Based on *in vitro* studies, etoricoxib is not expected to inhibit

cytochromes P450 (CYP) 1A2, 2C9, 2C19, 2D6, 2E1 or 3A4. In a study in healthy subjects, daily administration of etoricoxib 120 mg did not alter hepatic CYP3A4 activity as assessed by the erythromycin breath test.

Effects of other drugs on the pharmacokinetics of etoricoxib

The main pathway of etoricoxib metabolism is dependent on CYP enzymes. CYP3A4 appears to contribute to the metabolism of etoricoxib *in vivo*. *In vitro* studies indicate that CYP2D6, CYP2C9, CYP1A2 and CYP2C19 also can catalyse the main metabolic pathway, but their quantitative roles have not been studied *in vivo*.

Ketoconazole: Ketoconazole, a potent inhibitor of CYP3A4, dosed at 400 mg once a day for 11 days to healthy volunteers, did not have any clinically important effect on the single-dose pharmacokinetics of 60 mg etoricoxib (43% increase in AUC).

Voriconazole and Miconazole: Co-administration of either oral voriconazole or topical miconazole oral gel, strong CYP3A4 inhibitors, with etoricoxib caused a slight increase in exposure to etoricoxib, but is not considered to be clinically meaningful based on published data.

Rifampicin: Co-administration of etoricoxib with rifampicin, a potent inducer of CYP enzymes, produced a 65% decrease in etoricoxib plasma concentrations. This interaction may result in recurrence of symptoms when etoricoxib is co-administered with rifampicin. While this information may suggest an increase in dose, doses of etoricoxib greater than those listed for each indication have not been studied in combination with rifampicin and are therefore not recommended.

Antacids: Antacids do not affect the pharmacokinetics of etoricoxib to a clinically relevant extent.

FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Pregnancy

No clinical data on exposed pregnancies are available for etoricoxib. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity. The potential for human risk in pregnancy is unknown. Etoricoxib, as with other medicinal products inhibiting prostaglandin synthesis, may cause uterine inertia and premature closure of the ductus arteriosus during the last trimester. Etoricoxib is contraindicated in pregnancy. If a woman becomes pregnant during treatment, etoricoxib must be discontinued.

Lactation

Breastfeeding

It is not known whether etoricoxib is excreted in human milk. Etoricoxib is excreted in the milk of lactating rats. Women who use etoricoxib must not breastfeed.

Fertility

The use of etoricoxib, as with any drug substance known to inhibit COX-2, is not recommended in women attempting to conceive.

EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES

Patients who experience dizziness, vertigo or somnolence while taking etoricoxib should refrain from driving or operating machinery.

UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS

Summary of the safety profile

In clinical trials, etoricoxib was evaluated for safety in 9,295 individuals, including 6,757 patients with OA, RA, chronic low back pain or ankylosing spondylitis (approximately 600 patients with OA or RA were treated for one year or longer). In clinical studies, the undesirable effects profile was similar in patients with OA or RA treated with etoricoxib for one year or longer.

In a clinical study for acute gouty arthritis, patients were treated with etoricoxib 120 mg once daily for eight days. The adverse experience profile in this study was generally similar to that reported in the combined OA, RA, and chronic low back pain studies.

In a cardiovascular safety outcomes programme of pooled data from three active comparator controlled trials, 17, 412 patients with OA or RA were treated with etoricoxib (60 mg or 90 mg) for a mean duration of approximately 18 months.

In clinical studies for acute postoperative dental pain following surgery including 614 patients treated with etoricoxib (90 mg or 120 mg), the adverse experience profile in these studies was generally similar to that reported in the combined OA, RA, and chronic low back pain studies.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The following undesirable effects were reported at an incidence greater than placebo in clinical trials in patients with OA, RA, chronic low back pain or ankylosing spondylitis treated with etoricoxib 30 mg, 60 mg or 90 mg up to the recommended dose for up to 12 weeks; in the MEDAL Programme studies for up to 3½ years; in short term acute pain studies for up to 7 days; or in post-marketing experience (see Table 1):

System Organ Class	Adverse Reactions	Frequency Category*
Infections and infestations	alveolar osteitis	Common
	gastroenteritis, upper respiratory infection, urinary tract infection	Uncommon
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	anaemia (primarily associated with gastrointestinal bleeding), leukopenia, thrombocytopenia	Uncommon
Immune system disorders	hypersensitivity ¹	Uncommon
	angioedema/ anaphylactic / anaphylactoid reactions including shock ²	Rare
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	oedema/fluid retention	Common
	appetite increase or decrease, weight gain	Uncommon
Psychiatric disorders	anxiety, depression, mental acuity decreased, hallucinations ³	Uncommon
	confusion ¹ , restlessness ¹	Rare
Nervous system disorders	dizziness, headache	Common
	dysgeusia, insomnia, paresthaesia/ hypaesthesia, somnolence	Uncommon
Eye disorders	blurred vision, conjunctivitis	Uncommon
Ear and labyrinth disorders	tinnitus, vertigo	Uncommon
Cardiac disorders	palpitations, arrhythmia ⁴	Common
	atrial fibrillation, tachycardia ¹ , congestive heart failure, non-specific ECG changes, angina pectoris ¹ , myocardial infarction ¹	Uncommon
Vascular disorders	hypertension	Common
	flushing, cerebrovascular accident ¹ , transient ischemic attack, hypertensive crisis ¹ , vasculitis ⁵	Uncommon
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	bronchospasm ¹	Common
	cough, dyspnea, epistaxis	Uncommon
Gastrointestinal disorders	abdominal pain	Very common
	Constipation, flatulence, gastritis, heartburn/ acid reflux, diarrhea, dyspepsia/epigastric discomfort, nausea, vomiting, esophagitis, oral ulcer	Common

	abdominal distention, bowel movement pattern change, dry mouth, gastro-oesophageal ulcer, peptic ulcers including gastrointestinal perforation and bleeding, irritable bowel syndrome, pancreatitis ⁶	Uncommon
Hepatobiliary disorders	ALT increased, AST increased	Common
	hepatitis ⁷	Rare
	hepatic failure ⁸ , jaundice ⁸	Rare ¹
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	ecchymosis	Common
	facial edema, pruritus, rash, erythema ¹ , urticaria ¹	Uncommon
	Stevens-Johnson syndrome ¹ , toxic epidermal necrolysis ¹ , fixed drug eruption ¹	Rare ¹
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	muscular cramp/spasm, musculoskeletal pain/ stiffness	Uncommon
Renal and urinary disorders	proteinuria, serum creatinine increased, renal failure/renal insufficiency ⁴	Uncommon
General disorders and administration site conditions	asthenia/fatigue, flu-like disease	Common
	chest pain	Uncommon
Investigations	blood urea nitrogen increased, creatine phosphokinase increased, hyperkalaemia, uric acid increased	Uncommon
	blood sodium decreased	Rare

*Frequency Category: Defined for each Adverse Experience Term by the incidence reported in the clinical trials data base: Very Common ($\geq 1/10$), Common ($\geq 1/100$ to $<1/10$), Uncommon ($\geq 1/1000$ to $<1/100$), Rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $<1/1000$), Very Rare ($<1/10,000$).

¹ This adverse reaction was identified through post-marketing surveillance. Its reported frequency has been estimated based upon the highest frequency observed across clinical trial data pooled by indication and approved dose.

² The frequency category of "Rare" was defined per the Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) guidance (rev. 2, Sept 2009) on the basis of an estimated upper bound of the 95% confidence interval for 0 events given the number of subjects treated with Etorico

BACK

result in significant toxicity. There have been reports of acute overdosage with etoricoxib, although adverse experiences were not reported in the majority of cases. The most frequently observed adverse experiences were consistent with the safety profile for etoricoxib (e.g. gastrointestinal events, cardiorenal events).

In the event of overdose, it is reasonable to employ the usual supportive measures, e.g., remove unabsorbed material from the GI tract, employ clinical monitoring, and institute supportive therapy, if required.

Etoricoxib is not dialysable by haemodialysis; it is not known whether etoricoxib is dialysable by peritoneal dialysis.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Anti-inflammatory and antirheumatic products, non-steroids, coxibs.

ATC code: M01AH05

Mechanism of Action

Etoricoxib is an oral, selective cyclo-oxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitor within the clinical dose range.

Across clinical pharmacology studies, Etoricoxib produced dose-dependent inhibition of COX-2 without inhibition of COX-1 at doses up to 150 mg daily. Etoricoxib did not inhibit gastric prostaglandin synthesis and had no effect on platelet function. Cyclooxygenase is responsible for generation of prostaglandins.

Two isoforms, COX-1 and COX-2, have been identified. COX-2 is the isoform of the enzyme that has been shown to be induced by pro-inflammatory stimuli and has been postulated to be primarily responsible for the synthesis of prostanoid mediators of pain, inflammation, and fever. COX-2 is also involved in ovulation, implantation and closure of the ductus arteriosus, regulation of renal function, and central nervous system functions (fever induction, pain perception and cognitive function). It may also play a role in ulcer healing. COX-2 has been identified in tissue around gastric ulcers in man but its relevance to ulcer healing has not been established.

Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Orally administered etoricoxib is well absorbed. The absolute bioavailability is approximately 100%. Following 120 mg once-daily dosing to steady state, the peak plasma concentration (geometric mean C_{max} = 3.6 µg/ml) was observed at approximately 1 hour (T_{max}) after administration to fasted adults. The geometric mean area under the curve (AUC_{0-24h}) was 37.8 µg·h/ml. The pharmacokinetics of etoricoxib are linear across the clinical dose range.

Dosing with food (a high-fat meal) had no effect on the extent of absorption of etoricoxib after administration of a 120-mg dose. The rate of absorption was affected, resulting in a 36% decrease in C_{max} and an increase in T_{max} by 2 hours. These data are not considered clinically significant. In clinical trials, etoricoxib was administered without regard to food intake.

Pharmaceutical Particulars

Incompatibilities

Not applicable

Shelf life:

2 years.

Storage Condition

Store below 30°C. Protect from moisture.

Nature and contents of container

07 tablets in Alu-Alu blister pack, 1 such blister in a printed carton along with Pack Insert.

Distribution

Etoricoxib is approximately 92% bound to human plasma protein over the range of concentrations of 0.05 to 5 µg/ml. The volume of distribution at steady state (V_{ss}) was approximately 1,20l in humans.

Etoricoxib crosses the placenta in rats and rabbits, and the blood-brain barrier in rats.

Biotransformation

Etoricoxib is extensively metabolised with <1% of a dose recovered in urine as the parent drug. The major route of metabolism to form the 6'-hydroxymethyl derivative is catalyzed by CYP enzymes. CYP3A4 appears to contribute to the metabolism of etoricoxib *in vivo*. *In vitro* studies indicate that CYP2D6, CYP2C9, CYP1A2 and CYP2C19 also can catalyse the main metabolic pathway, but their quantitative roles *in vivo* have not been studied.

Five metabolites have been identified in man. The principal metabolite is the 6'-carboxylic acid derivative of etoricoxib formed by further oxidation of the 6'-hydroxymethyl derivative. These principal metabolites either demonstrate no measurable activity or are only weakly active as COX-2 inhibitors. None of these metabolites inhibit COX-1.

Elimination

Following administration of a single 25-mg radiolabeled intravenous dose of etoricoxib to healthy subjects, 70% of radioactivity was recovered in urine and 20% in faeces, mostly as

metabolites. Less than 2% was recovered as unchanged drug.

Elimination of etoricoxib occurs almost exclusively through metabolism followed by renal excretion. Steady state concentrations of etoricoxib are reached within seven days of once daily administration of 120 mg, with an accumulation ratio of approximately 2, corresponding to a half-life of approximately 22 hours. The plasma clearance after a 25-mg intravenous dose is estimated to be approximately 50 ml/min.

PRECLINICAL SAFETY DATA

In preclinical studies, etoricoxib has been demonstrated not to be genotoxic. Etoricoxib was not carcinogenic in mice. Rats developed hepatocellular and thyroid follicular cell adenomas at >2-times the daily human dose [90 mg] based on systemic exposure when dosed daily for approximately two years. Hepatocellular and thyroid follicular cell adenomas observed in rats are considered to be a consequence of rat-specific mechanism related to hepatic CYP enzyme induction. Etoricoxib has not been shown to cause hepatic CYP3A enzyme induction in humans.

In the rat, gastrointestinal toxicity of etoricoxib increased with dose and exposure time. In the 14-week toxicity study etoricoxib caused gastrointestinal ulcers at exposures greater than those seen in man at the therapeutic dose. In the 53- and 106-week toxicity study, gastrointestinal ulcers were also seen at exposures comparable to those seen in man at the therapeutic dose. In dogs, renal and gastrointestinal abnormalities were seen at high exposures.

Etoricoxib was not teratogenic in reproductive toxicity studies conducted in rats at 15 mg/kg/day (this represents approximately 1.5 times the daily human dose [90 mg] based on systemic exposure). In rabbits, a treatment related increase in cardiovascular malformations was observed at exposure levels below the clinical exposure at the daily human dose (90 mg). However no treatment-related external or skeletal foetal malformations were observed. In rats and rabbits, there was a dose dependent increase in post implantation loss at exposures greater than or equal to 1.5 times the human exposure. Etoricoxib is excreted in the milk of lactating rats at concentrations approximately two-fold those in plasma. There was a decrease in pup body weight following exposure of pups to milk from dams administered etoricoxib during lactation.

PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

What is RALEF?

• RALEF contains the active substance etoricoxib. RALEF is one of a group of medicines called selective COX-2 inhibitors. These belong to a family of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

• RALEF helps to reduce the pain and swelling (inflammation) in the joints and muscles of people 16 years of age and older with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and gout.

• RALEF is also used for the short term treatment of moderate pain after dental surgery in people 16 years of age and older.

What is osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is a disease of the joints. It results from the gradual breakdown of cartilage that cushions the ends of the bones. This causes swelling (inflammation), pain, tenderness, stiffness and disability.

What is rheumatoid arthritis?

Rheumatoid arthritis is a long term inflammatory disease of the joints. It causes pain, stiffness, swelling, and increasing loss of movement in the joints it affects. It may also cause inflammation in other areas of the body.

What is gout?

Gout is a disease of sudden, recurring attacks of very painful inflammation and redness in the joints. It is caused by deposits of mineral crystals in the joint.

What is ankylosing spondylitis?

Ankylosing spondylitis is an inflammatory disease of the spine and large joints.

MANUFACTURING AUTHORISATON HOLDER AND MANUFACTURER

Manufacturing Authorisation Holder	Manufacturer
Ajanta Pharma Limited Ajanta House, Charkop Kandivli (West) Mumbai - 400 067 India. Tel : +91-22-6606 1000 Fax : (0091) 22-66061200/ 300 Email : info@ajantapharma.com	Ajanta Pharma Limited B-4-5-6, MIDC Industrial Area Paiathan, Aurangabad, 431148 Dist: Aurangabad Maharashtra, India. Tel : +91-2431-664000 Fax : +91-2431-664100

RALEF Etoricoxib Tablets

Patient Information Leaflet

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

Distribution Category:

Prescription Only Medicine or POM

What is in this leaflet?

1. What RALEF is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take RALEF
3. How to take RALEF
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store RALEF
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What RALEF is and what it is used for

What is RALEF?

- RALEF contains the active substance etoricoxib. RALEF is one of a group of medicines called selective COX-2 inhibitors. These belong to a family of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

What is RALEF used for?

- RALEF helps to reduce the pain and swelling (inflammation) in the joints and muscles of people 16 years of age and older with osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis and gout.
- RALEF is also used for the short term treatment of moderate pain after dental surgery in people 16 years of age and older.

What is osteoarthritis?

Osteoarthritis is a disease of the joints. It results from the gradual breakdown of cartilage that cushions the ends of the bones. This causes swelling (inflammation), pain, tenderness, stiffness and disability.

What is rheumatoid arthritis?

Rheumatoid arthritis is a long term inflammatory disease of the joints. It causes pain, stiffness, swelling, and increasing loss of movement in the joints it affects. It may also cause inflammation in other areas of the body.

What is gout?

Gout is a disease of sudden, recurring attacks of very painful inflammation and redness in the joints. It is caused by deposits of mineral crystals in the joint.

What is ankylosing spondylitis?

Ankylosing spondylitis is an inflammatory disease of the spine and large joints.

2. What you need to know before you take RALEF

Do not take RALEF:

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to etoricoxib or any of the other ingredients of this medicine
- If you are allergic to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), including aspirin and COX-2 inhibitors
- If you have a current stomach ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestines
- If you have serious liver disease
- *If you have serious kidney disease
- If you are or could be pregnant or are breast-feeding (see "Pregnancy, breast feeding, and fertility")
- If you are under 16 years of age
- if you have inflammatory bowel disease, such as Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis, or Colitis
- If you have high blood pressure that has not been controlled by treatment (check with your doctor or nurse if you are not sure whether your blood pressure is adequately controlled)
- If your doctor has diagnosed heart problems including heart

failure (moderate or severe types), angina (chest pain)

- If you have had a heart attack, bypass surgery, peripheral arterial disease (poor circulation in legs or feet due to narrow or blocked arteries)
- If you have had any kind of stroke (including mini-stroke, transient ischaemic attack or TIA). Etoricoxib may slightly increase your risk of heart attack and stroke and this is why it should not be used in those who have already had heart problems or stroke.

If you think any of these are relevant to you, do not take the tablets until you have consulted your doctor.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking RALEF if:

- You have a history of stomach bleeding or ulcers.
- You are dehydrated, for example by a prolonged bout of vomiting or diarrhoea.
- You have swelling due to fluid retention.
- You have a history of heart failure, or any other form of heart disease.
- You have a history of high blood pressure. RALEF can increase blood pressure in some people, especially in high doses, and your doctor will want to check your blood pressure from time to time.
- You have any history of liver or kidney disease.
- You are being treated for an infection. RALEF can mask or hide a fever, which is a sign of infection.
- You have diabetes, high cholesterol, or are a smoker. These can increase your risk of heart disease.
- You are a woman trying to become pregnant.
- You are over 65 years of age.

Driving and using machines

Dizziness and sleepiness have been reported in some patients taking RALEF.

Do not drive if you experience dizziness or sleepiness. Do not use any tools or machines if you experience dizziness or sleepiness.

3. How to take RALEF

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Do not take more than the recommended dose for your condition. Your doctor will want to discuss your treatment from time to time. It is important that you use the lowest dose that controls your pain and you should not take RALEF for longer than necessary. This is because the risk of heart attacks and strokes might increase after prolonged treatment, especially with high doses.

There are different strengths available for this medicinal product and depending on your disease your doctor will prescribe the tablet strength that is appropriate for you.

The recommended dose is:

Osteoarthritis
The recommended dose is 30 mg once a day, increase to a maximum of 60 mg once a day if needed.

Rheumatoid arthritis

The recommended dose is 60 mg once a day, increased to a maximum of 90 mg once a day if needed.

Ankylosing spondylitis

The recommended dose is 60 mg once a day, increased to a maximum of 90 mg once a day if needed.

Acute pain conditions

Etoricoxib should be used only for the acute painful period.

Gout

The recommended dose is 120 mg once a day which should only be used for the acute painful period, limited to a maximum of 8 days treatment.

Postoperative dental surgery pain

The recommended dose is 90 mg once daily, limited to a maximum of 3 days treatment.

People with liver problems

- If you have mild liver disease, you should not take more than 60 mg a day.
- If you have moderate liver disease, you should not take more than 30 mg a day.

Use in children and adolescents

RALEF tablets should not be taken by children or adolescents under 16 years of age.

Elderly

No dose adjustment is necessary for elderly patients. As with other medicines, caution should be exercised in elderly patients.

Method of administration
RALEF is for oral use. Take the tablets once a day. RALEF can be taken with or without food.

RALEF with food and drink

The onset of the effect of RALEF may be faster when taken without food.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding, and fertility

Pregnancy
RALEF tablets must not be taken during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or think you could be pregnant, or if you are planning to become pregnant, do not take the tablets. If you become pregnant, stop taking the tablets and consult your doctor. Consult your doctor if you are unsure or need more advice.

Breast-feeding

It is not known if RALEF is excreted in human milk. If you are breast-feeding, or planning to breast-feed, consult your doctor before taking RALEF. If you are using RALEF, you must not breast-feed.

Fertility

RALEF is not recommended in women attempting to become pregnant.

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Elderly

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Method of administration
RALEF is for oral use. Take the tablets once a day. RALEF can be taken with or without food.

If you take more RALEF than you should

You should never take more tablets than the doctor recommends. If you do take too many RALEF tablets, you should seek medical attention immediately.

If you forget to take RALEF

It is important to take RALEF as your doctor has prescribed. If you miss a dose, just resume your usual schedule the following day. Do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten tablet.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you develop any of these signs you should stop RALEF and talk to your doctor immediately:

- shortness of breath, chest pains, or ankle swelling appear or if they get worse
- yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice) – these are signs of liver problems
- severe or continual stomach pain or your stools become black
- an allergic reaction- which can include skin problems such as ulcers or blistering, or swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or throat which may cause difficulty in breathing

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store RALEF

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children. Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Store below 30°C. Protect from moisture.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What RALEF contains:

The active ingredient is:

RALEF 60 (Etoricoxib Tablets 60 mg)

Each film coated tablet contains Etoricoxib60 mg

RALEF 90 (Etoricoxib Tablets 90 mg)

Each film coated tablet contains Etoricoxib90 mg

RALEF 120 (Etoricoxib Tablets 120 mg)

Each film coated tablet contains Etoricoxib120 mg

List of Excipients:

RALEF 60 (Etoricoxib Tablets 60 mg) contains: Anhydrous Dibasic Calcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Povidone , Purified Water , Magnesium Stearate and Instacoat Aqua III A03R00286 Green (Hypromellose, Lactose Monohydrate, Triacetin, Carnauba Wax, Titanium Dioxide, Lake Indigo Carmine, Yellow Iron Oxide).

RALEF 90 (Etoricoxib Tablets 90 mg)

Anhydrous Dibasic Calcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Povidone , Purified Water , Magnesium Stearate and Instacoat Aqua III A03R00290 Green (Hypromellose, Lactose Monohydrate, Triacetin, Carnauba Wax, Titanium Dioxide).

RALEF 120 (Etoricoxib Tablets 120 mg) :

Anhydrous Dibasic Calcium Phosphate, Microcrystalline Cellulose, Croscarmellose Sodium, Povidone , Purified Water , Magnesium Stearate and Instacoat Aqua III A03R10311 White (Hypromellose, Lactose Monohydrate, Triacetin, Carnauba Wax, Titanium Dioxide).

What RALEF looks like and contents of the pack

RALEF 60 (Etoricoxib Tablets 60 mg): Light green to green coloured, circular, biconvex, film coated tablets, plain on both sides.

bowel syndrome, inflammation of the pancreas

- swelling of the face, skin rash or itchy skin, redness of the skin
- muscle cramp/spasm, muscle pain/stiffness
- high levels of potassium in your blood , changes in blood or urine tests relating to your kidney, serious kidney problems
- chest pain

Rare:

- angioedema (an allergic reaction with swelling of the face, lips, tongue and/or throat which may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing, which may be serious enough to require immediate medical attention) / anaphylactic / anaphylactoid reactions including shock (a serious allergic reaction that requires immediate medical attention)
- confusion, restlessness
- liver problems (hepatitis)
- low blood levels of sodium
- liver failure, yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice)
- severe skin reactions

Reporting of side effects

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