ANNEXURE II
SUMMARY OF PRODUCTS CHARACTERISTICS (SPC)

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS OF PRAZITEL 600 MG FILM COATED TABLET

1. Name of the medicinal product

Prazitel 600 mg film coated Tablet

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Each tablet contains 600 mg of Praziquantel.

3. Pharmaceutical form

Film coated Tablet

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Praziquantel 600mg Tablets is indicated in adults and children for large scale preventive chemotherapy interventions for the control of schistosoma infections due to various types of blood fluke worms (Schistosoma mansoni, Schistosoma haematobium, Schistosoma japonicum, Schistosoma mekongi, Schistosoma intercalatum).

Groups targeted for treatment are:

• School-age children (6-15 years of age) in endemic areas

• Adults (> 15 years) considered to be at risk in endemic areas

- from special groups: pregnant and lactating women and groups with occupations involving contact with infested water, such as fishermen, farmers, irrigation workers, or women whose domestic tasks bring them in contact with infested water

• Entire communities living in highly endemic areas.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology Dose recommendations in preventive chemotherapy interventions

Height (cm/inches)	**Number of tablets (mg) of Praziquantel 600mg Tablets**
94-109 cm (37-42 inches)	1 tablet (600 mg)
110-124 cm (43-48 inches)	1 ½ tablets (900 mg)
125-137 cm (49-53 inches)	2 tablets (1200 mg)
138-149 cm (54-58 inches)	2 ½ tablets (1500 mg)
150-159 cm (59-62 inches)	3 tablets (1800 mg)
160-177 cm (63-69 inches)	4 tablets (2400 mg)

≥178 cm (>70 inches) 5 tablets (3000 mg)

Method of administration

Oral use.

Praziquantel 600mg Tablets should be taken unchewed during meals.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or any of the excipients.

Ocular cysticercosis - parasite destruction within the eye may cause serious ocular damage.

Concomitant administration of strong inducers of Cytochrome P450 such as rifampicin.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Caution should be exercised in administering the usual recommended dose of Praziquantel to hepatosplenic schistosomiasis patients with moderate to severe liver impairment (Child Pugh Class B and C). Reduced metabolism of Praziquantel in these patients may lead to considerably higher and longer lasting plasma concentrations of unmetabolized Praziquantel.

Approximately 80% of a dose of Praziquantel is excreted in the kidneys, almost exclusively (>99%) in the form of metabolites. Excretion may be delayed in patients with impaired renal function, but accumulation of unchanged drug would not be expected. Therefore dose adjustment for renal impairment is not considered necessary. Nephrotoxic effects of praziquantel or its metabolites are not known. Patients suffering from cardiac arrhythmias or cardiac insufficiency treated with digoxin should be monitored during treatment. Praziquantel should not be used in patients with a history of or suffering from epilepsy and/or other signs of potential central nervous system involvement due to schistosomiasis, paragonimiasis or Taenia solium cysticercosis such as subcutaneous nodules of cysticercosis. Patients with neurocysticercosis should always be treated in hospital because of the risk of pericystic oedema.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Antacids

Concomitant use of rifampicin should be avoided (see section 4.3). Rifampicin should be discontinued 4 weeks before administration of Praziquantel. Rifampicin can be restarted one day after Praziquantel treatment. Concomitant administration of drugs that increase the activity of drug metabolizing liver enzymes (Cytochrome P450), e.g. antiepileptic drugs (phenytoin, phenobarbital and carbamazepine), dexamethasone may reduce plasma levels of Praziquantel and concomitant use is not recommended. Concomitant administration of drugs that decrease the

activity of drug metabolizing liver enzymes (Cytochrome P450), e.g. cimetidine, ketoconazole, itraconazole, or erythromycin may increase plasma levels of Praziquantel. Chloroquine, when taken simultaneously, may lead to lower concentrations of Praziquantel in blood. The mechanism of this drug-drug interaction is unclear. Patients should be advised not to drink grapefruit juice on the day of administration of Praziquantel 600mg Tablets.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy In areas where schistosomiasis is endemic, risk-benefit analyses have revealed that the health advantages of treating women of reproductive age and pregnant women far outweigh the risk to their health and to their babies. Evidence also shows that women can be treated with Praziquantel at any stage of pregnancy or lactation.

Breastfeeding

Praziquantel has been reported to be excreted in the milk of nursing women. Women should not breastfeed on the day of treatment with Praziquantel 600mg Tablets and during the subsequent 24 hours.

Fertility

Reproduction studies performed so far in rat and rabbits have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive or use machines have been performed. Patients should be warned about the potential for dizziness, somnolence or seizures while taking Praziquantel 600mg Tablets and should be advised not to drive or operate machines if any of these symptoms occur on the day of treatment.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Allergic reaction, Polyserositis, Eosinophilia, Headache, Dizziness, Vertigo, Somnolence Seizures, Unspecified Arrhythmias, Gastrointestinal and abdominal pains, Nausea, Vomiting, Anorexia, Diarrhoea, Bloody diarrhoea, Urticaria etc.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms Information on overdosage in humans is not available.

Treatment

Treatment should be supportive and provide symptomatic care. Activated charcoal may reduce absorption of the medicine if given within one to two hours after ingestion. In patients who are

not fully conscious or have impaired gag reflex, consideration should be given to administering activated charcoal via a nasogastric tube, once the airway is protected.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Mechanism of action

Praziquantel is a chinolin derivative and induces a rapid contraction of schistosomes by a specific effect on the permeability of the cell membrane. The drug further causes vacuolization and disintegration of the schistosome tegument. The effect is more marked on adult than on young worms.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

After oral administration Praziquantel is rapidly absorbed. It undergoes first-pass metabolism and 80% of the dose is excreted mainly as metabolites in the urine within 24 hours.

Distribution

Praziquantel is 80% bound to serum proteins. It passes the blood-brain barrier and liquor concentration is about 14–20% of the concurrent total (free plus protein-bound) plasma concentration. Praziquantel is excreted in the milk of nursing mothers in concentrations about 25% of maternal serum concentrations. Biotransformation

Praziquantel is subject to first pass effect and extensive metabolism in the liver, mainly via the cytochrome P450 isoenzymes CYP2B1 and CYP3A4. One hour after administration only approximately 6% of the medicine in serum is in the unmetabolised form.

Elimination

Approximately 80% of a dose of praziquantel is excreted in the kidneys within four days, almost exclusively (>99%) in the form of metabolites. Excretion might be delayed in patients with impaired renal function, but accumulation of unchanged drug would not be expected.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Carcinogenesis

Mutagenic effects in Salmonella tests found by one laboratory have not been confirmed in the same tested strain by other laboratories. Long term carcinogenicity studies in rats and golden hamsters did not reveal any carcinogenic effect.

Reproductive toxicity

Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at doses up to 40 times the human dose and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the foetus due to Praziquantel. An increase of the abortion rate was found in rats at three times the single human therapeutic dose.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium starch glycolate BP

Povidone BP

Isopropyl alcohol BP

Microcrystalline cellulose BP

Sodium lauryl sulphate BP

Magnesium stearate BP

FILM COATING

Hypromellose BP

Ethyl cellulose BP 7cps

Diethyl phthalate BP

Titanium dioxide BP

IsopropylalcoholBP

Dichloromethane BP

Carnauba wax

Hard paraffin BP

Chloroform BP

6.2 Incompatibilities

None

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a dry place below 30°C. Protect from Light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

PVC/Alu

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7 Registrant

Cosmos Limited

8 Manufacturer

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