

Public Assessment Report

Scientific discussion

Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets

(hydroxychloroquine sulphate)

NL License RVG: 114949

Date: 26 June 2017

This module reflects the scientific discussion for the approval of Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets. The marketing authorisation was granted on 9 April 2015. For information on changes after this date please refer to the 'steps taken after finalisation' at the end of this PAR.

List of abbreviations

ASMF	Active Substance Master File
BP	British Pharmacopoeia
CMD(h)	Coordination group for Mutual recognition and Decentralised procedure for human medicinal products
CMS	Concerned Member State
EDMF	European Drug Master File
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment
ICH	International Conference of Harmonisation
MAH	Marketing Authorisation Holder
Ph.Eur.	European Pharmacopoeia
RH	Relative Humidity
RMP	Risk Management Plan
SmPC	Summary of Product Characteristics
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy

I. INTRODUCTION

Based on the review of the quality, safety and efficacy data, the Medicines Evaluation Board (MEB) of the Netherlands has granted a marketing authorisation for Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets from Centrafarm B.V.

The product is indicated in adults for:

- Rheumatoid arthritis
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Discoid lupus erythematosus
- Dermatological conditions caused or aggravated by sunlight
- Prevention and treatment of uncomplicated malaria caused by *Plasmodium vivax*, *P. ovale*, *P. malariae* and chloroquine sensitive *P. falciparum*.

The product is indicated in children for:

- Juvenile idiopathic arthritis (in combination with other treatments)
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- Discoid lupus erythematosus

A comprehensive description of the indications and posology is given in the SmPC.

This national procedure concerns a generic application claiming essential similarity with the innovator product Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets which has been registered in Denmark by Sanofi-Aventis Denmark A/S since 5 May 1958. In the Netherlands, Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets has been registered since 21 November 1966 (NL License RVG 00853).

The marketing authorisation has been granted pursuant to Article 10(1) of Directive 2001/83/EC.

II. QUALITY ASPECTS

II.1 Introduction

The product is a white, circular, biconvex film-coated tablet embossed with “200” on one side and plain on the other side.

Each film-coated tablet contains 154.8 mg hydroxychloroquine, as 200 mg hydroxychloroquine sulphate.

The product is packed in clear PVC/Aluminium blisters and HDPE/PP containers.

The excipients are:

Tablet core – maize starch, calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, silica colloidal anhydrous, polysorbate 80, dried maize starch, talc and magnesium stearate.

Tablet coating - hypromellose 2910, macrogol 6000, titanium dioxide (E171) and purified talc.

II.2 Drug Substance

The active substance is hydroxychloroquine sulphate an established active substance described in the British Pharmacopoeia (BP). It is a white or almost white crystalline powder. Hydroxychloroquine sulphate is freely soluble in water and practically insoluble in ethanol (96%) and ether. The drug substance is not hygroscopic and the same polymorphic form is manufactured consistently.

The Active Substance Master File (ASMF) procedure is used for the active substance. The main objective of the ASMF procedure, commonly known as the European Drug Master File (EDMF) procedure, is to allow valuable confidential intellectual property or ‘know-how’ of the manufacturer of the active substance (ASM) to be protected, while at the same time allowing the applicant or

marketing authorisation holder (MAH) to take full responsibility for the medicinal product, the quality and quality control of the active substance. Competent Authorities/EMA thus have access to the complete information that is necessary to evaluate the suitability of the use of the active substance in the medicinal product.

Manufacturing process

The manufacturing process consists of two synthesis steps followed by a salt formation and a salt transformation. The starting materials are adequately characterised. This is regarded to be sufficient to ensure full control of the quality of the final substance and is therefore considered suitable.

Quality control of drug substance

The active substance specification is considered adequate to control the quality. It meets the requirements of the monograph in the BP and additional requirements for particle size and residual solvents. Batch analytical data demonstrating compliance with this specification have been provided for three commercial scale batches.

Stability of drug substance

Stability data on the active substance have been provided for three commercial scale batches stored at 25°C/60% RH (five years) and 40°C/75% RH (six months). All values remain well within the proposed limits. On the basis of the stability data the claimed retest period of 60 months without temperature restriction can be granted (preserve in well-closed, light-resistant container).

II.3 Medicinal Product

Pharmaceutical development

The product is an established pharmaceutical form and its development is adequately described in accordance with the relevant European guidelines. The choice of excipients is justified and their functions explained. For maize starch an overage is used. The overage has been adequately justified by the MAH. Several development formulations were tried in order to obtain a tablet with comparable dissolution characteristics as the reference product Plaquenil. The pharmaceutical development of the product has been adequately performed.

One bioequivalence study was submitted to demonstrate bioequivalence between Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF and the reference medicinal product, Plaquenil. The test batch shows deviating dissolution characteristics compared to the reference product at pH 1.2, 4.5 and 6.8, with the exception of the release medium water. The possible reasons for the observed discrepancies in the *in vitro* dissolution between test and reference product have been addressed and justified. In this case the outcome of the bioequivalence study prevails.

Manufacturing process

The manufacturing process consists of mixing, granulation, sifting and sizing, drying, lubrication, compressing, film-coating and packing. The manufacturing process has been validated according to relevant European/ICH guidelines. Process validation data on the product have been presented for six batches, three with the minimum commercial batch size and three with the maximum commercial batch size, in accordance with the relevant European guidelines.

Control of excipients

The excipients comply with the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph.Eur.). These specifications are acceptable.

Quality control of drug product

The finished product specifications are adequate to control the relevant parameters for the dosage form. The specification includes tests for appearance, identity, assay, average weight, related substances, dissolution, uniformity of dosage units, and microbiological quality. The release and shelf-life requirements/limits are identical. Limits in the specification have been justified and are considered appropriate for adequate quality control of the product. Satisfactory validation data for the analytical methods have been provided. Batch analytical data from six batches, three with the minimum commercial batch size and three with the maximum commercial batch size, from the proposed production site have been provided, demonstrating compliance with the specification.

Stability of drug product

Stability data on the product has been provided for six commercial scale batches stored at 25°C/60% RH (up to 36 months) and 40°C/75% RH (six months). The conditions used in the stability studies are according to the ICH stability guideline. The batches were stored in the proposed blister packaging (three batches) and HDPE container (three batches). No significant changes are observed in any of the parameters tested. The drug product remains stable throughout the test period. The proposed shelf-life of three years, when stored in the original package in order to protect from light, is justified.

Photo-stability testing was performed on the drug product according to ICH Guidelines for direct exposure and in the blister packaging as proposed for marketing. It can be concluded from the study that the drug product is photo-stable in the proposed packaging.

The MAH has not performed an in-use stability study, as the HDPE containers are not intended to supply patients directly.

II.4 Discussion on chemical, pharmaceutical and biological aspects

Based on the submitted dossier, the MEB considers that Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF has a proven chemical-pharmaceutical quality. Sufficient controls have been laid down for the active substance and finished product.

No post-approval commitments were made

III. NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

III.1 Ecotoxicity/environmental risk assessment (ERA)

Since Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF is intended for generic substitution, this will not lead to an increased exposure to the environment. An environmental risk assessment is therefore not deemed necessary.

III.2 Discussion on the non-clinical aspects

This product is a generic formulation of Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets which is available on the European market. Reference is made to the preclinical data obtained with the innovator product. A non-clinical overview on the pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and toxicology has been provided, which is based on up-to-date and adequate scientific literature. The overview justifies why there is no need to generate additional non-clinical pharmacology, pharmacokinetics and toxicology data. Therefore, the MEB agreed that no further non-clinical studies are required.

IV. CLINICAL ASPECTS

IV.1 Introduction

Hydroxychloroquine sulphate is a well-known active substance with established efficacy and tolerability.

A clinical overview has been provided, which is based on scientific literature. The overview justifies why there is no need to generate additional clinical data. Therefore, the MEB agrees that no further clinical studies are required.

For this generic application, the MAH has submitted one bioequivalence study, which is discussed below.

IV.2 Pharmacokinetics

The MAH conducted a bioequivalence study in which the pharmacokinetic profile of the test product Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets (Centrafarm B.V., the Netherlands) is compared with the pharmacokinetic profile of the reference product Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets (Sanofi Aventis, Denmark).

The choice of the reference product in the bioequivalence study has been justified. The formula and preparation of the bioequivalence batch is identical to the formula proposed for marketing.

Bioequivalence study

Design

An open label, randomised, single-period, two-treatment, parallel, balanced, single dose bioequivalence study was carried out in 112 healthy male subjects, aged 18-44 years. 56 subjects were included in each arm. Each subject received a single dose (200 mg) of one of the two hydroxychloroquine formulations. The tablet was orally administered with 240 ml water 30 minutes after serving of standardised high-calorie and high-fat breakfast. There was one dosing period.

Blood samples were collected pre-dose and at 0.50, 1.00, 1.50, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00, 3.50, 4.00, 4.50, 5.00, 5.50, 6.00, 7.00, 8.00, 10.00, 12.00, 16.00, 24.00, 36.00, 48.00 and 72.00 hours after administration of the products.

The design of the study is acceptable. A parallel design was chosen, as the elimination half-life of hydroxychloroquine is very long (about 50 days)

Analytical/statistical methods

The analytical method has been adequately validated and is considered acceptable for analysis of the plasma samples. The methods used in this study for the pharmacokinetic calculations and statistical evaluation are considered acceptable.

Results

Two subjects were discontinued post dose on medical ground, due to the adverse event of vomiting. One subject was dosed with the reference product; the other was dosed with the test product. Therefore 110 subjects (55 subjects per arm) were eligible for pharmacokinetic analysis.

Table 1. Pharmacokinetic parameters (non-transformed values; arithmetic mean \pm SD, t_{max} (median, range)) of hydroxychloroquine under fed conditions.

Treatment N=55 per arm	AUC _{0-t} (ng.h/ml)	C _{max} (ng/ml)	t _{max} (h)
Test	4104 \pm 1159	202 \pm 68	4.5 \pm 1.1
Reference	4098 \pm 1227	211 \pm 67	4.6 \pm 1.1
*Ratio (90% CI)	1.01 (0.91 – 1.11)	0.95 (0.85 – 1.05)	--
CV (%)	30.2	34.6	--
AUC_{0-t} area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero to t hours C_{max} maximum plasma concentration t_{max} time for maximum concentration			

**In-transformed values*

Conclusion on bioequivalence study

The 90% confidence intervals calculated for AUC_{0-t} and C_{max} are within the bioequivalence acceptance range of 0.80 – 1.25. Based on the submitted bioequivalence study Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets is considered bioequivalent with Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets.

The MEB has been assured that the bioequivalence study has been conducted in accordance with acceptable standards of Good Clinical Practice (GCP, see Directive 2005/28/EC) and Good Laboratory Practice (GLP, see Directives 2004/9/EC and 2004/10/EC).

IV.3 Risk Management Plan

The MAH has submitted a risk management plan, in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, describing the pharmacovigilance activities and interventions designed to identify, characterise, prevent or minimise risks relating to Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets.

Summary table of safety concerns as approved in RMP

Important identified risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myasthenia gravis • Retinal toxicity • Bone marrow depression • Conduction disorders • Hypoglycaemia • Mental changes including psychotic episodes, hallucinations, delirium, anxiety, agitation, insomnia, depression and personality changes
Important potential risks	None
Missing information	None

The MEB agreed that routine pharmacovigilance activities and routine risk minimisation measures are sufficient for the risks and areas of missing information.

IV.4 Discussion on the clinical aspects

For this authorisation, reference is made to the clinical studies and experience with the innovator product Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets. No new clinical studies were conducted. The MAH demonstrated through a bioequivalence study that the pharmacokinetic profile of the product is similar to the pharmacokinetic profile of this reference product. Risk management is adequately addressed. This generic medicinal product can be used instead of the reference product.

V. USER CONSULTATION

A user consultation with target patient groups on the package leaflet has been performed on the basis of a bridging report making reference to Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets. The bridging report submitted by the MAH has been found acceptable; bridging is justified for both content and layout of the leaflet.

VI. OVERALL CONCLUSION, BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets has a proven chemical-pharmaceutical quality and is a generic form of Plaquenil 200 mg film-coated tablets. Plaquenil is a well-known medicinal product with an established favourable efficacy and safety profile.

Bioequivalence has been shown to be in compliance with the requirements of European guidance documents.

The Board followed the advice of the assessors.

The MEB, on the basis of the data submitted, considered that essential similarity has been demonstrated for Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF 200 mg, film-coated tablets with the reference

product, and have therefore granted a marketing authorisation. Hydroxychloroquinesulfaat CF was authorised in the Netherlands on 9 April 2015.

STEPS TAKEN AFTER THE FINALISATION OF THE INITIAL PROCEDURE - SUMMARY

Scope	Type of modification	Date of start of the procedure	Date of end of the procedure	Approval/ non approval	Assessment report attached
Change in product information	IB	1-2-2016	23-2-2016	Approved	No
Change in specification parameters + test procedure + container closure system	IB	29-6-2016	7-9-2016	Approved	No