

**Public Assessment Report**  
**Scientific discussion**

**Qizerz 20 mg, film-coated tablets**  
**(tadalafil)**

**NL/H/3617/001/DC**

**Date: 24 April 2017**

**This module reflects the scientific discussion for the approval of Qizerz 20 mg, film-coated tablets. The procedure was finalised on 10 November 2016. 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
CEP	Certificate of Suitability to the monographs of the European Pharmacopoeia
CHMP	Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use
CMD(h)	Coordination group for Mutual recognition and Decentralised procedure for human medicinal products
CMS	Concerned Member State
EDMF	European Drug Master File
EDQM	European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines
EEA	European Economic Area
ERA	Environmental Risk Assessment
ICH	International Conference of Harmonisation
MAH	Marketing Authorisation Holder
Ph.Eur.	European Pharmacopoeia
PL	Package Leaflet
RH	Relative Humidity
RMP	Risk Management Plan
RMS	Reference Member State
SmPC	Summary of Product Characteristics
TSE	Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy

## I. INTRODUCTION

Based on the review of the quality, safety and efficacy data, the Member States have granted a marketing authorisation for Qizerz 20 mg, film-coated tablets from Sandoz B.V.

The product is indicated for:

- Treatment in adults of pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) classified as WHO functional class II and III, to improve exercise capacity. Efficacy has been shown in idiopathic PAH (IPAH) and in PAH related to collagen vascular disease.

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

This decentralised procedure concerns a generic application claiming essential similarity with the innovator product Cialis 20 mg, film-coated tablets which has been registered in the EEA through centralised procedure EMEA/H/C/000436 by Eli Lilly Nederland B.V. since 12 November 2002.

The concerned member states (CMS) involved in this procedure were Czech Republic, Germany, Spain, Hungary, Malta and Romania.

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

### Similarity assessment in view of the orphan drug legislation

The MAH applied for the indication Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) for the 20 mg tablets. For this indication a number of orphan medicinal products are currently registered in the EU. In line with the orphan drug legislation, the MAH has submitted a similarity assessment against all products that hold an orphan designation and are authorised in the EU at the time the marketing authorisation application for Qizerz film coated tablets is made.

In the similarity report, reference is made to the similarity assessment of the reference product Adcirca to the orphan drugs with the PAH indication at the time of registration of Adcirca: sildenafil, bosentan, iloprost, sitaxentan and ambrisentan, which is acceptable.

Furthermore, a search was performed for orphan drugs with indication PAH which received a marketing authorisation since the registration of the reference product Adcirca. This resulted in two additional orphan medicinal products with the indication PAH that are currently holding a marketing authorisation: macitentan (Opsumit, registered 27-12-2013) and riociguat (Adempas, registered 27-03-2014). The search results have been verified by the reference member state (RMS) and the outcome is agreed.

The MAH provides a similarity assessment against macitentan and riociguat, concluding that tadalafil and macitentan and riociguat are different active substances, with different principal molecular structural features that act via different mechanisms of action. Therefore, tadalafil is considered non similar to the authorised orphan medicinal product macitentan and riociguat. This conclusion is also supported by the RMS.

Overall, the generic product tadalafil currently applied for is considered non similar to all orphan medicinal products with the indication PAH currently marketed in EU. Thus the application of Qizerz 20 mg film-coated tablets for marketing authorisation for the indication PAH can be accepted in view of the orphan drug legislation.

## II. QUALITY ASPECTS

### II.1 Introduction

Qizerz 20 mg is a ochre to yellow, oval shaped film-coated tablet. On one side it is scored and debossed with "2" on the left side of the score and with "0" on the right side of the score. The other side is plain. Each tablet contains 20 mg tadalafil and can be divided into equal halves.

The film-coated tablets are packed in Alu-Alu(Al-OPA/Al/PVC), PVC/ACLAR/PVC-Al or PVC/ACLAR/PVdC/PVC-Al blisters

The excipients are:

*Tablet core* - lactose monohydrate, sodium laurilsulfate, povidone K-12, crospovidone (type B) and sodium stearyl fumarate

*Tablet coating* - polyvinyl alcohol, macrogol 3350, titanium dioxide (E171), talc, yellow iron oxide (E172)

## II.2 Drug Substance

The active substance is tadalafil, an established active substance described in the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph.Eur.). Tadalafil is a white or almost white powder. It is practically insoluble in water, freely soluble in dimethyl sulfoxide and slightly soluble in methylene chloride. Tadalafil can exist in different crystalline forms and an amorphous form and exhibits polymorphism. The manufacturer consistently produces the anhydrous form-1.

The CEP procedure is used for the active substance. Under the official Certification Procedures of the EDQM of the Council of Europe, manufacturers or suppliers of substances for pharmaceutical use can apply for a certificate of suitability concerning the control of the chemical purity and microbiological quality of their substance according to the corresponding specific monograph, or the evaluation of reduction of Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) risk, according to the general monograph, or both. This procedure is meant to ensure that the quality of substances is guaranteed and that these substances comply with the Ph.Eur.

### Manufacturing process

A CEP has been submitted; therefore no details on the manufacturing process have been included.

### 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 Ph.Eur. and additional requirements of the CEP, including tests for identity, heavy metals and residual solvents that have been adopted from the specification of the supplier and additional in-house tests for particle size, bulk- and tapped density. Batch analytical data demonstrating compliance with this specification have been provided for two batches.

### Stability of drug substance

The active substance is stable for 60 months when stored under the stated conditions. Assessment thereof was part of granting the CEP and has been granted by the EDQM.

## 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. The main development studies were the characterisation of the reference product, optimisation of the excipient levels in the formulation and the performance of comparative dissolution studies. The choices of the packaging and manufacturing are justified.

A bioequivalence study under fasted conditions has been performed. The dissolution studies showed similarity in dissolution between the test product and the reference product.

### Manufacturing process

The main steps of the manufacturing process are premixing, wet granulation, drying, milling, blending, compression, coating and packaging. The manufacturing process has been adequately validated according to relevant European guidelines. Process validation data on the product has been presented for three pilot scaled batches. The product is manufactured using conventional manufacturing techniques. Process validation for full scaled batches will be performed post authorisation.

### Control of excipients

All excipients comply with their Ph.Eur. monographs except the film-coating material, which is controlled according to an in-house specification. The 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, dissolution, uniformity of dosage units, assay, optical purity, related substances, microbiological quality, loss on drying and uniformity of mass for subdivided parts. Except for optical purity and related substances, the release and shelf-life requirements 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 three pilot scale batches 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 three pilot scaled batches stored at 25°C/60% RH (24 months) and 40°C/75% RH (6 months). The conditions used in the stability studies are according to the ICH stability guideline. The batches were stored in the proposed packaging. Except for a slight increase in impurities at accelerated storage conditions and some variability in some of the test parameters, the stability data showed no clear trends or changes at both storage conditions. Results of a formal photostability study showed that the drug product was not sensitive to light exposure when directly exposed. Based on the presented stability data, the proposed shelf-life of 24 months without any special storage requirements is justified.

#### Specific measures concerning the prevention of the transmission of animal spongiform encephalopathies

Specific measures for the prevention of the transmission of animal spongiform encephalopathies Lactose monohydrate is of animal origin. Compliance with the Note for Guidance on Minimising the Risk of Transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents via Medicinal Products has been confirmed.

### **II.4 Discussion on chemical, pharmaceutical and biological aspects**

Based on the submitted dossier, the member states consider that Qizerz 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 Qizerz 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 Cialis 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 member states agreed that no further non-clinical studies are required.

## IV. CLINICAL ASPECTS

### IV.1 Introduction

Tadalafil 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 member states agreed that no further clinical studies are required.

For this generic application, the MAH has submitted four bioequivalence studies, which are discussed below.

### IV.2 Pharmacokinetics

The MAH conducted a bioequivalence study in which the pharmacokinetic profile of the test product Qizerz 20 mg (Sandoz B.V., the Netherlands) is compared with the pharmacokinetic profile of the reference product 20 mg (Eli Lilly Nederland B.V., the Netherlands).

The choice of the reference product in the bioequivalence study is justified as the reference product was authorised in the EU through a centralised procedure.

The formula and preparation of the bioequivalence batch is identical to the formula proposed for marketing.

#### Bioequivalence study: 20 mg under fasted conditions

##### *Design*

A open-label, balanced, randomised, single-dose, two-treatment, two-sequence, two-period, crossover bioequivalence study was carried out under fasted conditions in 20 healthy male subjects, aged 22-54 years. Each subject received a single dose (20 mg) of one of the 2 tadalafil formulations. The tablet was orally administered with 240 ml water after an overnight fast. There were 2 dosing periods, separated by a washout period of 14 days.

Blood samples were collected pre-dose and at 0.33, 0.67, 1, 1.33, 1.67, 2, 2.33, 2.67, 3, 3.5, 4, 4.5, 5, 6, 8, 12, 24, 36, 48, 60 and 72 hours after administration of the products.

The design of the study is acceptable. Tadalafil can be taken regardless of food, according to the SmPC.

##### *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 withdrew consent due to personal reasons and one subject was withdrawn due to an adverse event. Therefore, 17 subjects were eligible for pharmacokinetic analysis.

Table 1. Pharmacokinetic parameters (non-transformed values; arithmetic mean  $\pm$  SD,  $t_{max}$  (median, range)) of 20 mg tadalafil under fasted conditions.

Treatment N=25	AUC <sub>0-72</sub> ng.h/ml	AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> ng.h/ml	C <sub>max</sub> ng/ml	t <sub>max</sub> h	t <sub>1/2</sub> h
<b>Test</b>	7706 $\pm$ 2566	9065 $\pm$ 3805	293 $\pm$ 45	3.0 (1.33 – 4.5)	23 $\pm$ 8
<b>Reference</b>	8649 $\pm$ 3254	10129 $\pm$ 4712	328 $\pm$ 91	3.0 (0.67 – 5.0)	23 $\pm$ 8
<b>*Ratio (90% CI)</b>	0.90 (0.83 – 0.98)	--	0.91 (0.84 – 0.99)	--	--
<b>CV (%)</b>	14.1	--	14.3	--	--

<b>AUC<sub>0-∞</sub></b>	area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero to infinity
<b>AUC<sub>0-72</sub></b>	area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero to 72 hours
<b>C<sub>max</sub></b>	maximum plasma concentration
<b>t<sub>max</sub></b>	time for maximum concentration
<b>t<sub>1/2</sub></b>	half-life
<b>CV</b>	coefficient of variation

*\*In-transformed values*

Conclusion on bioequivalence study

The 90% confidence intervals calculated for AUC<sub>0-t</sub> and C<sub>max</sub> are within the bioequivalence acceptance range of 0.80 – 1.25. Based on the submitted bioequivalence studies Qizerz is considered bioequivalent with Cialis.

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 Qizerz.

Summary table of safety concerns as approved in RMP:

Important identified risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prolonged and painful erection (priapism)</li> <li>Low blood pressure (hypotension / increased hypotensive effect)</li> </ul>
Important potential risks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION)</li> <li>Sudden hearing loss</li> </ul>
Missing information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use in older patients (≥65 years)</li> </ul>

The member states 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 Cialis. 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 bridging report was provided to support the readability of the package leaflet (PL) for Qizerz. The MAH has indicated that the wording of the PL is in line with that of the reference product Cialis, which is a centrally authorised product. Furthermore, the format of the leaflet is similar to that of other user tested leaflets of the MAH. Altogether, the Member States consider the bridging for user testing acceptable.

## **VI. OVERALL CONCLUSION, BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Qizerz 20 mg, film-coated tablets has a proven chemical-pharmaceutical quality and is a generic form of Cialis 20 mg, film-coated tablets. Cialis 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.

There was no discussion in the CMD(h). Agreement between member states was reached during a written procedure. The member states, on the basis of the data submitted, considered that essential similarity has been demonstrated for Qizerz with the reference product, and have therefore granted a marketing authorisation. The decentralised procedure was finalised with a positive outcome on 10 November 2016.



**STEPS TAKEN AFTER THE FINALISATION OF THE INITIAL PROCEDURE – SUMMARY**

Scope	Procedure number	Type of modification	Date of start of the procedure	Date of end of the procedure	Approval/ non approval	Assessment report attached
Change in the (invented) name of the medicinal product; for nationally Authorised Products.	NL/H/3617/1/IB/001	IB	21-03-2017	20-04-2017	Approved	No