

Public Assessment Report

Scientific discussion

Ciclosporin Pharmachemie Capsules 25/50/100mg

(Ciclosporin)

PA holder Alparma ApS

**This module reflects the scientific discussion
for the approval of Ciclosporin Pharmachemie 25, 50 & 100 mg Capsules.
The procedure was finalised at 20th December 2006 (day 90)**

I. INTRODUCTION

The Public Assessment Report reflects the scientific conclusion reached by the Irish Medicines Board (IMB) at the end of the evaluation process and provides a summary of the grounds for approval of a marketing authorisation for a specific medicinal product for human use. It is made available by the IMB for information to the public, after deletion of commercially sensitive information.

The legal basis for its creation and availability is contained in Article 21 of EC Directive 2001/83, as amended by Directive 2004/27/EC. It is a concise document which highlights the main parts of the documentation submitted by the applicant and the scientific evaluation carried out by the IMB leading to the approval of the medicinal product for marketing in Ireland.

Based on the review of the data on quality, safety and efficacy, the IMB has granted a marketing authorisation for Ciclosporin Pharmachemie Capsules 25/50/100mg on 28/01/2005 for Organ Transplantation, Bone Marrow Transplantation, Psoriasis, Atopic Dermatitis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Rheumatoid Arthritis.

The marketing authorization in Ireland is granted based on article 10(3) formerly 10.1 (a) (iii) of Directive 2001/83EEC, as amended. It concerns a generic application claiming essential similarity with the innovator product, Sandimmun Neoral. A study demonstrating bioequivalence with this innovator has been provided.

Name of the product: Ciclosporin Pharmachemie Capsules 25/50/100mg

RMS: Ireland – MR No. IE/H/167/01-3

CMS: Netherlands

EU Referral: not applicable

Prescription status: prescription-only medicine

Pharmacotherapeutic classification (ATC code) : L04AA01 CICLOSPORIN

Pharmaceutical form and strength(s): Soft gelatin capsule.

Each capsule contains 25mg, 50mg or 100mg ciclosporin

Packaging :blister pack of OPA/Al/PVC foil with Aluminium lid in an outer cardboard carton.

Pack sizes: 30, 50 or 60 capsules per pack

Mode of action: Immunosuppressant

Approved indications

(see full SPC for details)

Prevention of graft rejection following bone marrow transplantation and prophylaxis of graft-versus-host disease (GVHD).

Treatment of established graft-versus-host disease (GVHD).

Non-transplantation indications

Psoriasis -For treatment of patients with severe psoriasis in whom conventional therapy is ineffective or inappropriate.

Atopic Dermatitis -For treatment of patients with severe atopic dermatitis when systemic therapy is required.

Rheumatoid Arthritis -For treatment of patients with severe, active rheumatoid arthritis in patients in whom classical slow-acting anti-rheumatic agents are inappropriate or ineffective.

Nephrotic Syndrome -For treatment of adults and children with steroid-dependent and steroid-resistant nephrotic syndrome owing to glomerular diseases such as minimal change nephropathy, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis or membranous glomerulonephritis, to induce remissions and for maintenance treatment. It can also be used for the maintenance of steroid-induced remission, allowing withdrawal of steroids.

Special pharmaceutical aspects if any, e.g. novel delivery system: none

Date of first authorisation 28th January 2005

Marketing Authorisation Number(s) (PA in Ireland) : PA 363/11/1-3

Date of Public Assessment Report: 6th September 2007

Name and address of the authorisation holder :

Alpharma ApS

Dalslandsgade 11

2300 Copenhagen S

Denmark

The Summary of Product Characteristics for (SPC) for this medicinal product is available on the IMB's website at www.imb.ie

II. QUALITY ASPECTS

II.1 Introduction

The product is a soft gelatin capsule containing ciclosporin in three strengths: 25mg, 50mg and 100mg.

II.2 2.2 Drug Substance

The active substance is ciclosporin, an established active substance described in the European Pharmacopoeia (Ph. Eur.), which is manufactured in accordance with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP).

The active substance specification is considered adequate to control the quality and meets the current pharmacopoeial requirements. Batch analytical data demonstrating compliance with this specification have been provided for several batches.

II.3 Medicinal Product

P.1 Composition

The product is a soft gelatin capsule containing a solution of ciclosporin.

Ciclosporin Pharmachemie capsules contain the active substance ciclosporin and the following other ingredients: Polysorbate 20, Sorbitan oleate, Lecithin, Triglyceride, macrogolglycerol hydroxystearate, Ethyl lactate, Gelatin, Glycerol, Ferric oxide black, Titanium dioxide and Purified water.

The composition contains no novel ingredients. EU guidelines on the use of gelatin derived from animal origin have been complied with.

Container/closure system

The product is presented as a blister pack of polyamide/aluminium/PVC foil with Aluminium lid in an outer cardboard carton.

P.2 Pharmaceutical Development

The product is an established pharmaceutical form and its development is adequately described in accordance with the relevant European guidelines.

The aim of the development was to produce a stable product essentially similar to the innovator product, Sandimmun Neoral, marketed by Novartis in Sweden. The latter is considered equivalent to the Irish reference product. Comparative dissolution data have been provided.

P.3 Method of preparation of the product

The product is manufactured in accordance with the principles of good manufacturing practice (GMP) and in accordance with conventional manufacturing techniques for this product type at suitably qualified manufacturing sites.

The manufacturing process has been validated according to relevant European / ICH guidelines, the process is considered to be sufficiently validated.

P.4 Control of substance(s) other than the drug substance (excipients)

All excipients comply with pharmacopoeial requirements or are adequately controlled by the manufacturer's specification.

P.5 Control tests on the finished product

The finished product specification is based on the monograph for soft gelatin capsules in the Ph. Eur., with some additional tests. Tests and control limits are considered appropriate for this type of product.

The analytical methods used are described in sufficient detail and are supported by validation data.

Batch analytical data from the proposed production sites has been provided demonstrating compliance with the specification and thus demonstrate the ability of the manufacture to produce finished product of consistent quality.

P.6 Packaging Materials

The product is presented as a blister pack of polyamide/aluminium/PVC film with aluminium lid in an outer cardboard carton. Evidence has been provided that both the film and foil comply with Ph. Eur. / EU legislation for use in foodstuff requirements.

P.7 Stability tests on the finished product

Stability data on the finished product in the proposed packaging have been provided in accordance with EU guidelines demonstrating the stability of the product for two years when stored below 25°C with the additional warning "Do not refrigerate or freeze".

EU guidelines on the use of gelatin derived from animal origin have been complied with. Other ingredients, are of plant or synthetic origin.

Conclusion on quality

The quality of these products has been demonstrated satisfactorily and thus has been recommended for marketing.

III. NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

The product is generic, that is, it is based on the demonstration of pharmacokinetic equivalence with the innovator product, Neoral Capsules. In order not to waste the lives of experimental animals the developer is not required to repeat the non-clinical (animal) development work done by the innovator company.

IV. CLINICAL ASPECTS

The marketing authorisation was granted on the basis of Study 008/00 a two way cross over, single dose, open bioequivalence study comparing the test ciclosporin with Sandimmun Neoral[®] both as 100 mg soft capsules. Twenty-four healthy volunteers participated in the study.

The pharmacokinetic indices of the two preparations of ciclosporin are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Pharmacokinetics indices for test and reference brands of ciclosporin

	Test	Reference	Mean ratio t/r (90% CI)
AUC (0- t) ng.hr/ml	4930 ± 1283	4866 ± 1107	1.01 (0.93 – 1.09)
Cmax (ng/mL)	1184 ± 215	1203 ± 231	0.99 (0.90 – 1.09)
Tmax (h)	1.65 ± 0.48	1.63 ± 0.52	0.00 (1.50 – 1.50)

V. OVERALL CONCLUSION, BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The risk/benefit profile was considered positive and accepted by CMS involved.