

## **1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Neoclarityn 5 mg film-coated tablets

## **2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each tablet contains 5 mg desloratadine.

### Excipient(s) with known effect:

This medicine contains lactose.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## **3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Film-coated tablets

## **4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

Neoclarityn is indicated in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older for the relief of symptoms associated with:

- allergic rhinitis (see section 5.1)
- urticaria (see section 5.1)

### **4.2 Posology and method of administration**

#### Posology

*Adults and adolescents (12 years of age and over)*

The recommended dose of Neoclarityn is one tablet once a day.

Intermittent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks) should be managed in accordance with the evaluation of patient's disease history and the treatment could be discontinued after symptoms are resolved and reinitiated upon their reappearance. In persistent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), continued treatment may be proposed to the patients during the allergen exposure periods.

#### *Paediatric population*

There is limited clinical trial efficacy experience with the use of desloratadine in adolescents 12 through 17 years of age (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

The safety and efficacy of Neoclarityn 5 mg film-coated tablets in children below the age of 12 years have not been established. No data are available.

#### Method of administration

Oral use.

The dose can be taken with or without food.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1, or to loratadine.

#### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

In the case of severe renal insufficiency, Neoclarityn should be used with caution (see section 5.2).

Desloratadine should be administered with caution in patients with medical or familial history of seizures, and mainly young children, being more susceptible to develop new seizures under desloratadine treatment. Healthcare providers may consider discontinuing desloratadine in patients who experience a seizure while on treatment.

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

#### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

No clinically relevant interactions were observed in clinical trials with desloratadine tablets in which erythromycin or ketoconazole were co-administered (see section 5.1).

##### Paediatric population

Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

In a clinical pharmacology trial, Neoclarityn tablets taken concomitantly with alcohol did not potentiate the performance impairing effects of alcohol (see section 5.1). However, cases of alcohol intolerance and intoxication have been reported during post-marketing use. Therefore, caution is recommended if alcohol is taken concomitantly.

#### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

##### Pregnancy

A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1,000 pregnancy outcomes) indicate no malformative nor foeto/ neonatal toxicity of desloratadine. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of Neoclarityn during pregnancy.

##### Breast-feeding

Desloratadine has been identified in breastfed newborns/infants of treated women. The effect of desloratadine on newborns/infants is unknown. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from Neoclarityn therapy taking into account the benefit of breast feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

##### Fertility

There are no data available on male and female fertility.

#### **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Neoclarityn has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines based on clinical trials. Patients should be informed that most people do not experience drowsiness. Nevertheless, as there is individual variation in response to all medicinal products, it is recommended that patients are advised not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or using machines, until they have established their own response to the medicinal product.

## 4.8 Undesirable effects

### Summary of the safety profile

In clinical trials in a range of indications including allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, undesirable effects with Neoclarityn were reported in 3 % of patients in excess of those treated with placebo. The most frequent of adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo were fatigue (1.2 %), dry mouth (0.8 %) and headache (0.6 %).

### Paediatric population

In a clinical trial with 578 adolescent patients, 12 through 17 years of age, the most common adverse event was headache; this occurred in 5.9 % of patients treated with desloratadine and 6.9 % of patients receiving placebo.

### Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The frequency of the clinical trial adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo and other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period are listed in the following table. Frequencies are defined as very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ), rare ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ ), very rare ( $< 1/10,000$ ) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

<b>System Organ Class</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Adverse reactions seen with Neoclarityn</b>
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>	Not known	Increased appetite
<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>	Very rare Not known	Hallucinations Abnormal behaviour, aggression
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	Common Very rare	Headache Dizziness, somnolence, insomnia, psychomotor hyperactivity, seizures
<b>Cardiac disorders</b>	Very rare Not known	Tachycardia, palpitations QT prolongation
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	Common Very rare	Dry mouth Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dyspepsia, diarrhoea
<b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>	Very rare  Not known	Elevations of liver enzymes, increased bilirubin, hepatitis Jaundice
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>	Not known	Photosensitivity
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>	Very rare	Myalgia
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>	Common Very rare  Not known	Fatigue Hypersensitivity reactions (such as anaphylaxis, angioedema, dyspnoea, pruritus, rash, and urticaria) Asthenia
<b>Investigations</b>	Not known	Weight increased

### Paediatric population

Other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period in paediatric patients with an unknown frequency included QT prolongation, arrhythmia, bradycardia, abnormal behaviour, and aggression.

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL – Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971, Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie.

#### **4.9 Overdose**

The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

#### Treatment

In the event of overdose, consider standard measures to remove unabsorbed active substance. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended.

Desloratadine is not eliminated by haemodialysis; it is not known if it is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis.

#### Symptoms

Based on a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 45 mg of desloratadine was administered (nine times the clinical dose), no clinically relevant effects were observed.

#### Paediatric population

The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

### **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

#### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: antihistamines – H<sub>1</sub> antagonist, ATC code: R06A X27

#### Mechanism of action

Desloratadine is a non-sedating, long-acting histamine antagonist with selective peripheral H<sub>1</sub>-receptor antagonist activity. After oral administration, desloratadine selectively blocks peripheral histamine H<sub>1</sub>-receptors because the substance is excluded from entry to the central nervous system.

Desloratadine has demonstrated antiallergic properties from *in vitro* studies. These include inhibiting the release of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, and IL-13 from human mast cells/basophils, as well as inhibition of the expression of the adhesion molecule P-selectin on endothelial cells. The clinical relevance of these observations remains to be confirmed.

#### Clinical efficacy and safety

In a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 20 mg of desloratadine was administered daily for 14 days, no statistically or clinically relevant cardiovascular effect was observed. In a clinical pharmacology trial, in which desloratadine was administered at a dose of 45 mg daily (nine times the clinical dose) for ten days, no prolongation of QTc interval was seen.

No clinically relevant changes in desloratadine plasma concentrations were observed in multiple-dose ketoconazole and erythromycin interaction trials.

Desloratadine does not readily penetrate the central nervous system. In controlled clinical trials, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, there was no excess incidence of somnolence as compared to

placebo. Neoclarityn given at a single daily dose of 7.5 mg did not affect psychomotor performance in clinical trials. In a single dose study performed in adults, desloratadine 5 mg did not affect standard measures of flight performance including exacerbation of subjective sleepiness or tasks related to flying.

In clinical pharmacology trials, co-administration with alcohol did not increase the alcohol-induced impairment in performance or increase in sleepiness. No significant differences were found in the psychomotor test results between desloratadine and placebo groups, whether administered alone or with alcohol.

In patients with allergic rhinitis, Neoclarityn was effective in relieving symptoms such as sneezing, nasal discharge and itching, as well as ocular itching, tearing and redness, and itching of palate. Neoclarityn effectively controlled symptoms for 24 hours.

#### Paediatric population

The efficacy of Neoclarityn tablets has not been clearly demonstrated in trials with adolescent patients 12 through 17 years of age.

In addition to the established classifications of seasonal and perennial, allergic rhinitis can alternatively be classified as intermittent allergic rhinitis and persistent allergic rhinitis according to the duration of symptoms. Intermittent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks. Persistent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks.

Neoclarityn was effective in alleviating the burden of seasonal allergic rhinitis as shown by the total score of the rhino-conjunctivitis quality of life questionnaire. The greatest amelioration was seen in the domains of practical problems and daily activities limited by symptoms.

Chronic idiopathic urticaria was studied as a clinical model for urticarial conditions, since the underlying pathophysiology is similar, regardless of etiology, and because chronic patients can be more easily recruited prospectively. Since histamine release is a causal factor in all urticarial diseases, desloratadine is expected to be effective in providing symptomatic relief for other urticarial conditions, in addition to chronic idiopathic urticaria, as advised in clinical guidelines.

In two placebo-controlled six week trials in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria, Neoclarityn was effective in relieving pruritus and decreasing the size and number of hives by the end of the first dosing interval. In each trial, the effects were sustained over the 24 hour dosing interval. As with other antihistamine trials in chronic idiopathic urticaria, the minority of patients who were identified as non-responsive to antihistamines was excluded. An improvement in pruritus of more than 50 % was observed in 55 % of patients treated with desloratadine compared with 19 % of patients treated with placebo. Treatment with Neoclarityn also significantly reduced interference with sleep and daytime function, as measured by a four-point scale used to assess these variables.

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

### Absorption

Desloratadine plasma concentrations can be detected within 30 minutes of administration. Desloratadine is well absorbed with maximum concentration achieved after approximately 3 hours; the terminal phase half-life is approximately 27 hours. The degree of accumulation of desloratadine was consistent with its half-life (approximately 27 hours) and a once daily dosing frequency. The bioavailability of desloratadine was dose proportional over the range of 5 mg to 20 mg.

In a pharmacokinetic trial in which patient demographics were comparable to those of the general seasonal allergic rhinitis population, 4 % of the subjects achieved a higher concentration of desloratadine. This percentage may vary according to ethnic background. Maximum desloratadine

concentration was about 3-fold higher at approximately 7 hours with a terminal phase half-life of approximately 89 hours. The safety profile of these subjects was not different from that of the general population.

#### Distribution

Desloratadine is moderately bound (83 % - 87 %) to plasma proteins. There is no evidence of clinically relevant medicine accumulation following once daily dosing of desloratadine (5 mg to 20 mg) for 14 days.

#### Biotransformation

The enzyme responsible for the metabolism of desloratadine has not been identified yet, and therefore, some interactions with other medicinal products cannot be fully excluded. Desloratadine does not inhibit CYP3A4 *in vivo*, and *in vitro* studies have shown that the medicinal product does not inhibit CYP2D6 and is neither a substrate nor an inhibitor of P-glycoprotein.

#### Elimination

In a single dose trial using a 7.5 mg dose of desloratadine, there was no effect of food (high-fat, high caloric breakfast) on the disposition of desloratadine. In another study, grapefruit juice had no effect on the disposition of desloratadine.

#### Renally impaired patients

The pharmacokinetics of desloratadine in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (CRI) was compared with that of healthy subjects in one single-dose study and one multiple dose study. In the single-dose study, the exposure to desloratadine was approximately 2 and 2.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate and severe CRI, respectively, than in healthy subjects. In the multiple-dose study, steady state was reached after Day 11, and compared to healthy subjects the exposure to desloratadine was ~1.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate CRI and ~2.5-fold greater in subjects with severe CRI. In both studies, changes in exposure (AUC and  $C_{max}$ ) of desloratadine and 3-hydroxydesloratadine were not clinically relevant.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Desloratadine is the primary active metabolite of loratadine. Non-clinical studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine demonstrated that there are no qualitative or quantitative differences in the toxicity profile of desloratadine and loratadine at comparable levels of exposure to desloratadine.

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, toxicity to reproduction and development. The lack of carcinogenic potential was demonstrated in studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Tablet core: calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, talc.  
Tablet coating: film coat (containing lactose monohydrate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol 400, indigotin (E132)), clear coat (containing hypromellose, macrogol 400), carnauba wax, white wax.

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

2 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 30°C.  
Store in the original package.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Neoclarityn is supplied in blisters comprised of laminate blister film with foil lidding. The materials of the blister consist of a polychlorotrifluoroethylene (PCTFE)/Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) film (product contact surface) with an aluminium foil lidding coated with a vinyl heat seal coat (product contact surface) which is heat sealed. Packs of 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 30, 50, 100 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements.

## **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Merck Sharp & Dohme B.V.  
Waarderweg 39  
2031 BN Haarlem  
The Netherlands

## **8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS**

EU/1/00/161/001-013

## **9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 15 January 2001  
Date of latest renewal: 15 January 2006

## **10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

June 2018  
Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency <http://www.ema.europa.eu>.