# Summary of Product Characteristics

1. **NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT (FPP)**

Macrolyn®

*Azithromycin*

* 1. **Strength**

Azithromycin 500 mg.

* 1. **Pharmaceutical form**

Film-coated tablet.

1. **QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**
   1. **Qualitative declaration**

Azithromycin dihydrate

* 1. **Quantitative declaration**

Each film-coated tablet contains 500 mg azithromycin (as azithromycin dihydrate).

Excipient(s) with known effect:

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially ‘sodium-free’.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

1. **PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Film-coated tablet.

White, oblong, film-coated tablets with 'AZITRO' engraved on one side and scored on the other side.

1. **CLINICAL PARTICULARS**
   1. **Therapeutic indications**

Macrolyn tablets are indicated for the treatment of the following infections, when caused by microorganisms sensitive to azithromycin:

* acute bacterial sinusitis (adequately diagnosed),
* acute bacterial otitis media (adequately diagnosed),
* pharyngitis, tonsillitis,
* acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis (adequately diagnosed),
* acute bacterial bronchitis
* mild to moderately severe community acquired pneumonia,
* non complicated skin and soft tissue infections,
* uncomplicated genital infections due to *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

* 1. **Posology and mode of administration**
     1. **Posology**

In uncomplicated genital infections due to *Chlamydia trachomatis*, the dose is 1000 mg as a single oral dose.

For susceptible *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* the recommended dose is 1000 mg or 2000 mg of azithromycin in combination with 250 mg or 500 mg ceftriaxone according to local clinical treatment guidelines. For patients who are allergic to penicillin and/or cephalosporins, prescribers should consult local treatment guidelines.

For all other indications the dose is 1500 mg, to be administered as 500 mg per day for three consecutive days.

* + 1. **Special populations**

*Elderly patients*

The same dosage as in adult patients is used for elderly patients.

Since older people can be patients with ongoing proarrhythmic conditions a particular caution is recommended due to the risk of developing cardiac arrhythmia and torsades de pointes.

*Renal impairment*

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (GFR 10 - 80 ml/min). Caution should be exercised when azithromycin is administered to patients with severe renal impairment (GFR < 10 ml/min).

*Hepatic impairment*

A dose adjustment is not necessary for patients with mild to moderately impaired liver function. Since azithromycin is metabolised in the liver and excreted in the bile, the drug should not be given to patients suffering from severe liver disease. No studies have been conducted regarding treatment of such patients with azithromycin.

* + 1. **Pediatric population**

Macrolyn tablets should not be administered to children with a body weight less than 45 kg.

* + 1. **Method of administration**

Macrolyn tablets are for oral use, and should be taken as a single daily dose.

Macrolyn tablets can be taken 1 hour before or 2 hours after meals with a half glass of water.

* 1. **Contraindications**

The use of azithromycin is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to azithromycin, erythromycin, any macrolide or ketolide antibiotic, or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

* 1. **Special warning and precautions for use**
     1. **General information**

**Hypersensitivity**

As with erythromycin and other macrolides, serious allergic reactions including angioneurotic oedema and anaphylaxis (rarely fatal), Acute Generalized Exanthematous Pustulosis (AGEP) and Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) have been reported. Some of these reactions with azithromycin have resulted in recurrent symptoms and required a longer period of observation and treatment. If an allergic reaction occurs, the drug should be discontinued and appropriate therapy should be instituted. Physicians should be aware that reappearance of the allergic symptoms may occur when symptomatic therapy is discontinued.

**Hepatotoxicity**

Since the liver is the principal route of elimination for azithromycin, the use of azithromycin should be undertaken with caution in patients with significant hepatic disease. Cases of fulminant hepatitis potentially leading to life-threatening liver failure have been reported with azithromycin (see section 4.8). Some patients may have had pre-existing hepatic disease or may have been taking other hepatotoxic medicinal products. In case of signs and symptoms of liver dysfunction, such as rapid developing asthenia associated with jaundice, dark urine, bleeding tendency or hepatic encephalopathy, liver function tests/ investigations should be performed immediately. Azithromycin administration should be stopped if liver dysfunction has emerged.

**Ergot derivatives**

In patients receiving ergot derivatives, ergotism has been precipitated by co-administration of some macrolide antibiotics. There are no data concerning the possibility of an interaction between ergot and azithromycin. However, because of the theoretical possibility of ergotism, azithromycin and ergot derivatives should not be co-administrated.

**Prolongation of the QT interval**

Prolonged cardiac repolarisation and QT interval, imparting a risk of developing cardiac arrhythmia and torsades de pointes, have been seen in treatment with other macrolides. A similar effect with azithromycin cannot be completely ruled out in patients at increased risk for prolonged cardiac repolarisation. Therefore caution is required when treating patients:

* with congenital or documented QT prolongation,
* currently receiving treatment with other active substance known to prolong QT interval such as antiarrhythmics of Classes Ia and III, cisapride and terfenadine,
* with electrolyte disturbance, particularly in case of hypokalaemia and hypomagnesemia,
* with clinically relevant bradycardia, cardiac arrhythmia or severe cardiac insufficiency.

**Superinfection**

As with any antibiotic preparation, observation for signs of superinfection with non-susceptible organisms including fungi is recommended.

**Clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea**

*Clostridium difficile* associated diarrhoea (CDAD) has been reported with the use of nearly all antibacterial agents, including azithromycin, and may range in severity from mild diarrhoea to fatal colitis. Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon leading to overgrowth of *C. difficile*. Strains of *C. difficile* producing hypertoxin A and B contribute to the development of CDAD. Hypertoxin producing strains of *C. difficile* cause increased morbidity and mortality, as these infections can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy and may require colectomy. Therefore, CDAD must be considered in patients who present with diarrhoea during or subsequent to the administration of any antibiotics. Careful medical history is necessary since CDAD has been reported to occur over 2 months after the administration of antibacterial agents. Discontinuation of therapy with azithromycin and the administration of specific treatment for *C. difficile* should be considered.

**Streptococcal infections**

Penicillin is usually the first choice for treatment of pharyngitis/tonsillitis due to *Streptococcus pyogenes* and also for prophylaxis of acute rheumatic fever. Azithromycin is in general effective against *Sreptococcus* in the oropharynx, but no data are available that demonstrate the efficacy of azithromycin in preventing acute rheumatic fever.

**Renal impairment**

In patients with severe renal impairment (GFR <10 ml/min) a 33% increase in systemic exposure to azithromycin was observed.

**Myasthenia gravis**

Exacerbations of the symptoms of myasthenia gravis and new onset of myasthenia syndrome have been reported in patients receiving azithromycin therapy.

**Diabetes**

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

* + 1. **Pediatric population**

Macrolyn tablets should not be administered to children with a body weight less than 45 kg.

* 1. **Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interactions**

**Antacids**

In a pharmacokinetic study investigating the effects of simultaneous administration of antacid with azithromycin, no effect on overall bioavailability was seen, although peak serum concentrations were reduced by approximately 24%. In patients receiving both azithromycin and antacids, the drugs should not be taken simultaneously.

**Cetirizine**

In healthy volunteers, co-administration of a 5-day regimen of azithromycin with 20 mg cetirizine at steady-state resulted in no pharmacokinetic interaction and no significant changes in the QT interval.

**Didanosine (Dideoxyinosine)**

Co-administration of 1200 mg/day azithromycin with 400 mg/day didanosine in six HIV-positive subjects did not appear to affect the steady-state pharmacokinetics of didanosine as compared to placebo.

**Digoxin and colchicine**

Concomitant administration of macrolide antibiotics, including azithromycin, with P-glycoprotein substrates such as digoxin and colchicine, has been reported to result in increased serum levels of the P-glycoprotein substrate. Therefore, if azithromycin and P-glycoprotein substrates such as digoxin are administered concomitantly, the possibility of elevated serum digoxin concentrations should be considered. Clinical monitoring, and possibly serum digoxin levels, during treatment with azithromycin and after its discontinuation are necessary.

**Zidovudine**

Single 1000 mg doses and multiple 1200 mg or 600 mg doses of azithromycin had little effect on the plasma pharmacokinetics or urinary excretion of zidovudine or its glucuronide metabolite. However, administration of azithromycin increased the concentrations of phosphorylated zidovudine, the clinically active metabolite, in peripheral blood mononuclear cells. The clinical significance of this finding is unclear, but it may be of benefit to patients.

Azithromycin does not interact significantly with the hepatic cytochrome P450 system. It is not believed to undergo the pharmacokinetic drug interactions as seen with erythromycin and other macrolides. Hepatic cytochrome P450 induction or inactivation via cytochrome-metabolite complex does not occur with azithromycin. Pharmacokinetic studies have been conducted between azithromycin and the following drugs known to undergo significant cytochrome P450 mediated metabolism.

**Atorvastatin**

Co-administration of atorvastatin (10 mg daily) and azithromycin (500 mg daily) did not alter the plasma concentrations of atorvastatin (based on a HMG CoA-reductase inhibition assay).

**Carbamazepine**

In a pharmacokinetic interaction study in healthy volunteers, no significant effect was observed on the plasma levels of carbamazepine or its active metabolite in patients receiving concomitant azithromycin.

**Cimetidine**

In a pharmacokinetic study investigating the effects of a single dose of cimetidine, given 2 hours before azithromycin, on the pharmacokinetics of azithromycin, no alteration of azithromycin pharmacokinetics was seen.

**Coumarin-type oral anticoagulants**

In a pharmacokinetic interaction study, azithromycin did not alter the anticoagulant effect of a single dose of 15 mg warfarin administered to healthy volunteers. There have been reports received in the post-marketing period of potentiated anticoagulation subsequent to co-administration of azithromycin and coumarin-type oral anticoagulants. Although a causal relationship has not been established, consideration should be given to the frequency of monitoring prothrombin time when azithromycin is used in patients receiving coumarin-type oral anticoagulants.

**Ciclosporin**

In a pharmacokinetic study with healthy volunteers who were administered a 500 mg/day oral dose of azithromycin for 3 days and were then administered a single 10 mg/kg oral dose of ciclosporin, the resulting ciclosporin Cmax and AUC0-5 were found to be significantly elevated (by 24% and 21% respectively), however no significant changes were seen in AUC0-∞. Consequently, caution should be exercised before considering concurrent administration of these drugs. If co-administration of these drugs is necessary, ciclosporin levels should be monitored and the dose adjusted accordingly.

**Efavirenz**

Co**-**administration of a single dose of 600 mg azithromycin and 400 mg efavirenz daily for 7 days did not result in any clinically significant pharmacokinetic interactions.

**Fluconazole**

Co-administration of a single dose of 1200 mg azithromycin did not alter the pharmacokinetics of a single dose of 800 mg fluconazole. Total exposure and half-life of azithromycin were unchanged by the co-administration of fluconazole, however, a clinically insignificant decrease in Cmax (18%) of azithromycin was observed.

**Indinavir**

Co-administration of a single dose of 1200 mg azithromycin had no statistically significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of indinavir administered as 800 mg three times daily for 5 days.

**Methylprednisolone**

In a pharmacokinetic interaction study in healthy volunteers, azithromycin had no significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of methylprednisolone.

**Midazolam**

In healthy volunteers, co-administration of 500 mg/day azithromycin for 3 days did not cause clinically significant changes in the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of a single dose of 15 mg midazolam.

**Nelfinavir**

Co-administration of azithromycin (1200 mg) and nelfinavir at steady state (750 mg three times daily) resulted in increased azithromycin concentrations. No clinically significant adverse effects were observed and no dose adjustment was required.

**Rifabutin**

Co-administration of azithromycin and rifabutin did not affect the serum concentrations of either drug. Neutropenia was observed in subjects receiving concomitant treatment of azithromycin and rifabutin. Although neutropenia has been associated with the use of rifabutin, a causal relationship to combination with azithromycin has not been established.

**Sildenafil**

In normal healthy male volunteers, there was no evidence of an effect of azithromycin (500 mg daily for 3 days) on the AUC and Cmax, of sildenafil or its major circulating metabolite.

**Terfenadine**

Pharmacokinetic studies have reported no evidence of an interaction between azithromycin and terfenadine. There have been rare cases reported where the possibility of such an interaction could not be entirely excluded; however there was no specific evidence that such an interaction had occurred.

**Theophylline**

There is no evidence of a clinically significant pharmacokinetic interaction when azithromycin and theophylline are co-administered to healthy volunteers.

**Triazolam**

In 14 healthy volunteers, co-administration of 500mg azithromycin on Day 1 and 250 mg on Day 2 with 0.125 mg triazolam on Day 2 had no significant effect on any of the pharmacokinetic variables for triazolam compared to triazolam and placebo.

**Trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole**

Co-administration of trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole DS (160 mg/800 mg) for 7 days with 1200 mg azithromycin on Day 7 had no significant effect on peak concentrations, total exposure or urinary excretion of either trimethoprim or sulfamethoxazole. Azithromycin serum concentrations were similar to those seen in other studies.

* 1. **Pregnancy, lactation and fertility**
     1. **Pregnancy**

Animal reproduction studies have been performed at doses up to moderately maternally toxic dose concentrations. In these studies, no evidence of harm to the foetus due to azithromycin was found. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response. Therefore azithromycin should only be used during pregnancy if the benefit outweighs the risk.

* + 1. **Lactation**

**T**here are no adequate and well-controlled clinical studies in nursing women that have characterized the pharmacokinetics of azithromycin excretion into human breast milk. Because it is not known whether azithromycin may have adverse effects on the breast-fed infant, nursing should be discontinued during treatment with azithromycin.

* + 1. **Fertility**

In fertility studies conducted in rat, reduced pregnancy rates were noted following administration of azithromycin. The relevance of this finding to humans is unknown.

* 1. **Effects on the ability to drive and use machines**

There is no evidence to suggest that azithromycin may have an effect: on a patient's ability to drive or operate machinery.

* 1. **Undesirable effects**

Azithromycin is well tolerated with a low incidence of side effects.

The frequencies of adverse reactions reported with azithromycin are defined as:

* very common (≥ 1/10)
* common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10)
* uncommon (≥ 1/1,000 to < 1/100)
* rare (≥ 1/10,000 to < 1/1,000)
* very rare ( < 1/10,000)
* not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

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| --- | --- |
| ***Infections and infestations*** | |
| uncommon | Candidiasis  Vaginal infection  Pneumonia  Fungal infection  Bacterial infection  Pharyngitis  Gastroenteritis  Respiratory disorder  Rhinitis  Oral candidiasis |
| not known | Pseudomembranous colitis |
| ***Blood and lymphatic system disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Leukopenia  Neutropenia  Eosinophilia |
| not known | Thrombocytopenia  Hemolytic anemia |
| ***Immune system disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Angioedema  Hypersensitivity |
| not known | Anaphylactic reaction |
| ***Metabolism and nutrition disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Anorexia |
| ***Psychiatric disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Nervousness  Insomnia |
| rare | Agitation  Depersonalization |
| not known | Aggression  Anxiety  Delirium  Hallucination |

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| --- | --- |
| ***Nervous system disorders*** | |
| common | Headache |
| uncommon | Dizziness  Somnolence  Dysgeusia  Paranesthesia |
| not known | Syncope, convulsion  Hypoesthesia  Psychomotor hyperactivity  Anosmia  Ageusia  Parosmia  Myasthenia gravis |
| ***Eye disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Visual impairment |
| ***Ear and labyrinth disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Ear disorder  Vertigo |
| not known | Hearing impairment including deafness and/or tinnitus |
| ***Cardiac disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Palpitations |
| not known | Torsades de pointes  Arrhythmia including ventricular tachycardia  ECG QT prolonged |
| ***Vascular disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Hot flushes |
| not known | Hypotension |
| ***Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Dyspnea  Epistaxis |

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| --- | --- |
| ***Gastrointestinal disorders*** | |
| very common | Diarrhea |
| common | Vomiting  Abdominal pain  Nausea |
| uncommon | Constipation  Flatulence  Dyspepsia  Gastritis  Dysphagia  Abdominal distension  Dry mouth  Eructation  Mouth ulceration  Salivary hypersecretion |
| not known | Pancreatitis  Tongue discoloration |
| ***Hepatobiliary disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Hepatitis |
| rare | Abnormal hepatic function  Cholestatic Jaundice |
| not known | Hepatic failure (which has rarely resulted in death) (see section 4.4)  Fulminant hepatitis  Hepatic necrosis |
| ***Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Rash  Pruritus  Urticaria  Dermatitis  Dry skin  Hyperhidrosis |
| rare | Photosensitivity reaction  Acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) |
| not known | Steven-Johnson syndrome  Toxic epidermal necrolysis  Erythema multiforme |
| ***Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Osteoarthritis  Myalgia  Back pain  Neck pain |
| not known | Arthralgia |
| ***Renal and urinary disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Dysuria  Renal pain |
| not known | Acute renal failure  Interstitial nephritis |
| ***Reproductive system and breast disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Metrorrhagia  Testicular disorder |
| ***General disorders and administration site disorders*** | |
| uncommon | Edema  Asthenia  Malaise  Fatigue  Face edema  Chest pain  Pyrexia  Pain  Peripheral edema |
| ***Investigations*** | |
| common | Lymphocyte count decreased  Eosinophil count increased  Blood bicarbonate decreased  Basophils increased  Monocytes increased  Neutrophils increased |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| uncommon | Aspartate aminotransferase increased  Alanine aminotransferase increased  Blood bilirubine increased  Blood urea increased  Blood creatinine increased  Blood potassium abnormal  Blood alkaline phosphatase increased  Chloride increased  Glucose increased  Platelets increased  Hematocrit decreased  Bicarbonate increased  Abnormal sodium |
| ***Injury and poisoning*** | |
| uncommon | Post procedural complication |

* 1. **Overdose**

Adverse events experienced in higher than recommended doses were similar to those seen at normal doses.

The typical symptoms of an overdose with macrolide antibiotics include reversible loss of hearing, severe nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

In the event of overdose, the administration of medicinal charcoal and general symptomatic treatment and supportive measures are indicated as required.

1. **PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**
   1. **Pharmacodynamic properties**

**Pharmacotherapeutic group:** antibacterial for systemic use. **ATC code:** J01FA10.

Azithromycin is an azalide, a sub-class of the macrolid antibiotics.

**Mode of action**

By binding to the 50S-ribosomal sub-unit, azithromycin avoids the translocation of peptide chains from one side of the ribosome to the other. As a consequence of this, RNA-dependent protein synthesis in sensitive organisms is prevented.

**Mechanism of resistance**

Resistance to azithromycin may be inherent or acquired. There are three main mechanisms of resistance in bacteria: target site alteration, alteration in antibiotic transport and modification of the antibiotic.

Azithromycin demonstrates cross resistance with erythromycin resistant gram positive isolates.

A decrease in macrolide susceptibility over time has been noted particularly in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Similarly, decreased susceptibility has been observed among *Streptococcus viridans* and *Streptococcus agalactiae* (Group B) streptococcus against other macrolides and lincosamides.

**Breakpoints**

EUCAST (European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **organism** | **susceptibility breakpoints (mg/ml)** | |
|  | *susceptible* | *resistant* |
| Staphylococcus spp. | ≤ 1 | > 2 |
| Streptococcus spp. (Group A, B, C, G) | ≤ 0.25 | > 0.5 |
| *Streptococcus pneumoniae* | ≤ 0.25 | > 0.5 |
| *Haemophilus influenzae* | ≤ 0.12 | > 4 |
| *Moraxella catarrhalis* | ≤ 0.5 | > 0.5 |
| *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* | ≤ 0.25 | > 0.5 |

**Commonly susceptible species**

* Aerobic Gram-positive micro-organisms
* *Staphylococcus aureus* (methicillin-susceptible)
* *Streptococcus pneumoniae*  (methicillin-susceptible)
* *Streptococcus pyogenes* (group A)
* Aerobic Gram-negative micro-organisms
* *Haemophilus influenzae*
* *Haemophilus parainfluenzae*
* *Moraxella catarrhalis*
* *Pasteurella multocida*
* *Legionella pneumophila*
* *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*
* Anaerobic micro-organisms
* *Clostridium perfringens*
* *Fusobacterium* spp.
* *Porphyromonas* spp.
* *Prevotella* spp.
* Other micro-organisms
* Chlamydia trachomatis

**Species for which acquired resistance may be a problem**

* Aerobic Gram-positive micro-organisms
* *Streptococcus pneumoniae*
* Penicillin intermediate
* Penicillin resistant

**Inherently resistant organisms**

* Aerobic Gram-positive micro-organisms
* *Enterococcus faecalis*
* Staphylococci MRSA, MRSE
* Anaerobic micro-organisms
* Bacteroides fragilis group
  1. **Pharmacokinetic properties**

**Absorption**

After oral administration the bioavailability of azithromycin is approximately 37%. Peak plasma levels are reached after 2-3 hours.

**Distribution**

Orally administered azithromycin is widely distributed throughout the body. In pharmacokinetic studies it has been demonstrated that the concentrations of azithromycin measured in tissues are noticeably higher (as much as 50 times) than those measured in plasma, which indicates that the agent strongly binds to tissues.

Binding to serum proteins varies according to plasma concentration and ranges from 12% at 0.5 µg/ml up to 52% at 0.05 µg azithromycin/ml serum. The mean volume of distribution at steady state (VVss) has been calculated to be 31.1 l/kg.

**Elimination**

The terminal plasma elimination half-life closely reflects the elimination half-life from tissues of 2-4 days.

Approximately 12% of an intravenously administered dose of azithromycin is excreted unchanged in urine within the following three days. Particularly high concentrations of unchanged azithromycin have been found in human bile. Also in bile, ten metabolites without microbiologic activity were detected.

**Pharmacokinetics in special populations**

* ***Renal insufficiency***

Following a single oral dose of azithromycin 1 g, mean Cmax and AUC0-120 increased by 5.1% and 4.2% respectively, in subjects with mild to moderate renal impairment (glomerular filtration rate of 10-80 ml/min) compared with normal renal function (GFR > 80 ml/min). In subjects with severe renal impairment, the mean Cmax and AUC0-120 increased 61% and 33% respectively compared to normal.

* ***Hepatic insufficiency***

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment, there is no evidence of a marked change in serum pharmacokinetics of azithromycin compared to normal hepatic function. In these patients, urinary recovery of azithromycin appears to increase perhaps to compensate for reduced hepatic clearance.

* ***Elderly***

The pharmacokinetics of azithromycin in elderly men was similar to that of young adults; however, in elderly women, although higher peak concentrations (increased by 30-50%) were observed, no significant accumulation occurred.

* ***Pediatric population***

Pharmacokinetics have been studied in children aged 4 months – 15 years taking capsules, granules or suspension. At 10 mg/kg on day 1 followed by 5 mg/kg on days 2-5, the Cmax achieved is slightly lower than adults with 224 µg/l in children aged 0.6-5 years and after 3 days dosing and 383 µg/l in those aged 6-15 years. The t1/2 of 36 h in the older children was within the expected range for adults.

* 1. **Preclinical safety data**

**Phospholipidosis**

Phospholipidosis (intracellular phospholipid accumulation) has been observed in several tissues (e.g. eye, dorsal root ganglia, liver, gallbladder, kidney, spleen, and/or pancreas) of mice, rats, and dogs given multiple doses of azithromycin. Phospholipidosis has been observed to a similar extent in the tissues of neonatal rats and dogs. The effect has been shown to be reversible after cessation of azithromycin treatment. The significance of the finding for animals and humans is unknown.

**Carcinogenic and mutagenic potential**

Long-term studies in animals have not been performed to evaluate carcinogenic potential as the drug is indicated for short-term treatment only and there were no signs indicative of carcinogenic activity. Azithromycin has shown no mutagenic potential in standard laboratory tests.

**Reproductive toxicity**

In animal studies for embryotoxic effects of the substance, no teratogenic effect was observed in mice and rats. In rats, azithromycin doses of 100 and 200 mg/kg bodyweight/day led to mild retardation of foetal ossification and in maternal weight gain. In peri- and postnatal studies in rats, mild retardation following treatment with 50 mg/kg/day azithromycin and above was observed.

1. **PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**
   1. **List of excipients**

Core tablet

Sodium laurilsulfate

Magnesium stearate

Microcrystalline cellulose

Carmellose sodium

Calcium hydrogen phosphate

Film coating Opadry OY-D-7233

Hypromellose

Talc

Sodium laurilsulfate

Macrogol

Titanium dioxide (E171).

* 1. **Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

* 1. **Shelf life**

3 years.

* 1. **Special precautions for storage**

Store below 30°C.

* 1. **Nature and contents of container**

PVC/PVDC/Aluminium blister.

Box with one blister containing 3 tablets.

* 1. **Special precautions for disposal and other handlings**

No special requirements. Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

1. **MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER AND MANUFACURING SITE ADDRESS**
   1. **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Dafra Pharma GmbH, Mühlenberg 7, 4052 Basel, Switzerland.

* 1. **Manufacturer**

Deva Holding A.Ş. Çerkezköy Organize Sanayi Bölgesi, Karaağaç Mah, Atatürk Cad., No: 32 Kapakli-Tekirdağ, Turkey.

1. **MARKETING AUHORISATION NUMBER**

See list of MAs per country

1. **DATE OF FIRST REGISTRATION**

See list of MAs per country

1. **DATE OF REVISION OF TEXT**

April 2019