

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS
NEOGRA (SILDENAFIL CITRATE) ORAL JELLY

1. Name of the medicinal product

NEOGRA (SILDENAFIL CITRATE) ORAL JELLY

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

NEOGRA Oral Jelly contains the active ingredient sildenafil citrate (100mg/5gm), a phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) inhibitor used to treat erectile dysfunction in men.

3. Pharmaceutical form

NEOGRA 100mg Oral Jelly 1 Week Pack, 7 sachets of assorted flavours.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

NEOGRA is indicated in adult men with erectile dysfunction, which is the inability to achieve or maintain a penile erection sufficient for satisfactory sexual performance.

In order for NEOGRA to be effective, sexual stimulation is required.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Use in adults

The recommended dose is (100mg/5gm), taken as needed approximately one hour before sexual activity. If NEOGRA is taken with food, the onset of activity may be delayed compared to the fasted state (see section 5.2).

Special populations

Elderly

Dosage adjustments are not required in elderly patients (≥ 65 years old).

Renal impairment

The dosing recommendations described in "Use in adults" apply to patients with mild to moderate renal impairment (creatinine clearance = 30-80 mL/min).

Paediatric population

NEOGRA is not indicated for individuals below 18 years of age.

Use in patients taking other medicinal products

Method of administration

For oral use.

4.3 Contraindications

Consistent with its known effects on the nitric oxide/cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP) pathway (see section 5.1), sildenafil was shown to potentiate the hypotensive effects of nitrates, and its co-administration with nitric oxide donors (such as amyl nitrite) or nitrates in any form is therefore contraindicated.

The co-administration of PDE5 inhibitors, including sildenafil, with guanylate cyclase stimulators, such as riociguat, is contraindicated as it may potentially lead to symptomatic hypotension (see section 4.5).

Agents for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, including sildenafil, should not be used in men for whom sexual activity is inadvisable (e.g. patients with severe cardiovascular disorders such as unstable angina or severe cardiac failure).

NEOGRA is contraindicated in patients who have loss of vision in one eye because of non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION), regardless of whether this episode was in connection or not with previous PDE5 inhibitor exposure (see section 4.4).

The safety of sildenafil has not been studied in the following sub-groups of patients and its use is therefore contraindicated: severe hepatic impairment, hypotension (blood pressure < 90/50 mmHg), recent history of stroke or myocardial infarction and known hereditary degenerative retinal disorders such as *retinitis pigmentosa* (a minority of these patients have genetic disorders of retinal phosphodiesterases).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

A medical history and physical examination should be undertaken to diagnose erectile dysfunction and determine potential underlying causes, before pharmacological treatment is considered.

Cardiovascular risk factors

Prior to initiating any treatment for erectile dysfunction, physicians should consider the cardiovascular status of their patients, since there is a degree of cardiac risk associated with sexual activity. Sildenafil has vasodilator properties, resulting in mild and transient decreases in blood pressure (see section 5.1). Prior to prescribing sildenafil, physicians should carefully consider whether their patients with certain underlying conditions could be adversely affected by such vasodilatory effects, especially in combination with sexual activity. Patients with increased susceptibility to vasodilators include those with left ventricular outflow obstruction (e.g., aortic stenosis, hypertrophic obstructive cardiomyopathy), or those with the rare syndrome of multiple system atrophy manifesting as severely impaired autonomic control of blood pressure.

NEOGRA potentiates the hypotensive effect of nitrates (see section 4.3).

Serious cardiovascular events, including myocardial infarction, unstable angina, sudden cardiac death, ventricular arrhythmia, cerebrovascular haemorrhage, transient ischaemic attack, hypertension and hypotension have been reported post-marketing in temporal association with the use of NEOGRA. Most, but not all, of these patients had pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors. Many events were reported to occur during or shortly after sexual intercourse and a few were reported to occur shortly after the use of NEOGRA without sexual activity. It is not possible to determine whether these events are related directly to these factors or to other factors.

Priapism

Agents for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, including sildenafil, should be used with caution in patients with anatomical deformation of the penis (such as angulation, cavernosal fibrosis or Peyronie's disease), or in patients who have conditions which may predispose them to priapism (such as sickle cell anaemia, multiple myeloma or leukaemia).

Prolonged erections and priapism have been reported with sildenafil in post-marketing experience. In the event of an erection that persists for longer than 4 hours, the patient should seek immediate medical assistance. If priapism is not treated immediately, penile tissue damage and permanent loss of potency could result.

Concomitant use with other PDE5 inhibitors or other treatments for erectile dysfunction

The safety and efficacy of combinations of sildenafil with other PDE5 inhibitors, or other pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH)

treatments containing sildenafil (REVATIO), or other treatments for erectile dysfunction have not been studied. Therefore the use of such combinations is not recommended.

Effects on vision

Cases of visual defects have been reported spontaneously in connection with the intake of sildenafil and other PDE5 inhibitors (see section 4.8). Cases of non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy, a rare condition, have been reported spontaneously and in an observational study in connection with the intake of sildenafil and other PDE5 inhibitors (see section 4.8). Patients should be advised that in the event of any sudden visual defect, they should stop taking NEOGRA and consult a physician immediately (see section 4.3).

Concomitant use with alpha-blockers

Caution is advised when sildenafil is administered to patients taking an alpha-blocker, as the co-administration may lead to symptomatic hypotension in a few susceptible individuals (see section 4.5). This is most likely to occur within 4 hours post sildenafil dosing. In order to minimise the potential for developing postural hypotension, patients should be hemodynamically stable on alpha-blocker therapy prior to initiating sildenafil treatment. Initiation of sildenafil at a dose of 25 mg should be considered (see section 4.2). In addition, physicians should advise patients what to do in the event of postural hypotensive symptoms.

Effect on bleeding

Studies with human platelets indicate that sildenafil potentiates the antiaggregatory effect of sodium nitroprusside *in vitro*. There is no safety information on the administration of sildenafil to patients with bleeding disorders or active peptic ulceration. Therefore sildenafil should be administered to these patients only after careful benefit-risk assessment.

1NEOGRA should not be administered to men with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Effects of other medicinal products on sildenafil

In vitro studies

Sildenafil metabolism is principally mediated by the cytochrome P450 (CYP) isoforms 3A4 (major route) and 2C9 (minor route). Therefore, inhibitors of these isoenzymes may reduce sildenafil clearance and inducers of these isoenzymes may increase sildenafil clearance.

In vivo studies

Population pharmacokinetic analysis of clinical trial data indicated a reduction in sildenafil clearance when co-administered with CYP3A4 inhibitors, Although no increased incidence of adverse events was observed in these patients, when sildenafil is administered concomitantly with CYP3A4 inhibitors, a starting dose should be considered.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

NEOGRA is not indicated for use by women.

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant or breast-feeding women.

No relevant adverse effects were found in reproduction studies in rats and rabbits following oral administration of sildenafil.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

As dizziness and altered vision were reported in clinical trials with sildenafil, patients should be aware of how they react to NEOGRA, before driving or operating machinery.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The safety profile of NEOGRA is based on 9,570 patients in 74 double blind placebo-controlled clinical studies. The most commonly reported adverse reactions in clinical studies among sildenafil treated patients were headache, flushing, dyspepsia, nasal congestion, dizziness, nausea, hot flush, visual disturbance, cyanopsia and blurred vision.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

In the table below all medically important adverse reactions, which occurred in clinical trials at an incidence greater than placebo are listed by system organ class and frequency (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 $1/1,000$)).

4.9 Overdose

In cases of overdose, standard supportive measures should be adopted as required. Renal dialysis is not expected to accelerate clearance as sildenafil is highly bound to plasma proteins and not eliminated in the urine.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Urologicals; Drugs used in erectile dysfunction..

Mechanism of action

Sildenafil is an oral therapy for erectile dysfunction. In the natural setting, i.e. with sexual stimulation, it restores impaired erectile function by increasing blood flow to the penis.

The physiological mechanism responsible for erection of the penis involves the release of nitric oxide (NO) in the corpus cavernosum during sexual stimulation. Nitric oxide then activates the enzyme guanylate cyclase, which results in increased levels of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP), producing smooth muscle relaxation in the corpus cavernosum and allowing inflow of blood. Sildenafil is a potent and selective inhibitor of cGMP specific phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5) in the corpus cavernosum, where PDE5 is responsible for degradation of cGMP. Sildenafil has a peripheral site of action on erections. Sildenafil has no direct relaxant effect on isolated human corpus cavernosum but potently enhances the relaxant effect of NO on this tissue. When the NO/cGMP pathway is activated, as occurs with sexual stimulation, inhibition of PDE5 by sildenafil results in increased corpus cavernosum levels of cGMP. Therefore sexual stimulation is required in order for sildenafil to produce its intended beneficial pharmacological effects.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Studies *in vitro* have shown that sildenafil is selective for PDE5, which is involved in the erection process. Its effect is more potent on PDE5 than on other known phosphodiesterases.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Sildenafil is rapidly absorbed. Maximum observed plasma concentrations are reached within 30 to 120 minutes (median 60

minutes) of oral dosing in the fasted state. The mean absolute oral bioavailability is 41% (range 25-63%). After oral dosing of sildenafil AUC and C_{max} increase in proportion with dose over the recommended dose.

When sildenafil is taken with food, the rate of absorption is reduced with a mean delay in t_{max} of 60 minutes and a mean reduction in C_{max} of 29%.

Biotransformation

Sildenafil is cleared predominantly by the CYP3A4 (major route) and CYP2C9 (minor route) hepatic microsomal isoenzymes. The major circulating metabolite results from N-demethylation of sildenafil. This metabolite has a phosphodiesterase selectivity profile similar to sildenafil and an *in vitro* potency for PDE5 approximately 50% that of the parent drug. Plasma concentrations of this metabolite are approximately 40% of those seen for sildenafil. The N-desmethyl metabolite is further metabolised, with a terminal half life of approximately 4 h.

Elimination

The total body clearance of sildenafil is 41 L/h with a resultant terminal phase half life of 3-5 h. After either oral or intravenous administration, sildenafil is excreted as metabolites predominantly in the faeces (approximately 80% of administered oral dose) and to a lesser extent in the urine (approximately 13% of administered oral dose).

Pharmacokinetics in special patient groups

Elderly

Healthy elderly volunteers (65 years or over) had a reduced clearance of sildenafil, resulting in approximately 90% higher plasma concentrations of sildenafil and the active N-desmethyl metabolite compared to those seen in healthy younger volunteers (18-45 years). Due to age-differences in plasma protein binding, the corresponding increase in free sildenafil plasma concentration was approximately 40%.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Non-clinical data revealed no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, and toxicity to reproduction and development.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at room temperature between 15 and 30 degrees C (59 and 86 degrees F). Throw away any unused medicine after the expiration date.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

NEOGRA 100mg Oral Jelly 1 Week Pack, 7 sachets of assorted flavours.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7. Marketing authorisation holder

Taj Accura Pharmaceuticals Ltd
102 Q House, Furze Road, Sandyford,
Dublin 18, Republic of Ireland.
Phone: +353(0)1 2931882
Fax: +353 (0)1 2931883
email: info@tajaccura.com

8. Date of revision of the text

NOVEMBER 2015.