ZOSTRIX-DL-Aug 2021-01

Doctor leaflet

1. Name of the medicinal product

Zostrix, Zostrix-HP
Cream

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition

Zostrix: Capsaicin 0.025%

Zostrix-HP: Capsaicin 0.075%

Excipient(s) with known effect

The cream contains benzyl alcohol (0.01 mg/mg) and cetyl alcohol (0.08 mg/mg).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. Pharmaceutical form

Cream for topical application.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Zostrix:

- For the symptomatic relief of pain associated with arthritis.

Zostrix-HP:

- For the symptomatic relief of neuralgia associated with and following Herpes Zoster infections (post-herpetic neuralgia).
- For the symptomatic relief of painful diabetic peripheral neuropathy.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Adults and the elderly

For topical administration to unbroken skin. Apply only a small amount of cream (pea size) to the affected area 3 or 4 times daily. These applications should be evenly spaced throughout the waking hours and not more often than every 4 hours. The cream should be gently rubbed in, there should be no residue left on the surface. The cream may cause transient burning on application. The burning is observed more frequently when application schedules of more than 4 times daily are used. Hands should be washed immediately after application of the cream with the fingers, unless hands and fingers are being treated. Do not apply near the eyes.

Pain relief usually begins within the first week of treatment and increases with continuing regular application for the next two to eight weeks.

Patients using Zostrix-HP for the treatment of painful diabetic peripheral polyneuropathy should only do so under the direct supervision. The recommended duration of use in the first instance is 8 weeks, since there is no clinical trial evidence of efficacy for treatment of more than 8 weeks duration. After this time, it is recommended that the patient's condition should be fully clinically assessed prior to continuation of treatment, and regularly re-evaluated thereafter, by the supervising consultant.

Not suitable for use in children.

4.3 Contraindications

The cream is contra-indicated for use on broken or irritated skin.

The cream is contra-indicated in patients with hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Not for use under tight bandages.

Keep away from the eyes.

Skin irritation has been reported following application of the cream. The hands should be washed immediately after application of the cream, unless the hands are the treated areas, in which case, they should be washed 30 minutes after application.

Contact with eyes and mucous membranes should be avoided.

Patients should avoid taking a hot bath or shower just before or after applying the cream, as it can enhance the burning sensation.

Patients and caregivers should avoid inhalation of vapours from the cream, as transient irritation of the mucous membranes of the eyes and respiratory tract (including exacerbation of asthma) has been reported.

If the condition worsens, seek medical advice.

Excipients

Benzyl alcohol may cause mild local irritation and allergic reactions.

Cetyl alcohol May cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No interaction studies have been performed.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

The safety of capcacin during pregnancy or lactation has not been established in either humans or animals. However, in the small amounts absorbed transdermally, it is considered unlikely that capsaicin will cause any adverse effects in humans.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Not applicable.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The medicine may cause skin irritation or transient burning on application. This burning is observed more frequently when application schedules of more than 4 times daily are utilised. The burning can be enhanced if too much cream is used and if it is applied just before or after a bath or shower.

Irritation of the mucous membranes of the eyes and respiratory tract (such as nasal and throat irritation) on application of the cream has been reported rarely, resulting in symptoms such as coughing, sneezing and runny eyes. These events are usually mild and self-limiting. There have been a few reports of dyspnoea, wheezing and exacerbation of asthma.

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. Any suspected adverse events should be reported to the Ministry of Health according to the National Regulation by using an online form

https://sideeffects.health.gov.il/

4.9 Overdose

Not applicable.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Topical products for joint and muscular pain, Capsaicin and similar agents, ATC code: M02AB01.

Although the precise mechanism of action of capsaicin is not fully understood, current evidence suggests that capsaicin renders skin insensitive to pain by depleting and preventing re-accumulation of substance P in peripheral sensory neurons. Substance P is thought to be the principal chemo-mediator of pain impulses from the periphery to the Central Nervous System.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption after topical application is unknown. Average consumption of dietary spice from capsicum fruit has been estimated as 2.5 g/person/day in India and 5.0 g/person/day in Thailand. Capsaicin content in capsicum fruit is approximately 1 % therefore daily dietary intake of capsaicin may range from 0.5-1 mg/kg/day for a 50kg person. Application of 3 tubes (90 gram) of a 0.025% cream each week results in a 3.21 mg/day topical exposure. Application of3 tubes (90 gram) of a 0.075% cream each week results in a 9.6 mg/day topical exposure. Assuming 100% absorption in a 50 kg person, daily exposure would be 0.064 mg/kg for the 0.025% cream and 0.192 mg/kg for the 0.075% cream which is approximately one seventh to one eighth of the above mentioned dietary intake for the 0.025% cream and one third to one quarter of the above mentioned dietary intake for the 0.075% cream.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

The available animal toxicity data relating to capsicum, capsicum extracts and capsaicin do not suggest that, in usual doses, they pose any significant toxicity hazard to man. Thus, in both single and repeat dosing studies which have been reported, capsicum extracts and capsicum are generally well tolerated at many times even the highest estimated human intakes. The safety of the medicine for use in human pregnancy has not been established since no formal reproduction studies have been performed on either animals or man. However, there is no reason to suspect from human or animal studies currently available that any adverse effects in humans are likely.

Studies reported in the published literature, which relate to potential genotoxic and carcinogenic action of capsaicin have produced inconclusive and conflicting data. However, it is unlikely that capsaicin, in the quantities absorbed transdermally, will pose any significant hazard to humans.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Sorbitol, cetyl alcohol , isopropyl myristate, stearoyl macrogolglycerides, white soft paraffin, benzyl alcohol, purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

The expiry date of the product is indicated on the packaging materials

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C. The cream can be used within 3 months after first opening.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aluminium tubes containing 30 g cream.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements for disposal.

Any unused medicinal product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. Registration holder

Rafa Laboratories Ltd, POB 405, Jerusalem 9100301

Registration number:

Zostrix: 101-20-28410

Zostrix-HP: 101-21-28411

Revised in August 2021 according to MOHs guidelines.