

Summary of Product Characteristics

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Eltroxin® Tablets 50mcg
Eltroxin® Tablets 100mcg

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Levothyroxine sodium 50 micrograms or 100 micrograms.

For the list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

non-scored tablets

The tablets are round, white to off-white and biconvex. The tablet with 50 micrograms is engraved with "GS 11E" on one side and with "50" on the other. The tablet with 100 micrograms is engraved with "GS 21C" on one side and with "100" on the other.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Treatment of hypothyroidism, cretinism and juvenile myxoedema.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

General

If the dose is increased too rapidly symptoms such as diarrhoea, nervousness, high heart rate, insomnia, tremor and at times pain in the heart with latent myocardial ischaemia may occur. In such cases the dose should be reduced or treatment omitted for one or two days and then restarted at a lower dose. ECG changes caused by hypothyroidism may be confused with ECG signs of ischaemia. Therefore, it is recommended to have an ECG performed prior to start of Eltroxin.

In patients on medicines including levothyroxine and known interfering substances administration should be at least 4 hours apart (see section 4.5 Interactions).

Adults

The treatment is initiated with 50-100 micrograms daily, which is increased by 50 micrograms in intervals of 4 to 6 weeks until clinical and biochemical euthyroidism is obtained. This may require doses of 100-200 micrograms daily.

Elderly patients and patients with heart disease or serious, prolonged hypothyroidism

Use with caution in patients over 50 years old, patients with heart disease and patients with serious or prolonged hypothyroidism.

For patients over 50 years it is not recommended to initially exceed 50 micrograms daily. For heart disease 50 micrograms every second day is more suitable, and the dose may be increased by 50 micrograms every second day with intervals of around four weeks.

Paediatric population

For congenital hypothyroidism and juvenile myxoedema the largest dose not leading to a toxic effect is given. The dose is depending on clinical response, assessment of growth and relevant tests of thyroid function. Clinically normal pulse rate and absence of diarrhoea or constipation are the most useful indicators.

As a consequence of the readjustment of the hypothalamic-pituitary axis the thyrotropin level may remain elevated during the first year of life in children with neonatal hypothyroidism.

A suitable initial dose for infants with congenital hypothyroidism would be 50 micrograms levothyroxine sodium every second day. This is increased with 50 micrograms every second day at two to four week intervals until optimal response is achieved.

The same procedure can be used for children with juvenile myxoedema, except that the initial dose in children over 1 year of age is 2.5-5 micrograms/kg/day.

The calculated daily dose equivalent should be rounded to the nearest 25 micrograms to determine the actual prescribed dose.

Eltroxin tablets should not be divided. If a dosage of 25 micrograms is required, other registered products containing Levothyroxine 50mcg that can be divided to 25 mcg, can be used.

Administration

For oral administration.

As limited data are available Eltroxin tablets should not be crushed, and Eltroxin tablets without a scoreline should not be divided.

Eltroxin tablets should preferably be taken in the fasting state.

If a dose is forgotten it should be taken as soon as the patient remembers it, unless it is almost time for the patient's next dose. A double dose should not be taken.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Untreated adrenal insufficiency
- Untreated pituitary insufficiency
- Untreated thyrotoxicosis.
- Untreated hypertension
- Acute myocardial infarction
- Acute myocarditis
- Acute pancarditis.
- Combination therapy of levothyroxine and an antithyroid agent for hyperthyroidism is not indicated during pregnancy (see section 4.6).

4.4 Special warnings and special precautions for use

Laboratory Monitoring

Eltroxin has a narrow therapeutic index. Optimal Eltroxin dosing is based on a clinical assessment and laboratory monitoring of tests of thyroid function. During the initial titration period a careful dose titration and monitoring is necessary to avoid the consequences of excessive or inadequate treatment. The symptoms of a high dosage can be compared to many of the traits observed for endogenous thyrotoxicosis.

Levothyroxine should not be used for treatment of obesity or weight loss.

In euthyroid patients the relevant dose will be ineffective regarding weight loss. Higher doses may lead to serious and potentially life threatening symptoms, especially with concomitant sympathomimetic treatment.

Weight loss medicine: Orlistat may reduce the absorption of levothyroxine, which may lead to hypothyroidism. To avoid this orlistat and levothyroxine should be administered at least 4 hours apart. Regular monitoring of changes in the thyroid function is necessary (see section 4.5).

In order to ensure the continuity of different products of levothyroxine sodium in individual patients it should be emphasized that if patients are changed from one levothyroxine sodium product to another it should be done only with specific counselling and tight monitoring from their healthcare professional.

Before starting therapy with thyroid hormones or before performing a thyroid suppression test, the following diseases or medical conditions should be excluded or treated: coronary failure, angina pectoris, arteriosclerosis, hypertension, pituitary insufficiency, adrenal insufficiency. Thyroid autonomy should also be excluded or treated before starting therapy with thyroid hormones.

Special patient populations

Treatment with Eltroxin in patients with pituitary insufficiency or other causes of adrenal insufficiency may cause dizziness, weakness, malaise, weight loss, hypotension and Addison's crisis. Treatment with glucocorticoids should therefore be initiated prior to starting treatment with levothyroxine.

Eltroxin should be used with caution to elderly and in patients where heart insufficiency, myocardial infarction or ischaemia as well as diabetes mellitus or insipidus is present. An excessive initial dose or a too rapid dose escalation may cause or aggravate symptoms such as angina pectoris, arrhythmia, myocardial infarction, cardiac insufficiency or a sudden increase in blood pressure. See section 4.2.

Even slight drug-induced hyperthyroidism must be avoided in patients with coronary failure, cardiac insufficiency or tachycardiac arrhythmias. Hence frequent checks of thyroid hormone parameters must be made in these cases.

In cases of secondary hypothyroidism the cause must be found prior to giving substitution treatment, and treatment of a compensated adrenal insufficiency should be initiated if necessary. Patients with myxoedema have increased sensitivity to thyroid hormones. In these patients the initial dose must be low and dose escalation should take place slowly.

Absorption of levothyroxine is reduced in patients with malabsorption. It is recommended to treat the malabsorption condition to ensure an effective levothyroxine treatment.

In patients treated with levothyroxine the thyroxine level in serum may decrease and the TSH level increase during pregnancy. When pregnancy has been established the dose of levothyroxine should be increased. TSH should be measured more frequently during pregnancy and an increased level must immediately be corrected by increasing the dose of levothyroxine. Post-partum the dose of levothyroxine may be reduced to the level before pregnancy.

Haemodynamic parameters should be monitored during initiation of treatment with levothyroxine in prematurely born infants with a very low birth weight, as circulatory collapse may occur due to the immature adrenal glands.

In postmenopausal women with hypothyroidism and an increased risk of osteoporosis, supra-physiological serum levels of levothyroxine should be avoided, therefore the thyroid function should be monitored closely.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Interactions reducing the absorption of thyroxine.

Cholestyramine, colestipol

Concomitant administration of cholestyramine or colestipol reduces the absorption of levothyroxine.

Calcium, aluminium, magnesium, iron supplement, polystyrene sulfonates, bile acid binding agents, anion / cation exchangers, sucralfate, lanthanum, and proton pump inhibitors.

These medical products reduce the absorption of levothyroxine. Therefore, it is necessary to increase the dose of levothyroxine with concomitant administration. To avoid interaction between the medicinal products in the stomach or in the small intestine it should be attempted to separate the dosages of levothyroxine and the above medicinal products as much as possible (see section 4.2).

Sevelamer may decrease levothyroxine absorption. Therefore, it is recommended that patients are monitored for changes in thyroid function at the start or end of concomitant treatment. If necessary, the levothyroxine dose has to be adjusted.

Products containing soy and a diet with a high fibre content

Products containing soy and a diet with a high fibre content may reduce the intestinal absorption of levothyroxine. Therefore, an adjustment of Eltroxin may be warranted, especially in the initial phase or after supplementation with soy containing products has discontinued.

Weight loss drugs

Orlistat may reduce the absorption of levothyroxine, which may lead to hypothyroidism. To avoid this orlistat and levothyroxine should be administered at least 4 hours apart. Regular monitoring of changes in the thyroid function is necessary.

Interactions affecting thyroxine

Carbamazepine, phenytoin

Anticonvulsants such as e.g. carbamazepine and phenytoin enhance the metabolism of thyroid hormones and may displace them from plasma proteins. Initiation or discontinuation of anticonvulsant therapy may therefore require adjustment of levothyroxine dose.

Barbiturates, rifampicin

Barbiturates and other substances such as rifampicin, capable of inducing liver enzymes, may increase the hepatic clearance of levothyroxine.

Propylthiouracil, glucocorticoids, beta-sympatholytics, amiodarone, lithium, and iodine as well as contrast agents containing iodine

These agents inhibit the peripheral conversion of T₄ to T₃. Due to the high content of iodine amiodarone may trigger hyperthyroidism as well as hypothyroidism.

Should be used with special caution in case of nodular goitre with possible not known autonomy.

Amiodarone

Treatment with amiodarone in patients with hypothyroidism has been associated with multiple effects on thyroid function including increased requirements for levothyroxine.

Thyrosine kinase inhibitors

In patients with hypothyroidism treatment with imatinib and sunitinib is associated with a requirement of an increased levothyroxine dose. Patients treated with sunitinib may need an increased levothyroxine dose.

Sertraline, chloroquine /proguanil

These agents reduce the effect of levothyroxine and increase the level of serum TSH.

Oestrogens

Women taking contraceptive agents containing oestrogen or postmenopausal women treated with hormone replacement therapy may have an increased need for levothyroxine.

Administration of other medicinal products such as tamoxifen, clofibrate, methadone and 5-fluorouracil may increase the serum concentration of thyroxine binding globulin, and therefore increase the need for levothyroxine.

Simvastatin, lovastatin

Reports have shown that some HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (statins), such as simvastatin and lovastatin, may increase the need for thyroid hormone in patients treated with levothyroxine. It is unknown if this occurs with all statins. Close monitoring of thyroid function and appropriate levothyroxine dose adjustments may be necessary when levothyroxine and statins are co-administered.

Protease inhibitors

Post-marketing cases have been reported, suggesting possible interaction between medicinal products containing ritonavir and levothyroxine. Thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) should be monitored in patients treated with levothyroxine, for at least the first month after initiation and/or discontinuation of treatment with ritonavir, indinavir, lopinavir.

A number of medicinal products may affect the results of tests of thyroid function, and this should be considered when monitoring patients in treatment with levothyroxine.

Interaction with other medicines

Antidiabetics

Levothyroxine may increase the need for antidiabetic medicines in patients with diabetes. A reduction of the levothyroxine dose may cause hypoglycaemia if the dose of anti-diabetic medicines remain unchanged.

Salicylates, furosemide, clofibrate

Salicylates, dicumarol, furosemide in high doses (250 mg) and other agents may displace levothyroxine sodium from plasma proteins. This leads to an increased fT_4 -fraction.

Coumarin derivatives

The effect of anticoagulants may be intensified as levothyroxine displace anticoagulants from plasma proteins. It is therefore necessary to monitor coagulation parameters regularly when initiating, during and discontinuing treatment with thyroid hormone. The anticoagulant dose may have to be adjusted.

Phenytoin

Levothyroxine may increase the phenytoin concentration.

Cardiac glycosides

With concomitant administration of levothyroxine and cardiac glycosides it may be necessary to adjust the dose of cardiac glycosides.

Tricyclic antidepressants

The receptor sensitivity to catecholamines is increased, and the effect of tricyclic antidepressants is hereby enhanced. The effects of sympathomimetic agents are also enhanced.

Interactions in laboratory tests

Androgens, anabolic steroids

A number of medicinal products, such as androgens and anabolic steroids, may reduce the serum concentration of thyroxine-binding globulin, and would therefore require a decrease of levothyroxine dose.

When treating concomitantly with levothyroxine and anti-inflammatory drugs such as phenylbutazone or acetylsalicylic acid false low plasma concentrations of thyroid hormones have been observed. Concomitant ingestion of acetylsalicylic acid and levothyroxine results in an initial transient increase of free T_4 in serum. Continued administration leads to normal concentrations of free T_4 and TSH, and the patients will therefore be clinically euthyroid.

4.6 Pregnancy and Breast-feeding

Pregnancy:

A large number of pregnant and fertile women have been treated with levothyroxine without so far observing problems with the reproductive process.

Hypo- or hyperfunction of the thyroid gland in pregnant women may however be detrimental to the development and well-being of the foetus.

The risk of the untreated disease is deemed to be larger than the risk to the foetus during treatment.

Markedly increased levothyroxine doses may have a negative effect on foetal and postnatal development during pregnancy. Treatment during pregnancy requires close monitoring.

Levothyroxine should not be taken with medicines used for treating hyperthyroidism (antithyroid medicine) during pregnancy, as supplementing treatment with levothyroxine may necessitate an increased dose of the antithyroid medicine.

Breast-feeding:

Eltroxin can be used during the breast-feeding period. Eltroxin is excreted in breast milk in low concentrations and this may be sufficient to interfere with neonatal screening for hypothyroidism.

4.7 Effects on the ability to drive or use machines

No labelling.

Eltroxin has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive or use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The undesirable effects disappear when reducing the daily dose or upon discontinuation.

Dividing the side effects into exact estimates of frequency is not possible due to insufficient clinical data.

Endocrine disorders Frequency not known	Hyperthyroidism (if the initial dose is increased too rapidly).
Psychiatric disorders Frequency not known	Irritability, anxiety, mood disorder, nervousness, restlessness, insomnia.
Nervous system disorders Common (>1/10,000 to <1/1000) Frequency not known	Benign intracranial hypertension (especially in children). Tremor, seizures (muscular spasms, shaking), cephalalgia.
Cardiac disorders Frequency not known	Angina pectoris, arrhythmias, palpitations, tachycardia, hypertension, heart failure, myocardial infarction.
Vascular disorders	Redness, hot flashes.
Skin and subcutaneous disorders Frequency not known	Hyperhidrosis, hair loss.
Metabolism and nutrition disorders Frequency not known	Increased appetite, excessive weight loss.
Gastrointestinal disorders	Abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhoea, vomiting

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders Frequency not known	Dyspnoea.
Immune system disorders Frequency not known	Hypersensitivity reactions: skin rash, pruritus and anaphylactic reactions.
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders Frequency not known	Muscular weakness, muscle cramps. An overdose may cause premature closure of the epiphysis in children, leading to compromised height.
Reproductive system and breast disorders Frequency not known	Irregular menstrual periods, infertility.
Congenital, familial and genetic disorders	An overdosage may cause craniosynostosis in infants.
General disorders and administration site conditions Frequency not known	Tiredness, temperature intolerance, pyrexia.
Investigations Frequency not known	Reduced bone mineral density

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorization 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: <http://sideeffects.health.gov.il>

Additionally, you can report to Padagis.co.il

4.9 Overdose

Toxicity:

In case of poisoning (suicide attempt) in humans doses of 10 mg levothyroxine were tolerated without complications. Several cases of sudden cardiac death have been reported in patients after several years of levothyroxine abuse.

Symptoms and Signs:

In connection with an overdose, symptoms of a marked increase in the metabolic rate, elevated levels of T₃, increased side effects as well as intense beta-sympathomimetic effects such as tachycardia, anxiety, agitation, and hyperkinesia. Furthermore irritability, sweating, arrhythmias, agitation, confusion, hyperactivity, mydriasis, tachypnoea, pyrexia, convulsions and headache may occur. The occurrence of clinical hyperthyroidism may be delayed with up to five days. Symptoms of thyrotoxicosis are observed after prolonged overdose

Treatment:

The goal of treatment is a re-establishment of clinical and biochemical euthyroidism by reducing or omitting levothyroxine dose, depending on clinical status.

Symptomatic treatment:

Symptoms of intense beta-sympathomimetic effects such as tachycardia, anxiety, agitation and hyperkinesia may be reduced with beta-blockers. After extreme doses plasmapheresis may help.

In adults tachycardia is controlled with propranolol in doses of 40 mg every 5 hours and other symptoms with diazepam and/or chlorpromazine when relevant.

Further treatment is given after clinical indication or as recommended by the national poison unit when available.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

ATC code: H 03 AA 01 – Thyroid hormones

Levothyroxine sodium is a monosodium salt of levothyroxine. Levothyroxine (T₄) is a naturally occurring thyroid hormone which is converted to the more active hormone liothyronine (T₃) in peripheral tissue. The precise mechanism for the conversion of T₄ to T₃, which takes place within the cell is unknown. The thyroid hormones are required for normal growth and development, particularly of the nervous system. They increase the resting metabolism for the whole organism and stimulate heart, liver, kidneys and skeletal muscle. The thyroid hormones increase lipolysis and carbohydrate metabolism.

The activity of 100 micrograms thyroxine corresponds to 20-30 micrograms liothyronine.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

The absorption of levothyroxine is incomplete and variable especially when taken with food. The absorption is increased during fasting conditions.

Distribution

Levothyroxine is nearly completely bound to proteins.

Biotransformation

Metabolism primarily takes place by conversion to the active metabolite liothyronine (T₃). Both T₃ and T₄ are further degraded (by de-iodination) to inactive metabolites.

Elimination

Levothyroxine is eliminated slowly from the body with a half-life of approximately 7 days in healthy subjects. This may take place more rapidly in hyperthyroid patients, but in hypothyroid patients it may take even longer.

Renal or hepatic disease does not appear to have any significant effect of the excretion of levothyroxine.
Approximately 20-40% of levothyroxine is excreted in faeces and approximately 30-55% in urine.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

None relevant.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Microcrystalline cellulose
Pre-gelatinised starch (Maize starch 1500)
Talc
Microcrystalline cellulose (in triturate)
Silica colloidal anhydrous
Magnesium stearate

6.2 Incompatibilities

None known.

6.3 Shelf-life

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

After first opening can be used for 114 days.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C.

Store in the original package to protect from light.

Keep the bottle tightly closed.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Eltroxin 50 mcg tablets: White Opaque polypropylene bottles with tamper-evident, snap fit, low-density polyethylene closures, containing 100 tablets.

Eltroxin 100 mcg tablets: White Opaque polypropylene bottles with tamper-evident, snap fit, low-density polyethylene closures, containing 100 tablets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7. MANUFACTURER

Aspen Bad Oldesloe GmbH, Bad Oldesloe, Germany.

8. REGISTRATION AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Padagis Israel agencies Ltd., 1 Rakefet St., Shoham, Israel.

9. REGISTRATION AUTHORISATION NUMBER

Eltroxin[®] Tablets 50 mcg 55-82-20571

Eltroxin[®] Tablets 100 mcg 27-92-22062

Revised in February 2022 according to MOH guidelines

2.2022