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SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Name of the medicinal product
MELPHALAN RAZ 50 MG

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition
Each vial of powder contains melphalan hydrochloride equivalent to 50 mg melphalan.
Each vial of solvent contains 10 ml of solvent.
Each ml of the reconstituted solution contains 5 mg melphalan.
Excipient(s) with known effect:
Each vial of solvent contains 0.4243 g ethanol and 6.2148 g propylene glycol.
Each vial of solvent contains 53.5 mg sodium.
For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. Pharmaceutical form
Powder and solvent for solution for injection/infusion.
Powder: White to pale yellow lyophilized powder/cake.
Solvent: A clear colourless solution.

4. Clinical particulars
4.1. Therapeutic indications
For the palliative treatment of multiple myeloma and for the palliation of non resectable epithelial cancer of the ovary.

4.2. Posology and method of administration
Melphalan is a cytotoxic drug which falls into the general class of alkylating agents. It should be prescribed only by physicians experienced in the management of malignant disease with such agents.
Since melphalan is myelosuppressive, frequent blood counts are essential during therapy and the dosage should be delayed or adjusted if necessary (See section 4.4)

Paediatric population
There is no adequate experience for children. Dose recommendations can not be given (see section 4.2).

Mutagenicity
Chromosome aberrations were observed in patients treated with melphalan.

Carcinogenicity (secondary primary malignancy)
Acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)
Melphalan can cause leukemia especially in elderly patients after long combination therapy and radiation therapy.
Before starting the treatment, the leukemogenic risk (AML and MDS) should be weighed against the possible therapeutic benefit when the use of melphalan in combination with thalidomide or lenalidomide and prednisone is considered (see section 5.3), as it has been demonstrated that these combinations lead to an elevated leukemic risk.
Before and during the treatment, the physicians must therefore carefully examine the patients in the context of the usual measurement procedures for early cancer detection and, if necessary, initiate therapy.
In patients with ovarian carcinoma who were treated with alkylating agents including melphalan, acute leukemia significantly increased with respect to a treatment group that did not receive such substances.

Solid tumors
The use of alkylating agents has been implicated in the development of secondary primary malignancies (SPM). In particular, melphalan in combination with lenalidomide and prednisone and, to a lesser extent, thalidomide and prednisone are associated with an increased risk of solid SPM in elderly patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma.
The characteristics of the patient (e.g. age, ethnicity), primary indication and treatment modalities (e.g. radiation therapy, transplantation) as well as environmental risk factors (e.g. tobacco use) should be assessed prior to the administration of melphalan.

Contraception
Due to the increased risk of venous thromboembolism in patients with multiple myeloma, combination oral contraceptives are not recommended. If a patient is currently taking a combination oral contraceptive, she should switch to another reliable contraceptive method, such as a Gestagen monotherapy for example desogestrel containing tablets or a barrier method. The risk of venous thromboembolism persists for 4-6 weeks after discontinuation of a combined oral contraceptive.
For males treated with melphalan 50 mg i.v. it is recommended to avoid coitus during treatment with melphalan and up to 6 months thereafter, and be counselled as to sperm conservation prior to initiation of therapy due to the possibility of therapy induced irreversible infertility.
important information about other components, etc.
The ready-to-use concentrate for preparing an injection solution or infusion solution contains 5 volume % ethanol, i.e. up to 424.3 mg per dose equivalent to 4.79 ml beer or 1.99 ml wine per dose.
For patients addicted to alcohol, this quantity can be harmful to health.
This must be taken into account in pregnant or breast-feeding women, children and high-risk groups such as patients with liver disease or epilepsy.
The alcohol content in this medicinal product may alter the effects of other medicinal products.
The alcohol content in this medicinal product may impair the ability to drive and the ability to use machines (see section 4.7).
The drug contains the excipient propylene glycol which may cause alcohol-like symptoms. In case of hypersensitivity to this substance the administration is contraindicated.
This medicinal product contains 53.5 mg sodium per vial, equivalent to 23% of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2 g sodium for an adult.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction
Vaccinations with live organism vaccines are not recommended in immunocompromised individuals (see section 4.4). Malixic acid together with high-dose intravenous melphalan has caused deaths in children due to haemorrhagic enterocolitis.
In children and adolescents, treated with busulfan-melphalan regimen, there were reports that the administration of melphalan may have an influence on the development of toxicities within 24 hours after the last oral administration of busulfan.
Impaired renal function has been described in bone marrow transplant patients who received high-dose intravenous melphalan and who subsequently received ciclosporin to prevent graft-versus-host disease.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation
Pregnancy
As with all chemotherapies containing cytostatics, appropriate contraceptive measures must be taken when one of the partners receive melphalan. If pregnancy occurs during treatment, the possibility of genetic counseling should be used.
Melphalan has a mutagenic effect on the development of an embryo.
Melphalan should not be used during pregnancy, especially during the first trimester. In the case of a vital indication for the treatment of a pregnant patient, medical advice should be given on the risk of harm to the child associated with the treatment.

Breast-feeding
Do not breastfeed during treatment with Melphalan.

Fertility
Melphalan causes suppression of ovarian function in premenopausal women resulting in amenorrhoea in a significant number of patients.
Melphalan has a mutagenic effect in animal models; in patients treated with the drug, chromosomal aberrations were observed. Therefore, men treated are advised not to procreate a child during treatment with melphalan and up to 6 months afterwards, and to consult a sperm reserve before the start of treatment because of the possibility of an irreversible infertility caused by the treatment (see section 5.3).
There is evidence from some animal studies that Melphalan can have an undesirable effect on spermatogenesis. Therefore, it is possible that Melphalan may cause temporary or permanent sterility in male patients.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines
No studies have been conducted on the effects on the viability and the ability to operate machines. However the possibility will have to be taken into consideration, that the alcohol quantity in these pharmaceutical medicinal product can impair the capability to drive and the ability to operate machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects
For this product there is no modern clinical documentation which can be used as support for determining the frequency of undesirable effects. Undesirable effects may vary in their incidence depending on the indication and dose received and also when given in combination with other therapeutic agents. Adverse reactions are listed below by system organ class and frequency grouping. The frequencies are defined as follows: 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).

MedDRA system organ class	Frequency	Adverse events
Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified (including cysts and polyps)	Common	Acute leukemia (see also section 5.3) may occur after a generally long latency period, especially in patients with a higher age after prolonged combination therapy and radiotherapy
	Not known	Acute Myeloid Leukaemia (AML) and myelodysplastic syndromes (MDS)
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Very common	Bone marrow depression, which manifests as leukocytopenia, thrombocytopenia and anaemia.
	Rare	Hemolytic Anaemia Since melphalan is a strongly myelosuppressive agent, careful monitoring of the blood values is imperative to avoid excessive bone marrow depression and the risk of irreversible bone marrow aplasia. Since the blood values can continue to drop even after termination of the therapy, the treatment should be interrupted at the first sign of an unusually severe drop in leukocyte or platelet values.

so at the first sign of an abnormally large fall in leukocyte or platelet counts, treatment should be temporarily interrupted. Melphalan should be used with caution in patients who have undergone recent radiotherapy or chemotherapy in view of increased bone marrow toxicity.

Renal Impairment
Melphalan clearance may be reduced in patients with renal impairment who may also have uraemic marrow suppression. Dose reduction may therefore be necessary (see Section 4.2). See section 4.8 for elevation of blood urea. In patients with renal impairment who are treated with melphalan 50 mg i.v., blood urea levels may be transiently elevated and may cause bone marrow suppression. Therefore, blood urea levels should be carefully monitored in these patients.

Paediatric population
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MedDRA system organ class	Frequency	Adverse events
Immune system disorders	Rare	Allergic reactions (see also skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders). Allergic reactions such as urticaria, edema, rashes, and anaphylactic shock occur in the initial and follow-up treatment, especially in the case of intravenous melphalan treatment. Cardiac arrest has been reported in rare cases in connection with the allergic reactions.
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Rare	Interstitial pneumonia and pulmonary fibrosis (including fatal cases).
Gastrointestinal disorders	Very common	Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, diarrhoea and vomiting, stomatitis at high doses.
	Rare	Stomatitis with conventional dose. The high incidence of diarrhoea, vomiting and stomatitis is dose-limiting at high intravenous melphalan doses in combination with autologous bone marrow transplantation. Maculopapular erythema and itching (see also immune system disorders).
Hepato-biliary disorders	Rare	Hepatic impairment from pathological liver function to clinical manifestations such as hepatitis and jaundice; Liver vein occlusions after high-dose therapy.
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Very common	Hair loss with high dose.
	Common	Hair loss at conventional dose
	Rare	Maculopapular exanthema and itching (see also immune system disorders).
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders (After parenteral administration for regional perfusion of the extremities)	Very common	Muscular atrophy, muscle fibrosis, myalgia, increase in creatinine phosphokinase in the blood.
	Common	Compartment Syndrome
	Not known	Muscle necrosis, rhabdomyolysis.
Renal and urinary disorders	Common	Transient, markedly increased blood urea levels under a melphalan treatment during the first cycles of patients with renal impairment with multiple myeloma.
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Common	Azoospermia and Amenorrhoea (see section 4.4)
Vascular disorders	Not known	Deep vein thrombosis, pulmonary embolus
General disorders and administration site conditions	Very common	Subjective and transient heat sensation and/or tingling after administration of high doses of melphalan via a central venous catheter.

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

4.9 Overdose
The immediate effects of acute intravenous overdose are nausea and vomiting. Damage to the gastro-intestinal mucosa may also ensue and diarrhoea, sometimes haemorrhagic, has been reported after overdose. The principal toxic effect is bone marrow suppression, leading to leucopenia, thrombocytopenia and anaemia.
General supportive measures, together with appropriate blood and platelet transfusions, should be instituted if necessary and consideration given to hospitalisation, antibiotic cover and the use of haematological growth factors.
There is no specific antidote. The blood picture should be closely monitored for at least four weeks following overdose until there is evidence of recovery.

5. Pharmacological properties
5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: antineoplastic and immunomodulating agents, Antineoplastic agents, Alkylating agents, Nitrogen mustard analogues, ATC code: L01AA03
Melphalan is a bifunctional alkylating agent. Formation of carbonium intermediates from each of the two bis-2-chloroethyl groups enables alkylation through covalent binding with the 7-nitrogen of guanine on DNA, cross-linking the two DNA strands and thereby preventing cell replication.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties
Absorption
The absorption of oral melphalan is highly variable with respect to both the time to first appearance of the drug in plasma and peak plasma concentration. In studies of the absolute bioavailability of melphalan the mean absolute bioavailability ranged from 56 to 85%. Intravenous administration can be used to avoid variability in absorption associated with myeloablative treatment.
Distribution
Melphalan is moderately bound to plasma proteins with reported percent binding ranging from 69% to 78%. There is evidence that the protein binding is linear in the range of plasma concentrations usually achieved in standard dose therapy, but that the binding may become concentration-dependent at the concentrations observed in high-dose therapy. Serum albumin is the major binding protein, accounting for about 55 to 60% of the binding, and 20% is bound to α₂-acid glycoprotein. In addition, melphalan binding studies have revealed the existence of an irreversible component attributable to the alkylation reaction with plasma proteins.
Following administration of a two-minute infusion of doses ranging from 5 to 23 mg/m² body surface area (approximately 0.1 to 0.6 mg/kg bodyweight) to 10 patients with ovarian cancer or multiple myeloma, the mean volumes of distribution at steady state and central compartment were 29.1 ± 13.6 litres and 12.2 ± 6.5 litres, respectively.
In 28 patients with various malignancies who were given doses of between 70 and 200 mg/m² body surface area as a 2-20 min infusion, the mean volumes of distribution at steady state and central compartment were, respectively, 40.2 ± 18.3 litres and 18.2 ± 11.7 litres.
After hyperthermic (39 °C) lower limb perfusion with melphalan at 1.75 mg / kg body weight in 11 patients with another tumor disease (advanced malignant melanoma), mean volumes for steady state and central compartment distribution were 2.87 ± 0.8 litres and 1.01 ± 0.28 litres, respectively.
Melphalan displays limited penetration of the blood-brain barrier. Several investigators have sampled cerebrospinal fluid and found no measurable drug. Low concentrations (~10% of that in plasma) were observed in a single high-dose study in children.
Bioretransformation
In vivo and in vitro data suggest that spontaneous degradation rather than enzymatic metabolism is the major determinant of the drug's half-life in man.
Elimination
In 13 patients given oral melphalan at 0.6 mg/kg bodyweight, the plasma mean terminal elimination half-life was 90 ± 57 min with 11% of the drug being recovered in the urine over 24 h.
In 8 patients given a single bolus dose of 0.5 to 0.6 mg/kg bodyweight, the composite initial and terminal half-lives were reported to be 7.7 ± 3.3 min and 108 ± 20.8 min, respectively. Following injection of melphalan, monohydroxymelphalan and dihydroxymelphalan were detected in the patients' plasma, reaching peak levels at approximately 60 min and 105 min, respectively. A similar half-life of 126 ± 6 min was seen when melphalan was added to the patients' serum in vitro (37 °C), suggesting that spontaneous degradation rather than enzymic metabolism may be the major determinant of the drug's half-life in man.
Following administration of a two-minute infusion of doses ranging from 5 to 23 mg/m² body surface area (approximately 0.1 to 0.6 mg/kg bodyweight) to 10 patients with ovarian cancer or multiple myeloma, the pooled initial and terminal half-lives were, respectively, 8.1 ± 6.6 min and 76.9 ± 40.7 min. A mean clearance of 342.7 ± 96.8 ml/min was recorded.
In 15 children and 11 adults given high-dose intravenous melphalan (140 mg/m² body surface area) with forced diuresis, the mean initial and terminal half-lives were found to be 6.5 ± 3.6 min and 41.4 ± 16.5 min, respectively. Mean initial and terminal half-lives of 8.8 ± 6.6 min and 73.1 ± 45.9 min, respectively, were recorded in 28 patients with various malignancies who were given doses of between 70 and 200 mg/m² body surface area as a 2-20 min infusion. The mean clearance was 564.6 ± 159.1 ml/min.
Following hyperthermic (39 °C) perfusion of the lower limb with 1.75 mg/kg bodyweight, mean initial and terminal half-lives of 3.6 ± 1.5 min and 46.5 ± 17.2 min, respectively, were recorded in 11 patients with advanced malignant melanoma. A mean clearance of 55.0 ± 9.4 ml/min was recorded.

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Product Name	Melphalan for Injection	Sap code :	510310654I01	Reference Artwork	Party Artwork
Packaging Material	Pack Insert Artwork	Reason of change :	New Development	Proof 1	08.01.2021
Size : Foil Width	-----	Country :	Israel	Proof 2	14.01.2021
Size : Foil Repeat Length	-----	Pack Size :	-----	Proof 3	19.01.2021
Size : Strip Size	-----	Barcode No. :	-----		
Size : Carton/Label	-----	Pharmacode :	208		
Size : PI - Open Size PI - Close Size	L. 180 x H. 550 mm L. x H. mm	No. of colours :	1		
PM Style/Type :	-----	Min. Font Size :	8 Pt.		
Remark (if any) :	New Artwork			Developed For :	Emcure - Hinjawadi Mr. Sunil Kashid

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