

WHO-PQ RECOMMENDED SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

*This summary of product characteristics focuses on uses of the medicine covered by WHO's Prequalification Team - Medicines. The recommendations for use are based on WHO guidelines and on information from stringent regulatory authorities.**

The medicine may be authorised for additional or different uses by national medicines regulatory authorities.

*https://extranet.who.int/prequal/sites/default/files/document_files/75%20SRA%20clarification_Feb2017_newtempl.pdf

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

[MA057 trade name]†

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each tablet contains 135 mg of amodiaquine (as hydrochloride) and 50 mg of artesunate.

For a full list of excipients see 6.1

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Tablets

[MA057 trade name] are round, uncoated tablets, yellow on one side and white to slightly yellow on the other side. The tablets may be mottled. They are flat on top and bottom with bevelled edges. The tablets have 'A' and 'S' debossed (stamped into), separated by a score line, on the white to slightly yellow side and '50' debossed (stamped into) on the yellow side.

The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

[MA057 trade name] is indicated for the treatment of uncomplicated malaria due to *Plasmodium falciparum* susceptible to amodiaquine and to artesunate.

It may also be considered as part of mass drug administration programmes to reduce the transmissibility or disease burden of *P. falciparum*.

Treatment regimens should take into account the most recent official treatment guidelines (e.g. those of the WHO) and local information on the prevalence of resistance to antimalarial drugs (see also section 4.4).

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

The doses of [MA057 trade name] are shown below (in terms of tablets as well as the active substances). It is important to ensure that the pack size, i.e. the number of tablets in the pack, is sufficient for the full treatment course according to the recipient's weight.

| Recipient's weight (approximate age) | Dose | |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| 9–18 kg (1–5 years) | 1 tablet daily for 3 days | amodiaquine 135 mg + artesunate 50 mg daily for 3 days |
| 18–36 kg (6–13 years) | 2 tablets daily for 3 days | amodiaquine 270 mg + artesunate 100 mg daily for 3 days |
| more than 36 kg (over 14 years) | 4 tablets daily for 3 days* | amodiaquine 540 mg + artesunate 200 mg daily for 3 days |

* Use of formulations containing higher amounts of amodiaquine and artesunate is preferred.

The dosage of [MA057 trade name] is based on the following weight-based doses of the two components:

- amodiaquine 10 mg/kg daily for 3 days
- artesunate 4 mg/kg daily for 3 days.

† Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's responsibility.

Where appropriate, the dose for mass drug administration is the same as for treatment of uncomplicated malaria.

Renal and hepatic impairment

No data are available on dosing in people with hepatic or renal impairment (see section 4.4).

Method of administration

[MA057 trade name] is taken orally and the tablets should be swallowed with water. They should not be taken with a meal that contains a high amount of fat (see section 5.2).

For persons unable to swallow the tablets, e.g. very young children, the tablets can be crushed and either mixed in water or taken with water.

Missed dose and vomiting after a dose

If the patient misses a dose, the patient should take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for the next dose then the patient should not take the missed dose and take the next dose at the usual time.

If the recipient vomits within half an hour after dosing, another dose of [MA057 trade name] should be taken. In case of further vomiting, treatment for severe malaria should be considered.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients
- History of liver injury during treatment with amodiaquine
- Previous haematological event during treatment with amodiaquine
- Retinopathy (in case of frequent treatment)

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

[MA057 trade name] should not be used in regions where amodiaquine resistance is widespread, as treatment will effectively be with artesunate alone, which significantly increases the risk of artesunate resistance developing.

Treatment failure after amodiaquine monotherapy is more frequent among underweight children. Therefore, their response to [MA057 trade name] treatment should be closely monitored.

Amodiaquine is effective against some chloroquine-resistant strains of *P. falciparum*, although there is cross-resistance. [MA057 trade name] may also be effective in some areas with chloroquine-resistant *P. vivax*, but other artemisinin-based combination therapies are generally recommended.

[MA057 trade name] has not been evaluated for the treatment of complicated malaria and is therefore not recommended. In addition, it is not indicated for malaria chemoprophylaxis, since extended or widespread use of amodiaquine for prophylaxis results in an unacceptably high risk of agranulocytosis and liver toxicity.

[MA057 trade name] has not been studied in patients with thalassaemia, sickle cell disease or glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency.

In the absence of specific clinical studies, caution should be exercised in patients with renal or hepatic impairment.

The combination of artesunate and amodiaquine may induce neutropenia and increase the risk of infection. If patients receiving [MA057 trade name] develop symptoms suggestive of *agranulocytosis* (such as fever with tonsillitis or mouth ulcers), blood cell counts should be measured immediately. Similarly, development or worsening of symptoms suggestive of *hepatitis* (especially if accompanied by jaundice) require prompt blood tests for liver function. **Immediate discontinuation of treatment may be required** in both cases, since continuation of treatment with amodiaquine increases the risk of death. Amodiaquine must not be used in future if it is suspected to have caused hepatitis or blood disorders.

Cardiovascular effects have been reported with 4-aminoquinoline derivatives. Due to a potential for QT prolongation, amodiaquine should be used with caution in patients with:

- cardiac disease
- a history of ventricular dysrhythmias, uncorrected hypokalaemia or hypomagnesaemia
- bradycardia (< 50 beats per minute)
- concomitant or recent use of substances that prolong the QT interval (see Sections 4.5).

Acute extrapyramidal side effects may occur with [MA057 trade name], even after a single dose (see section 4.8). These reactions usually resolve after discontinuing treatment with [MA057 trade name] and medical treatment of the neurological condition. Alternative antimalarial therapy should be instituted.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Agranulocytosis and hepatitis have occurred after long-term use of amodiaquine for prophylaxis. Therefore, caution should be observed when [MA057 trade name] is used concurrently with other drugs that cause liver or haematological toxicity, including medicines for HIV and tuberculosis.

Concomitant administration of [MA057 trade name] and *efavirenz* should be avoided, since this combination can cause marked hepatotoxicity. Use of [MA057 trade name] with *nevirapine*, which may increase the risk of hepatotoxicity, may also modestly decrease amodiaquine exposure and thus potentially reduce effectiveness against malaria.

Concomitant administration of [MA057 trade name] is not recommended with drugs that inhibit the liver enzymes cytochrome (CYP) 2A6 (e.g. *methoxsalen*, *pilocarpine*, *tranlycypromine*) or those that inhibit CYP2C8 (e.g. *gemfibrozil*, *ketoconazole*, *lopinavir*, *montelukast*, *high-dose ritonavir*, *saquinavir*, *trimethoprim*).

Ritonavir dosed as a pharmacokinetic booster is a weak inducer of CYP2C8, and could potentially decrease amodiaquine exposure, although to a moderate extent. No dosage adjustment is recommended.

No pharmacokinetic interactions of artesunate with other important *antimalarial drugs* have been identified. However, concomitant administration of [MA057 trade name] with other antimalarial treatments is not recommended, as data on efficacy and safety are not available.

The concentration of dihydroartemisinin (DHA, the main active metabolite of artesunate), decreases when artesunate and amodiaquine are used concomitantly (C_{max} decreased 47%, $AUC_{0-\infty}$ decreased 17%).

Amodiaquine and desethylamodiaquine inhibit CYP2D6 in vitro and may cause clinically significant interactions with some *beta-blockers*, *antidepressants*, and *antipsychotics*. Caution should be exercised when they are co-administered with [MA057 trade name].

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Pregnancy

[MA057 trade name] may be considered for use during the first trimester of pregnancy when the first-line option (artemether-lumefantrine) is not suitable or available. [MA057 trade name] can be used during the second and third trimester of pregnancy. The safety of amodiaquine in pregnant women has not been formally established, but many years of experience with it does not indicate a risk of teratogenicity.

Data on a limited number of exposed pregnant women do not indicate any adverse effect of artemisinins on pregnancy or on the health of the baby. Animal data indicate a limited embryotoxic effect at daily doses of 6 mg/kg or more.

Breast-feeding

The amounts of antimalarials in breast milk are small. In line with WHO guidelines, [MA057 trade name] can be used for malaria treatment in breast-feeding women.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Patients receiving [MA057 trade name] should be warned that somnolence, dizziness or asthenia may occur, in which case they should not drive or use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Most adverse reactions observed in clinical studies of amodiaquine/artesunate were similar to symptoms of a malaria attack. The most frequent adverse reactions were anorexia, abdominal pain, nausea, asthenia, somnolence, insomnia and cough.

The most serious adverse reactions observed were asthenia, anaemia and vertigo.

The undesirable effects of [MA057 trade name] are listed below by body system or organ. Frequencies are defined as very common (at least 1 in 10), common (1 in 100 to 1 in 10), uncommon (1 in 1000 to 1 in 100), rare (1 in 10 000 to 1 in 1000), very rare (less than 1 in 10 000) or unknown frequency (frequency cannot be estimated from available data).

Infections and infestations

| | |
|----------|---|
| Uncommon | acute bronchitis, gastroenteritis, oral candidiasis |
|----------|---|

Immune system disorders

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Unknown frequency | allergic reaction* |
|-------------------|--------------------|

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Uncommon | anaemia |
|----------|---------|

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Unknown frequency | leucopenia**, neutropenia and sometimes life-threatening agranulocytosis** |
|-------------------|--|

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Uncommon | hypoglycaemia |
|----------|---------------|

Psychiatric disorders

| | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Common | anorexia, insomnia |
|--------|--------------------|

| | |
|----------|---------------|
| Uncommon | hallucination |
|----------|---------------|

Nervous system disorders

| | |
|--------|------------|
| Common | somnolence |
|--------|------------|

| | |
|----------|--------------|
| Uncommon | paraesthesia |
|----------|--------------|

| | |
|------|-----------------|
| Rare | neuromyopathy** |
|------|-----------------|

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Unknown frequency | extrapyramidal disorders (such as dystonia, dyskinesia, tongue protrusion, torticollis) *, headache*, dizziness*, convulsions* |
|-------------------|--|

Eye disorders

| | |
|----------|----------------|
| Uncommon | ocular icterus |
|----------|----------------|

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------|
| Very rare | irreversible retinopathy** |
|-----------|----------------------------|

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Unknown frequency | transient accommodation disorders**, corneal opacity (reduces on stopping treatment)** |
|-------------------|--|

Ear and labyrinth disorders

| | |
|----------|---------|
| Uncommon | vertigo |
|----------|---------|

Cardiac disorders

| | |
|--------|---|
| Common | prolonged QT interval (frequency based on studies in 289 patients with ECG recording)* |
|--------|---|

| | |
|----------|-------------------------|
| Uncommon | arrhythmia, bradycardia |
|----------|-------------------------|

Respiratory, thoracic, and mediastinal disorders

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Common | cough |
|--------|-------|

Gastro-intestinal disorders

| | |
|----------|------------------------|
| Common | nausea, abdominal pain |
| Uncommon | diarrhoea, vomiting |

Hepatobiliary disorders

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Unknown frequency | severe hepatitis (sometimes fatal)** , splenomegaly* , jaundice* |
|-------------------|--|

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Uncommon | pruritus, rash, face oedema, skin disorders |
| Unknown frequency | slate-grey pigmentation (notably affecting fingers and mucous membranes)** |

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

| | |
|----------|------------|
| Uncommon | arthralgia |
|----------|------------|

General disorders and administration site conditions

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Common | asthenia |
| Uncommon | oedema peripheral, pyrexia |
| Unknown frequency | cold* , flu* , rhinitis* , shivering* , sore throat* |

* Data from post-marketing experience

** Reported particularly in HIV-infected patients receiving zidovudine, or sulfamethoxazole/trimethoprim, or both. Also reported with amodiaquine alone, especially at higher doses or during prolonged treatment

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Health care providers are asked to report adverse reactions that may be linked to a medicine, to the marketing authorisation holder, or, if available, to the national reporting system. Reports of suspected adverse reactions to a medicine are important for the monitoring of the medicine's benefits and risks.

4.9 Overdose

In case of suspected overdose, the patient should be urgently transferred to a specialist unit with facilities for clinical monitoring and where symptomatic and supportive therapy can be given.

Amodiaquine

The dose at which amodiaquine can cause serious toxicity is not known; by comparison with chloroquine, it can be estimated at around 2 g as a single dose in adults.

Symptoms and signs: headache, dizziness, visual disorders, QT interval prolongation, cardiovascular collapse and convulsions, followed by respiratory and cardiac arrest. Extrapyrasidal disorders have been reported.

Artesunate

There is limited experience of overdose with artesunate. Artesunate overdose should be treated symptomatically.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Artesunate Amodiaquine Combination (ATC code P01BF03)

[MA057 trade name] is an artemisinin-based combination therapy which consists of two blood schizonticides, with independent modes of action and different biochemical targets in the parasites.

Artesunate: Artesunate is a derivative of dihydroartemisinin, which is obtained from artemisinin extracted from a plant known as sweet or annual wormwood (*Artemisia annua*).

In vitro artemisinin derivatives are active against several stages in the life cycle of the *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite, from the relatively inactive ring stage to late schizonts. The schizonticidal and gametocytocidal activities of orally administered artesunate have been demonstrated in vivo on chloroquine-sensitive strains of Plasmodium (*P. berghei* in mice and *P. knowlesi* in monkeys) and on chloroquine-resistant strains (*P. berghei* in mice).

Artesunate appears to be inactive against extra-erythrocyte forms, sporozoites, liver schizontes or merozoites.

When administered orally, artesunate consistently acts more quickly than orally administered chloroquine and intravenous quinine in all animal models studied, regardless of the strain or dose tested. In macaques (the animal model most similar to humans) infection with a chloroquine-resistant strain of *P. knowlesi* was cured with the same doses of artesunate and quinine.

Amodiaquine: Amodiaquine is a synthetic 4-aminoquinoline antimalarial. It has schizonticidal action on *P. falciparum*, *P. vivax*, *P. ovale* and *P. malaria* which destroys intraerythrocytic forms.

The mechanism of action of 4-aminoquinoline derivatives against plasmodium has not been established. Amodiaquine can penetrate the infected red blood cells and prevent the parasite from polymerising haeme into an insoluble product called haemozoin, leading to parasite death.

Strains of *Plasmodium falciparum* resistant to 4-aminoquinolines (chloroquine, amodiaquine) are present in many areas, and their geographical distribution is constantly changing. However, amodiaquine remains active against some chloroquine-resistant *P. falciparum* strains.

Clinical efficacy and safety

[MA057 trade name] is for use in areas where parasite resistance to amodiaquine remains low.

Efficacy and safety of artesunate/amodiaquine in uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria have been demonstrated in clinical trials in various settings in Africa. Trials also suggest adequate efficacy in south-east Asia and Latin America.

Efficacy and safety in children and adults

The efficacy and safety of artesunate/amodiaquine in uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria were demonstrated in two pivotal studies (Burkina-Faso study and ATAQ-EASY multinational study) in children and adults, as well as in 13 other supportive studies.

A randomised, controlled, open-label, parallel-group study in Burkina-Faso compared the efficacy and safety of artesunate/amodiaquine tablets to an almost equivalent regimen of the individual drugs given together in 750 children aged 6 months to 5 years. The parasitological cure rates after 28 days were the same (92%) in both groups. Analysis of both clinical and parasitological data demonstrated the non-inferiority of the artesunate and amodiaquine combination compared to separate drugs used concomitantly.

A multinational, randomised, blinded, comparative study (ATAQ EASY) of the efficacy and safety of artesunate/amodiaquine tablets vs artemether/lumefantrine tablets in the treatment of uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria was conducted in 4 African countries (Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali and Senegal) in 941 adults and children.

Adequate clinical and parasitological cure rates in the intention-to-treat (ITT) population on day 28 were 95.2% with artesunate/amodiaquine fixed-dose combination once a day (n = 310) and 95.5% with the artemether/lumefantrine twice daily group (n = 311). In children aged less than 5 years, in the ITT population on day 28 cure rates were 94.4% in the artesunate/amodiaquine group (n = 143) and 93.7 % in the artemether/lumefantrine group (n = 142). The clinical and parasitological efficacy of artesunate/amodiaquine combination was non-inferior to artemether/lumefantrine.

Efficacy and safety in infants and children treated for repeated malaria attacks

A 2-year, randomised, single-centre, open study, compared the efficacy of artesunate/amodiaquine tablets and artemether/lumefantrine tablets in uncomplicated *P. falciparum* malaria in Uganda in 416 children aged from 6 to 59 months for treating repeated malaria attacks. Over this 2-year period, a total of 6033 episodes were monitored.

The 28-day parasitological cure rate was 97.5 % for artesunate/amodiaquine vs 97.0 % for artemether/lumefantrine for the first attack and cure rates for over 100 subsequent malaria episodes ranged from 88.1 % to 98.9 % per episode, with no clear difference between the treatment arms.

Cure rates remained stable in both treatment groups over time during the 23 months of the study.

A 3-day course of artesunate/amodiaquine was non-inferior to artemether/lumefantrine in children aged less than 5 years presenting with a first episode of uncomplicated *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria.

Repeated use of artesunate/amodiaquine and artemether/lumefantrine between 2 to 26 times (median: 15 times) over a 2-year period in this study did not reveal unexpected safety issues. Safety profiles for both were good and comparable, and there was no evidence of emerging toxicity due to repeated use.

Serious adverse events per malaria attack over the first 23 episodes ranged from 0 to 2% with artesunate/amodiaquine vs 0 to 0.6% with artemether/lumefantrine. Only one serious event in each group was considered to be related to treatment. In both cases, increases in hepatic enzymes were reported and patients recovered spontaneously.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

The absorption characteristics of [MA058 trade name] have been determined after administration of two tablets (i.e. 200mg artesunate and 540mg amodiaquine) of [MA058 trade name] in healthy volunteers in the fasting state as follows:

| Pharmacokinetic variable | Mean value ± standard deviation | |
|--|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| | (*) | |
| | Artesunate | Amodiaquine |
| Maximum concentration (C _{max}) ng/ml | 162.9 | 9.2 |
| Area under the curve (AUC _{0-∞}), a measure of the extent of absorption ng.hour/ml | 89.9 | 65.7 |
| Time to attain maximum concentration (t _{max}) hour (median (range)) | 0.25 (0.25 – 1.33) | 0.79 (0.48 – 8) |

*geometric mean

Pharmacokinetics of artesunate and amodiaquine

| | Artesunate | Amodiaquine |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| General | | |
| C _{max} ng/mL | 162.9 | 9.2 |
| AUC _{0-∞} ng·hour/mL | 89.9 | 65.7 |
| t _{max} hours | 0.25 (0.25-1.33) | 0.79 (0.48-8) |
| Absorption | | |
| Absolute bioavailability | | The absolute bioavailability of amodiaquine is not known. |
| Oral bioavailability | Absorption is rapid. Most of the artesunate is promptly biotransformed to the active | Amodiaquine is quickly absorbed and biotransformed to its main active form, desethylamodiaquine. |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | metabolite dihydroartemisinin (DHA) | |
| Food effect | When artesunate/amodiaquine was taken with a high fat meal in healthy volunteers, the C_{max} and $AUC_{(0-t)}$ of artesunate decreased 66% and 13% respectively, compared to fasting. The C_{max} and $AUC_{(0-t)}$ of the active metabolite (DHA) decreased 48% and 5% respectively with a high-fat meal, compared to fasting. | When artesunate/amodiaquine was taken with a high fat meal in healthy volunteers, the C_{max} and $AUC_{(0-t)}$ of amodiaquine increased 23% and 58% respectively, compared to fasting. The C_{max} and $AUC_{(0-t)}$ of the active metabolite desethylamodiaquine increased 18% and 12% respectively with a high-fat meal, compared to fasting. |
| Distribution | | |
| Volume of distribution | | Amodiaquine: 20–40 L/kg Desethylamodiaquine, the main metabolite of amodiaquine, is found in blood, at much higher concentrations than unchanged amodiaquine. Its concentration in whole blood is 4-6 times higher than in plasma. |
| Plasma protein binding <i>in vitro</i> | Artesunate is not significantly protein-bound | |
| Tissue distribution | Active metabolite, DHA, accumulates substantially in <i>P. falciparum</i> -infected erythrocytes | |
| Metabolism | | |
| | Extensively hydrolysed by plasma esterases and perhaps also by CYP2A6. DHA is further metabolised through glucuronidation before excretion. | The hepatic metabolism of amodiaquine, through the isoenzyme CYP2C8, is high, with formation of the active metabolite, desethylamodiaquine |
| Elimination | | |
| Plasma half-life | 3–29 minutes (artesunate) 40–95 minutes (DHA) | Amodiaquine is eliminated principally through biotransformation with only around 2% excreted unchanged in urine. Desethylamodiaquine is eliminated with a terminal half-life of 9–18 days. |
| Special populations | | |
| | For the combined use of artesunate and amodiaquine, no pharmacokinetic data are available for patients with impaired renal or hepatic function. | |

5.3 Preclinical safety data

General toxicity

Artesunate presents low acute toxicity. After repeated doses of 50 mg/kg/day in rats and 82.5 mg/kg/day in dogs, i.e. 5 and 8.25 times the maximal therapeutic dose in humans, it is potentially toxic to the haematopoietic organs, the immune system and response, the liver and kidneys.

For *amodiaquine* pigmentation was seen in the heart at 30 mg/kg/day in rats. The statistically significant *in vitro* effects on ion channels in the heart at 0.1 μ M in the hERG current (expressed in human embryonic

kidney cells) as well as the increase in QRS complex and QT interval durations at concentrations higher than 0.1 μ M in the isolated rabbit Purkinje fibres appeared to be due to a non-specific multi-ion channel blockade. Pigmentation was also seen in liver, kidney and thyroid glands in rats as well as in kidneys, liver and lymph nodes in dogs (at doses of 25 mg/kg/day). Haemosiderosis increased in the spleen and bone marrow and thymus lymphoid depletion occurred.

Toxicity after acute and chronic administration of the combination artesunate/amodiaquine was similar to that with artesunate and amodiaquine, given alone. In repeated-dose toxicity studies, the incidence and the severity of lesions was generally related to the dose levels. Amodiaquine given alone at 30 mg/kg/day induced effects very similar to those of the 12/30 mg/kg/day artesunate/amodiaquine combination.

Genotoxicity

In vitro and in vivo tests (Ames, mouse micronucleus) did not reveal any mutagenic or clastogenic potential of artesunate. Although amodiaquine, like chloroquine, has both mutagenic and clastogenic potential, studies with the artesunate/amodiaquine combination in the Ames test and micronucleus in rat did not demonstrate genotoxicity.

Carcinogenesis

No studies of the carcinogenic potential of the combination of artesunate and amodiaquine or the individual agents have been conducted.

Toxicity to reproduction

Reproductive toxicology studies in rats and rabbits have confirmed the embryotoxic and teratogenic potential of artesunate and the maternal toxicity associated with amodiaquine. The combination did not demonstrate any particular effects on fertility or associated parameters. In the peri-postnatal study, the offspring from the F1 generation did not show any effect on sexual development, and despite early slowing of bodyweight increase with some effect on testicular and epididymal weights, no sequelae were noted on reproductive capacity.

No new toxicity was induced through the administration of the two substances in combination.

Safety pharmacology

Slight sedative effect, decreased body temperature, a slight natriuretic effect and decreased endogenous creatinine clearance were observed with *artesunate* after single intravenous doses of 200 mg/kg (mice), 450 mg (rats, rabbits and dogs) and after single oral doses of 180 mg/kg in male rats. In conscious telemetered dogs, atrio-ventricular blocks and depressant effects on smooth muscles were reported with a single oral dose of 10 mg/kg. Since these effects were observed only in female animals, at a low incidence and without relation to dose, the relationship to artesunate administration cannot be confirmed. Neither neurotoxicity nor prolongation of QT(c) interval were shown.

Amodiaquine is likely to induce cardiovascular adverse effects, particularly transient prolongation of QT interval with an oral dose of 30 mg/kg. This dose level corresponds to approximately 2-fold the maximum recommended therapeutic dose. Also, slight respiratory depressant and natriuretic effects occurred with an oral dose of 100 mg/kg (about 6.7-fold the maximum therapeutic dose).

Oral administration of *amodiaquine followed by artesunate* was safe for the central nervous, cardiovascular and respiratory systems at dose levels of artesunate and amodiaquine corresponding to approximately 1.67-fold and 1.81-fold the maximum therapeutic dose (15/5.5 mg/kg amodiaquine/artesunate). The natriuretic effect on the kidney was very slight and transient.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Core tablet:

Croscarmellose sodium

Povidone K30
Silicon colloidal anhydrous
Microcrystalline cellulose
Magnesium stearate
Calcium carbonate DC CS90 (calcium carbonate and maize starch)

This medicine is essentially 'sodium-free'. It contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf life

36 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

The product should be stored below 30°C in the original package.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

[MA057 trade name] is packaged in aluminium foil on aluminium foil blister cards, each containing 3 tablets. Available in boxes of 1×3 or 25×3 tablets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Not applicable

7. SUPPLIER

Sanofi-aventis Groupe
82 avenue Raspail
94250 Gentilly
France

8. WHO REFERENCE NUMBER (WHO Prequalification Programme)

MA057

9. DATE OF PREQUALIFICATION

14 October 2008

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

March 2025

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Section 5.2

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Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website: <https://extranet.who.int/prequal/medicines/prequalified/finished-pharmaceutical-products>