

## **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.*

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\*[https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/sites/default/files/documents/75%20SRA%20clarification\\_Feb2017\\_newtempl.pdf](https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/sites/default/files/documents/75%20SRA%20clarification_Feb2017_newtempl.pdf)

## 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

[TB238 trade name]†

## 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each film-coated tablet contains 500 mg of levofloxacin (as hemihydrate).

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

## 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablets.

Peach-coloured, capsule-shaped, biconvex, film-coated tablets, debossed with “500” on one side and plain on the other side.

## 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

[TB238 trade name] is indicated in combination with other tuberculosis medicines for the treatment of drug-resistant tuberculosis due to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

It is also indicated as monotherapy for the prevention of multidrug-resistant tuberculosis in persons at risk.

Treatment regimens should follow most recent WHO treatment guidelines, supplemented by other authoritative guidelines.

### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

#### Posology

The therapy should be initiated by a health care provider experienced in the management of tuberculosis infection.

#### *Treatment of tuberculosis*

*Dosing recommendations for patients aged 15 years or older*

Weight	Dose
46 – 55 kg	2 tablets once daily (1000 mg)
56 – 70 kg	2 tablets once daily (1000 mg)
> 70 kg	2 tablets once daily (1000 mg)
Usual upper daily dose	3 tablets once daily (1500 mg)

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

### *Patients weighing less than 46 kg*

This formulation does not allow for dose adjustment for children and adolescents weighing less than 46 kg. Other suitable formulations should be used.

### **Preventive treatment of MDR-TB**

The recommended dose for preventive treatment of MDR-TB is given in the tables below according to body weight. The tablet(s) are to be taken daily for 6 months.&

#### *Dosing recommendation for patients aged older than 14 years*

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Dose</b>
< 46 kg	*
> 45 kg	2 tablets once daily (1000 mg)

\* For patients in this weight band, other suitable formulations should be used.

#### *Dosing recommendation for patients less than 15 years*

<b>Weight</b>	<b>Dose</b>
5 – 23 kg	*
24 – 34 kg	1 tablet once daily (500 – 750 mg)

\* For patients in this weight band, other suitable formulations should be used.

& *WHO recommendation for preventive treatment in MDR-TB exposure is based on very low-quality evidence. Therefore, people must be given detailed information about the potential benefits and harms of giving fluoroquinolones or other regimens. In view of uncertainties about the balance of benefit to harm, informed consent, preferably in writing, is required, based on the local context and practices in similar situations.*

### **Special populations**

#### **Renal impairment**

For patients with an estimated creatinine clearance  $\leq 30$  ml/min, with or without haemodialysis, the dose should be reduced to 750–1000 mg given three times per week.

#### **Hepatic impairment**

No adjustment of dosage is required.

#### **Elderly**

No adjustment of dosage is required in the elderly, other than that imposed by consideration of renal function.

#### **Missed dose and vomiting after a dose**

It is important that the patient takes the medicine regularly as prescribed. Missing doses can increase the risk of resistance to levofloxacin and reduce its effectiveness.

The patient should take a missed dose if it was due fewer than 12 hours ago. If more than 12 hours have passed since the dose was due, the patient should omit the missed dose and take the next scheduled dose at the usual time. The patient should not take a double dose.

If the patient vomits within 1 hour of taking [TB238 trade name], the patient should take an extra dose. If vomiting occurs more than an hour after taking the dose, the patient does not need to take an extra dose and can take the next dose as usual when it is due.

#### **Method of administration**

Oral use.

[TB238 trade name] should be swallowed whole with a sufficient amount of liquid. The tablets can be taken with food or between meals.

### 4.3 Contraindications

[TB238 trade name] is contraindicated:

- in patients with hypersensitivity to levofloxacin, other quinolones or to any of the excipients (see section 6.1)
- in patients with epilepsy
- in patients with history of tendon disorders related to fluoroquinolone administration

### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The use of levofloxacin should be avoided in patients who have experienced serious adverse reactions in the past when using quinolone or fluoroquinolone containing products (see section 4.8). Treatment of these patients with levofloxacin should only be initiated in the absence of alternative treatment options and after careful benefit/risk assessment.

#### *Aortic aneurysm and dissection, and heart valve regurgitation/incompetence*

Epidemiologic studies report an increased risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection, sometimes complicated by rupture, particularly in elderly patients, and of aortic and mitral valve regurgitation after intake of fluoroquinolones (see section 4.8).

Therefore, fluoroquinolones should only be used after careful benefit-risk assessment and after consideration of other therapeutic options in patients with positive family history of aneurysm disease or congenital heart valve disease, or in patients diagnosed with pre-existing aortic aneurysm and/or aortic dissection or heart valve disease, or in presence of other risk factors or conditions predisposing for:

- both aortic aneurysm and dissection and heart valve regurgitation/incompetence (e.g. connective tissue disorders such as Marfan syndrome or Ehlers-Danlos syndrome, Turner syndrome, Behcet's disease, hypertension, rheumatoid arthritis);
- aortic aneurysm and dissection (e.g. vascular disorders such as Takayasu arteritis or giant cell arteritis, or known atherosclerosis, or Sjögren's syndrome);
- heart valve regurgitation/incompetence (e.g. infective endocarditis).

The risk of aortic aneurysm and dissection, and their rupture may also be increased in patients treated concurrently with systemic corticosteroids.

Patients should be advised to consult a physician in an emergency department in case of sudden abdominal, chest or back pain, acute dyspnoea, new onset of heart palpitations, or development of oedema of the abdomen or lower extremities.

#### *Tendinitis and tendon rupture*

Tendinitis may rarely occur. It most frequently involves the Achilles tendon and may lead to tendon rupture. It may occur at any time during therapy and also several months after discontinuation of treatment. The risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture is increased in the elderly, in patients with renal insufficiency, in patients who have received solid organ transplants, in patients treated with higher daily doses ( $\geq 1,000$  mg) of levofloxacin, and in patients treated simultaneously with corticosteroids. Therefore, concomitant use of corticosteroids should be avoided. Close monitoring of these patients is necessary if they are prescribed levofloxacin. All patients should consult their health care provider if they experience symptoms of tendinitis. If tendinitis is suspected, treatment with levofloxacin must be halted immediately and appropriate treatment (e.g. immobilisation) must be initiated for the affected tendon. Corticosteroids should not be used if signs of tendinopathy occur.

### *Clostridium difficile-associated disease*

Diarrhoea, particularly if severe, persistent or bloody, during or after treatment with levofloxacin, may be symptomatic of *Clostridium difficile*-associated disease, the most severe form of which is pseudomembranous colitis, which can be life-threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with severe diarrhea during or after treatment with levofloxacin. If pseudomembranous colitis is suspected, levofloxacin must be stopped immediately and appropriate treatment initiated without delay (e.g. linezolid). Products inhibiting peristalsis are contraindicated in this clinical situation.

### *Patients predisposed to seizures*

Quinolones can lower the epileptic threshold and can trigger seizures. Levofloxacin is contraindicated in patients with a history of epilepsy and, as with other quinolones, should be used with caution in patients predisposed to seizures or with drugs which lower the cerebral seizure threshold, such as theophylline (see section 4.5). In case of convulsive seizures, treatment with levofloxacin should be discontinued.

### *Patients with G-6- phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency*

Patients with latent or manifest defects in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase activity may be prone to haemolytic reactions when treated with quinolone antibacterial agents, and so levofloxacin should be used with caution.

### *Patients with renal impairment*

Since levofloxacin is excreted mainly by the kidneys, the dose of levofloxacin should be adjusted in patients with renal impairment (see section 4.2).

### *Hypersensitivity reactions*

Levofloxacin can cause serious, potentially fatal hypersensitivity reactions (e.g. angioedema up to anaphylactic shock), occasionally following the initial dose (see section 4.8). Patients should discontinue treatment immediately.

### *Severe bullous reactions*

Cases of severe bullous skin reactions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) or drug reaction syndrome with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) have been reported with levofloxacin (see section 4.8) which may be life-threatening or fatal. Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms of severe skin reactions, and be closely monitored. If signs and symptoms suggestive of these reactions appear, levofloxacin should be discontinued immediately and an alternative treatment should be considered. If the patient has developed a serious reaction such as SJS, TEN or DRESS with the use of levofloxacin, treatment with levofloxacin must not be restarted in this patient at any time.

### *Dysglycaemia*

As with all quinolones, disturbances in blood glucose, including both hypoglycaemia and hyperglycaemia, have been reported, usually in diabetic patients receiving concomitant treatment with an oral hypoglycaemic agent (e.g., glibenclamide) or with insulin. Cases of hypoglycaemic coma have been reported. In diabetic patients, careful monitoring of blood glucose is recommended (see section 4.8).

### *Prevention of photosensitisation*

Although photosensitisation is very rare with levofloxacin, it is recommended that patients should not expose themselves unnecessarily to strong sunlight or to artificial UV light (e.g. sunray lamp, solarium), in order to prevent photosensitisation.

### *Patients treated with Vitamin K antagonists*

Due to possible increase in coagulation tests (PT/INR) or bleeding in patients treated with levofloxacin in combination with a vitamin K antagonist (e.g. warfarin), coagulation tests should be monitored when these drugs are given concomitantly (see section 4.5).

### *Psychotic reactions*

Psychotic reactions have been reported in patients receiving quinolones, including levofloxacin. In very rare cases these have progressed to suicidal thoughts and self-endangering behaviour - sometimes after only a single dose of levofloxacin (see section 4.8). In the event that the patient develops these reactions, levofloxacin should be discontinued and appropriate measures instituted. Caution is recommended if levofloxacin is to be used in psychotic patients or in patients with history of psychiatric disease.

### *QT interval prolongation*

Caution should be taken when using fluoroquinolones, including levofloxacin, in patients with known risk factors for prolongation of the QT interval such as:

- congenital long QT syndrome
- concomitant use of medicines that are known to prolong the QT interval (e.g. Class IA and III antiarrhythmics, tricyclic antidepressants, macrolides, antipsychotics, methadone)
- uncorrected electrolyte imbalance (e.g. hypokalaemia, hypomagnesaemia)
- preexisting cardiac disease (e.g. heart failure, myocardial infarction, bradycardia).

Elderly patients and women may be more sensitive to QTc-prolonging medications, therefore, caution should be taken when using fluoroquinolones, including levofloxacin, in these populations.

### *Peripheral neuropathy*

Sensory or sensorimotor peripheral neuropathy resulting in paraesthesia, hypaesthesia, dysesthesia or weakness has been reported in patients receiving fluoroquinolones, which can be rapid in its onset. Patients under treatment with levofloxacin should be advised to inform their health care provider prior to continuing treatment if symptoms of neuropathy such as pain, burning, tingling, numbness, or weakness develop in order to prevent the development of potentially irreversible condition

### *Patients with myasthenia gravis*

Levofloxacin should be used with caution in patients with myasthenia gravis because the symptoms can be exacerbated. Fluoroquinolones, including levofloxacin, have neuromuscular blocking activity and may exacerbate muscle weakness in patients with myasthenia gravis. Post marketing serious adverse reactions, including deaths and the requirement for respiratory support, have been associated with fluoroquinolone use in patients with myasthenia gravis.

### *Hepatobiliary disorders*

Cases of hepatic necrosis, including life threatening hepatic failure, have been reported with levofloxacin, primarily in patients with severe underlying diseases, e.g. sepsis (see section 4.8). Patients should be advised to stop treatment and contact their health care provider if signs and symptoms of hepatic disease develop such as anorexia, jaundice, dark urine, pruritus or tender abdomen.

### *Vision disorders*

If vision becomes impaired or any effects on the eyes are experienced, an eye specialist should be consulted immediately (see sections 4.7 and 4.8).

### *Superinfection*

The use of levofloxacin, especially if prolonged, may result in overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms. If superinfection occurs during therapy, appropriate measures should be taken.

### *Interference with laboratory tests*

In patients treated with levofloxacin, determination of opiates in urine may give false-positive results. It may be necessary to confirm positive opiate screens by more specific method.

Levofloxacin may inhibit the growth of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* and, therefore, may give false-negative results in the bacteriological diagnosis of tuberculosis.

### *Prolonged, disabling and potentially irreversible serious adverse drug reactions*

Very rare cases of prolonged (continuing months or years), disabling and potentially irreversible serious adverse drug reactions affecting different, sometimes multiple, body systems (musculoskeletal, nervous, psychiatric and senses) have been reported in patients receiving quinolones and fluoroquinolones irrespective of their age and pre-existing risk factors (see section 4.8). [TB238 trade name] should be discontinued immediately at the first signs or symptoms of any serious adverse reaction and patients should be advised to contact their health care provider for advice.

## **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

### *Iron salts, magnesium- or aluminium-containing antacids, didanosine*

Levofloxacin absorption is significantly reduced when iron salts, magnesium- or aluminium-containing antacids or didanosine (only didanosine formulations with aluminium or magnesium containing buffering agents) are administered concomitantly with [TB238 trade name]. Concurrent administration of fluoroquinolones with multivitamin preparations with zinc appears to reduce their oral absorption. It is recommended that preparations containing divalent or trivalent cations such as iron salts, zinc salts, magnesium- or aluminium-containing antacids, didanosine (only didanosine formulations with aluminium or magnesium containing buffering agents) should not be taken within 2 hours before or after administration of [TB238 trade name]. Calcium salts have a minimal effect on the oral absorption of levofloxacin.

### *Corticosteroids*

Co-administration with corticosteroids increases the risk of tendinitis and tendon rupture.

### *Sucralfate*

The bioavailability of levofloxacin is significantly reduced when administered together with sucralfate. If the patient is to receive both sucralfate and [TB238 trade name], it is best to administer sucralfate at least 2 hours after administration of [TB238 trade name].

### *Theophylline*

No pharmacokinetic interactions of levofloxacin were found with theophylline in a clinical study. However a pronounced lowering of the cerebral seizure threshold may occur when quinolones are given concurrently with theophylline.

### *NSAIDs*

Co-administration with nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) may potentiate the risk of central nervous system toxicity sometimes associated with fluoroquinolone use. The interaction has been reported most often with enoxacin. It may occur with other fluoroquinolones as well, but is poorly documented. Patients with a history of seizures may be at greater risk (see also section 4.4.). Levofloxacin concentrations were about 13% higher in the presence of fenbufen than when administered alone.

### *Other relevant information*

Clinical pharmacology studies have shown that levofloxacin pharmacokinetics were not affected to any clinically relevant degree when levofloxacin was co-administered with the following drugs: calcium carbonate, digoxin, glibenclamide, ranitidine.

### *Ciclosporin*

The half-life of ciclosporin was increased by 33% when co-administered with levofloxacin.

### *Vitamin K antagonists*

Increases in coagulation parameters (as measured e.g. by PT/INR) or bleeding, which may be severe, have been reported in patients treated with levofloxacin in combination with a vitamin K antagonist (e.g. warfarin). Therefore, coagulation parameters should be closely monitored in patients treated with vitamin K antagonists (see section 4.4).

#### *Drugs known to prolong QT interval*

Levofloxacin, like other fluoroquinolones, should be used with caution in patients receiving drugs known to prolong the QT interval (e.g. Class IA and III antiarrhythmics, tricyclic antidepressants, macrolides, antipsychotics, methadone). (See section 4.4 “QT interval prolongation”).

#### *Drugs undergoing renal tubular secretion*

Co-administration of high doses of quinolones with other medicines that undergo renal tubular secretion (e.g. probenecid, cimetidine, frusemide and methotrexate) can lead to impairment of excretion and an increase in serum levels of the quinolone.

Probenecid and cimetidine had a statistically significant effect on the elimination of levofloxacin. The renal clearance of levofloxacin was reduced by cimetidine (24%) and probenecid (34%). This is because both medicines are capable of blocking the renal tubular secretion of levofloxacin. However, at the tested doses in the study, the statistically significant kinetic differences are unlikely to be of clinical relevance. Still, caution should be exercised when levofloxacin is co-administered with medicines that affect the tubular renal secretion such as probenecid and cimetidine, especially in renally impaired patients.

## **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding**

### *Women of childbearing potential*

Pregnancy should be avoided in women treated with levofloxacin. Adequate contraceptive measures should be taken.

### *Pregnancy*

There are limited data from the use of levofloxacin in pregnant women. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). However in the absence of human data and due to experimental data suggesting a risk of damage to the weight-bearing cartilage of the growing organism by fluoroquinolones, levofloxacin should only be used in pregnancy if the benefit is considered to outweigh the risks, and there are no available treatment alternatives.

### *Breastfeeding*

There is insufficient information on the excretion of levofloxacin in human milk; however other fluoroquinolones are excreted in breast milk. In the absence of human data and due to experimental data suggesting a risk of damage to the weight-bearing cartilage of the growing organism by fluoroquinolones, [TB238 trade name] should be avoided during breastfeeding (section 5.3).

### *Fertility*

No human data on the effect of [TB238 trade name] on fertility are available. Levofloxacin caused no impairment of fertility or reproductive performance in rats.

## **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

No studies on the effects of levofloxacin on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. Some undesirable effects (e.g. dizziness/vertigo, drowsiness, visual disturbances) may impair the patient's ability to concentrate and react, and therefore may constitute a risk in situations where these abilities are of special importance (e.g. driving a car or operating machinery).

## **4.8 Undesirable effects**

Adverse events considered at least possibly related to levofloxacin treatment are listed below by body system, organ class and frequency. Frequency estimates are in many cases not based on adequately sized randomised trials, but on published data generated during post-approval use. Sometimes, no frequency data can be given. Frequencies are defined as very common ( $\geq 1/10$ ), common ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $<1/10$ ), uncommon ( $\geq 1/1000$  to  $<1/100$ ), rare ( $\geq 1/10000$  to  $<1/1000$ ), very rare ( $<1/10000$ ), ‘not known’ (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data). Note that the frequencies relate to short-term therapy (<1 month).



<b>System organ class</b>	<b>Common (≥1/100 to &lt;1/10 )</b>	<b>Uncommon (≥1/1,000 to &lt;1/100)</b>	<b>Rare (≥1/10,000 to &lt;1/1,000)</b>	<b>Not known (cannot be estimated from available data)</b>
Infections and infestations		Fungal infection including Candida infection  Pathogen resistance		
Blood and lymphatic system disorders		Leucopenia Eosinophilia	Thrombocytopenia Neutropenia	Pancytopenia Agranulocytosis Haemolytic anaemia
Immune system disorders			Angioedema Hypersensitivity (see section 4.4)	Anaphylactic shock <sup>a</sup> Anaphylactoid shock <sup>a</sup> (see section 4.4)
Endocrine disorders			Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH)	
Metabolism and nutrition disorders		Anorexia	Hypoglycaemia particularly in diabetic patients Hypoglycaemic coma (see section 4.4)	Hyperglycaemia (see section 4.4)
Psychiatric disorders*	Insomnia	Anxiety Confusional state Nervousness	Psychotic reactions (with e.g. hallucination, paranoia) Depression Agitation Abnormal dreams Nightmares Delirium	Psychotic disorders with self-endangering behaviour including suicidal ideation or suicide attempt (see section 4.4)
Nervous system disorders*	Headache Dizziness	Somnolence Tremor Dysgeusia	Convulsion (see sections 4.3 and 4.4) Paraesthesia Memory impairment	Peripheral sensory neuropathy (see section 4.4) Peripheral sensory motor neuropathy (see section 4.4) Parosmia including anosmia Dyskinesia Extrapyramidal disorder Ageusia Syncope Benign intracranial hypertension
Eye disorders*			Visual disturbances such as blurred vision (see section 4.4)	Transient vision loss (see section 4.4)

				Uveitis
Ear and Labyrinth disorders*		Vertigo	Tinnitus	Hearing loss Hearing impaired
Cardiac disorders			Tachycardia Palpitation	Ventricular tachycardia, which may result in cardiac arrest Ventricular arrhythmia and torsade de pointes (reported predominantly in patients with risk factors of QT prolongation) Electrocardiogram QT prolonged (see sections 4.4 and 4.9)
Vascular disorders**	<i>Applies to iv form only:</i> Phlebitis		Hypotension	
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders		Dyspnoea		Bronchospasm Pneumonitis allergic
Gastro- intestinal disorders	Diarrhoea Vomiting Nausea	Abdominal pain Dyspepsia Flatulence Constipation		Diarrhoea – haemorrhagic which in very rare cases may be indicative of enterocolitis, including pseudomembranous colitis (see section 4.4) Pancreatitis
Hepatobiliary disorders	Hepatic enzyme increased (ALT/AST, alkaline phosphatase, GGT)	Blood bilirubin increased		Jaundice and severe liver injury, including cases with fatal acute liver failure, primarily in patients with severe underlying diseases (see section 4.4) Hepatitis
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders <sup>b</sup>		Rash Pruritus Urticaria Hyperhidrosis	Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) (see section 4.4) Fixed drug eruption	Toxic epidermal necrolysis Stevens-Johnson syndrome Erythema multiforme Photosensitivity reaction (see section 4.4) Leukocytoclastic vasculitis Stomatitis
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue		Arthralgia	Tendon disorders (see sections 4.3 and 4.4)	Rhabdomyolysis

disorders*		Myalgia	including tendinitis (e.g. Achilles tendon) Muscular weakness which may be of special importance in patients with myasthenia gravis (see section 4.4 )	Ligament rupture Muscle rupture Arthritis
Renal and Urinary disorders		Blood creatinine increased	Renal failure acute (e.g. due to interstitial nephritis)	
General disorders and administration site conditions*	<i>Applies to iv form only:</i> Infusion site reaction (pain, reddening)	Asthenia	Pyrexia	Pain (including pain in back, chest, and extremities)

<sup>a</sup> Anaphylactic and anaphylactoid reactions may sometimes occur even after the first dose

<sup>b</sup> Mucocutaneous reactions may sometimes occur even after the first dose

\* Very rare cases of prolonged (up to months or years), disabling and potentially irreversible serious drug reactions affecting several, sometimes multiple, system organ classes and senses (including reactions such as tendonitis, tendon rupture, arthralgia, pain in extremities, gait disturbance, neuropathies associated with paraesthesia, depression, fatigue, memory impairment, sleep disorders, and impairment of hearing, vision, taste and smell) have been reported in association with the use of quinolones and fluoroquinolones in some cases irrespective of pre-existing risk factors (see section 4.4).

\*\* Cases of aortic aneurysm and dissection, sometimes complicated by rupture (including fatal ones), and of regurgitation/incompetence of any of the heart valves have been reported in patients receiving fluoroquinolones (see section 4.4).

Other undesirable effects which have been associated with fluoroquinolone administration include attacks or porphyria in patients with porphyria.

### ***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. Health care providers are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions to the marketing authorisation holder, or, if available, via the national reporting system.

## **4.9 Overdose**

### *Symptoms*

According to toxicity studies in animals or clinical pharmacology studies performed with supra-therapeutic doses, the most important signs to be expected following acute overdosage of [TB238 trade name] are central nervous system symptoms such as confusion, dizziness, impairment of consciousness, and convulsive seizures, increases in QT interval as well as gastro-intestinal reactions such as nausea and mucosal erosions.

CNS effects including confusional state, convulsion, hallucination, and tremor have been observed in post-marketing experience.

### *Treatment*

There is no specific antidote. In the event of overdose, symptomatic treatment should be implemented. ECG monitoring should be undertaken, because of the possibility of QT interval prolongation. Antacids may be used for protection of gastric mucosa. Haemodialysis, including peritoneal dialysis and CAPD, are not effective in removing levofloxacin from the body.

## 5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antibacterial for systemic use, fluoroquinolone. ATC code: J01MA12

Levofloxacin is a synthetic antibacterial agent of the fluoroquinolone class and is the S (-) enantiomer of the racemic drug substance ofloxacin.

#### *Mechanism of action*

Levofloxacin has *in vitro* activity against *M. tuberculosis*, as well as against a wide range of Gram-positive and Gram-negative pathogens. The bactericidal action of levofloxacin against *M. tuberculosis* results from the inhibition of the DNA gyrase, encoded by the *gyrA* and *gyrB* genes.

The wild-type levofloxacin MIC distribution for clinical isolates of *M. tuberculosis* has been reported by different investigators to range between 0.125-0.5 mg/L. When resistance to fluoroquinolones arises, it is generally caused by mutations in *gyrA*. Cross-resistance within the fluoroquinolone drug class is extensive, though not universal.

#### *Clinical efficacy*

Experience of MDR-TB treatment with levofloxacin within clinical trials is limited.

### 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

As [TB238 trade name] met the WHO criteria for a BCS-based biowaiver a bioequivalence study was not conducted. Therefore, no pharmacokinetic data are available for this product.

Comparability between the WHO-accepted comparator product and [TB238 trade name] regarding the qualitative and quantitative composition of the formulations has been sufficiently proven.

#### **Pharmacokinetics of levofloxacin**

<b>General</b>	
	Orally administered levofloxacin is rapidly and almost completely absorbed with peak plasma concentrations being obtained within 1-2 hours
<b>Absorption</b>	
Absolute bioavailability	Almost 100%
Oral bioavailability	Almost 100%
Food effect	No clinically relevant food effect
<b>Distribution</b>	
Volume of distribution (mean)	74 to 112 L
Plasma protein binding <i>in vitro</i>	24 – 38% bound to serum protein
Tissue distribution	Lung concentration: 2.4 to 11.3 mcg/g over a 24-hour period after a single 500 mg oral dose (2- to 5-fold higher than plasma concentrations). Poor penetration into cerebro-spinal fluid. Levofloxacin has been shown to penetrate bronchial mucosa, epithelial lining fluid, alveolar macrophages, lung tissue, skin (bulla fluid) and prostate tissue.

<b>Metabolism</b>	
	Metabolized to a very small extent Metabolites: desmethyl-levofloxacin and levofloxacin N-oxide account for < 5% of the dose and are excreted in urine
Active metabolite(s)	None
<b>Elimination</b>	
Elimination half life	6 – 8 hours
Mean systemic clearance (Cl/F)	Mean apparent total body clearance approximately 144 to 226 mL/min Renal clearance approximately 96 to 142 mL/min
% of dose excreted in urine	> 85%
% of dose excreted in faeces	< 4%
<b>Pharmacokinetic linearity</b>	Linear over the 50 – 1000 mg dose range.
<b>Drug interactions (<i>in vitro</i>)</b>	
Transporters	No substrate or inhibitor.
Enzymes	No substrate or inhibitor.

### ***Pharmacokinetics in special populations***

#### *Gender and race*

No clinically relevant pharmacokinetic differences due to gender or race have been identified.

#### *Elderly*

There are no significant differences in levofloxacin kinetics between young and elderly subjects, **except those** associated with differences in creatinine clearance.

#### *Renal impairment*

The pharmacokinetics of levofloxacin are affected by renal impairment. With decreasing renal function, renal elimination and clearance are decreased, and elimination half-lives increased as shown in the table below:

Cl <sub>cr</sub> (mL/min)	<20	20 – 49	50 – 80
Cl <sub>R</sub> (mL/min)	13	26	57
t <sub>1/2</sub> (h)	35	27	9

#### *Hepatic impairment*

Pharmacokinetic studies in hepatically impaired patients have not been conducted. Due to the limited extent of levofloxacin metabolism, the pharmacokinetics of levofloxacin are not expected to be affected by hepatic impairment.

#### *Paediatric population*

Paediatric patients cleared levofloxacin faster than adult patients resulting in lower plasma exposures than adults for a given mg/kg dose.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

#### *General toxicity*

As with other fluoroquinolones, levofloxacin showed effects on cartilage (blistering and cavities) in rats and dogs. These findings were more marked in young animals.

Non-clinical data reveal no other special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of single dose toxicity, repeated dose toxicity, carcinogenic potential and toxicity to reproduction and development.

#### *Mutagenicity/ Carcinogenicity*

Levofloxacin did not induce gene mutations in bacterial or mammalian cells but did induce chromosome aberrations in Chinese hamster lung cells in vitro. These effects can be attributed to inhibition of topoisomerase II. In vivo tests (micronucleus, sister chromatid exchange, unscheduled DNA synthesis, dominant lethal tests) did not show any genotoxic potential. Studies in the mouse showed levofloxacin to have phototoxic activity only at very high doses. Levofloxacin did not show any genotoxic potential in a photomutagenicity assay, and it reduced tumour development in a photocarcinogenity study.

#### *Reproductive toxicity*

Levofloxacin caused no impairment of fertility or reproductive performance in rats and its only effect on fetuses was delayed maturation as a result of maternal toxicity.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

*Core tablet:* croscarmellose sodium  
Crospovidone  
hydroxypropyl methylcellulose  
magnesium stearate  
microcrystalline cellulose

*Film coat (Opadry Pink 03B84851):*

hypromellose  
iron oxide red  
iron oxide yellow  
macrogol  
talc  
titanium dioxide

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

36 months (blister pack)

24 months (HDPE pack)

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 30°C. Store in a dry place and protect from light.

## **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

### *Blister pack*

Clear PVC-aluminium blister cards of 10 tablets. Each carton contains 10 such blister cards.

### *HDPE bottle pack*

White round HDPE bottle secured with child-resistant polypropylene cap. Pack size: 100 tablets.

## **6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling**

No special requirements.

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

## **7. SUPPLIER**

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## **8. WHO REFERENCE NUMBER (WHO Prequalification Programme)**

TB238

## **9. DATE OF PREQUALIFICATION**

3 October 2012

## **10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

November 2021

### ***References***

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Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) website:  
<https://extranet.who.int/pqweb/medicines>