Public Assessment Report

Decentralised Procedure

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

Procedure No: UK/H/4096/001/DC

UK Licence No: PL 24598/0029

Noridem Enterprises Limited
LAY SUMMARY

On 25 January 2013, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted a Marketing Authorisation to Noridem Enterprises Limited for the medicinal product Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion (PL 24598/0029; UK/H/4096/001/DC). This is a prescription-only medicine (POM) used to:

- **prevent bone compliance**, e.g. fractures, in adult patients with bone metastases (spread of cancer from primary site to the bone)
- **reduce the amount of calcium** in the blood in adult patients where it is too high due to the presence of a tumour. Tumours can accelerate normal bone change in such a way that the release of calcium from bone is increased. This condition is known as tumour-induced hypercalcaemia (TIH).

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion contains the active ingredient zoledronic acid, which belongs to a group of substances called bisphosphonates. Zoledronic acid works by attaching itself to the bone and slowing down the rate of bone change.

No new or unexpected safety concerns arose from this application and it was therefore judged that the benefits of taking Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion outweigh the risks, and a Marketing Authorisation was granted.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Module 1: Information about initial procedure            Page 4
Module 2: Summary of Product Characteristics          Page 5
Module 3: Patient Information Leaflet               Page 6
Module 4: Labelling                                  Page 7
Module 5: Scientific discussion                     Page 10
    I Introduction                                    
    II About the product                              
    III Scientific overview and discussion            
    III 1 Quality aspects                             
    III 2 Non-clinical aspects                        
    III 3 Clinical aspects                            
    IV Overall conclusion and benefit/risk assessment
Module 6: Steps taken after initial procedure
Module 1
Information about the initial procedure

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Product Name</th>
<th>Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion</th>
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<td>Type of Application</td>
<td>Generic, Article 10(1)</td>
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<td>Form</td>
<td>Concentrate for solution for infusion</td>
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<td>Strength</td>
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<td>MA Holder</td>
<td>Noridem Enterprises Ltd</td>
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<td>Evagorou &amp; Makariou,</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Mitsi Building 3,</td>
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<td>Office 115,</td>
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<td>1065 Nicosia,</td>
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<td>Cyprus</td>
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<td>Reference Member State (RMS)</td>
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<td>Concerned Member States (CMS)</td>
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<td>Timetable</td>
<td>Day 210 – 13 December 2012</td>
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Module 2
Summary of Product Characteristics

In accordance with Directive 2010/84/EU, the Summaries of Product Characteristics (SmPCs) for products granted Marketing Authorisations at a national level are available on the MHRA website.
Module 3
Patient Information Leaflet

In accordance with Directive 2010/84/EU, the Patient Information Leaflets (PILs) for products granted Marketing Authorisations at a national level are available on the MHRA website.
Module 4

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

Concentrate for solution for Infusion
Zoledronic acid

For Intravenous Use

Manufactured by:
DEMO S.A.
PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY
21st km Athens - Larnia,
145 63 Athens, Greece

Marketing Authorisation Holder:
noridem ENTERPRISES LIMITED
Evaggelou & Makariou, Mile Building 3,
Sot.III, 1065 Nicosia, Cyprus

EXP: MM/YYYY
LOT:XXXXXX

Zoledronic Acid Concentrate for solution for Infusion
Must be diluted. For intravenous use only.
Stable for 24 hours at 2°C - 8°C after further dilution in 100ml physiological saline or 5% w/v glucose solution.

PL 24598/0029
PA 1122/016/001

POM
Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

4 vials x 5ml

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml
concentrate for solution for Infusion
Zoledronic acid
For Intravenous Use

One ml contains 0.8 mg of zoledronic acid (anhydrous). One vial contains 4 mg of zoledronic acid (anhydrous). It also contains mannitol (E421), sodium citrate (E331) and water for injections. See the package leaflet for further information. Must be diluted. Use only as directed by a doctor. No special precautions for storage. Stable for 24 hours at 2°C - 8°C after further dilution in 100 ml physiological saline or 5% w/v glucose solution. Single use only. Read the package leaflet before use. Discard the remaining contents of the vial after use. Use only clear solutions.
Do not use if cloudiness or precipitation is observed.
Keep out of the reach and sight of children. For Intravenous use only.

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

nordem
LIMITED
Northam Place, Westergate, Chesterfield, S40 2AP

UK: PL 24596/0029
IE: PA 1122/01/0/001

EXP: MM/YYYY
LOT: XXXXXX
Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion

For Intravenous Use

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml

concentrate for solution for Infusion
Zoledronic acid
For Intravenous Use

10 vials x 5ml

10 vials x 5ml

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml

concentrate for solution for Infusion
Zoledronic acid
For Intravenous Use

One ml contains 0.8 mg of zoledronic acid (disodium). One vial contains 4 mg of zoledronic acid (disodium).

It also contains mannitol (E421), sodium citrate (E331) and water for injections. See the package leaflet for further information. Must be diluted. Use only as directed by a doctor. No special precautions for storage. Stable for 24 hours at 2°C – 8°C after further dilution in 100 ml physiological saline or 5% w/v glucose solution. Single use only.

Read the package leaflet before use. Discard the remaining contents of the vial after use. Use only clear solutions. Do not use if discoloration or precipitation is observed. Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

For Intravenous use only

Marketing Authorisation Holder:
Nordem International Limited

Enagrou & Makarios, Mitin Building 3, Suite 119, 1663 Nicosia, Cyprus.

EXP: MM/YYYY
LOT: XXXXXX

UK/PL 24506/0029
RE: PA 1122016/001

POM
Module 5
Scientific discussion during initial procedure

I  INTRODUCTION
Based on the review of the data on quality, safety and efficacy, the member states considered that the application for Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion (PL 24598/0029; UK/H/4096/001/DC) could be approved. The product is a prescription-only medicine (POM) for use in the:
• prevention of skeletal related events (pathological fractures, spinal compression, radiation or surgery to bone, or tumour-induced hypercalcaemia) in adult patients with advanced malignancies involving bone
• treatment of adult patients with tumour-induced hypercalcaemia (TIH).

The application was submitted using the Decentralised Procedure (DCP), with the UK as Reference Member State (RMS) and Austria, Germany, Greece, Spain, Ireland and Poland as Concerned Member States (CMS). The application was submitted under Article 10(1) of Directive 2001/83/EC, as amended, claiming to be a generic medicinal product of Zometa 4mg powder and solvent for solution for infusion (Novartis Europharma Limited), which was authorised in the EEA via a Centralised procedure on 20 March 2001.

The active ingredient, zoledronic acid, is a heterocyclic imidazole bisphosphonate that acts primarily on bone and is an inhibitor of osteoclastic bone resorption.

No new non-clinical studies were performed, which is acceptable given that the application was based on being a generic medicinal product of an originator product that has been in clinical use for over 10 years.

No new clinical data have been submitted and none are required for this type of application. A bioequivalence study was not necessary to support this application for a parenteral product (aqueous solution).

The RMS has been assured that acceptable standards of Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) are in place at all sites responsible for the manufacture, assembly and batch release of this product. For manufacturing sites within the Community, the RMS has accepted copies of current manufacturer authorisations issued by inspection services of the competent authorities as certification that acceptable standards of GMP are in place at those sites.

For manufacturing sites outside the Community, the RMS has accepted copies of current GMP Certificates, satisfactory inspection summary reports, ‘close-out letters’ or ‘exchange of information’ issued by the inspection services of the competent authorities (or those countries with which the EEA has a Mutual Recognition Agreement for their own territories) as certification that acceptable standards of GMP are in place at those non-Community sites.

The RMS and CMS considered that the application could be approved at the end of procedure (Day 210) on 13 December 2012. After a subsequent national phase, a licence was granted in the UK on 25 January 2013.
II. ABOUT THE PRODUCT

| Name of the product in the Reference Member State | Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion |
| Name(s) of the active substance(s) (INN) | Zoledronic acid |
| Pharmacotherapeutic classification (ATC code) | Drugs for treatment of bone diseases, bisphosphonate (ATC code: M05 BA 08) |
| Pharmaceutical form and strength(s) | Concentrate for solution for Infusion; 4mg/5ml |
| Reference number for the Decentralised Procedure | UK/H/4096/001/DC |
| Reference Member State (RMS) | United Kingdom |
| Concerned Member States (CMS) | Austria, Germany, Greece, Spain, Ireland and Poland |
| Marketing Authorisation Number(s) | PL 24598/0029 |
| Name and address of the authorisation holder | Noridem Enterprises Ltd Evagorou & Makariou, Mitsi Building 3, Office 115, 1065 Nicosia, Cyprus |
III SCIENTIFIC OVERVIEW AND DISCUSSION

III.1 QUALITY ASPECTS

ACTIVE SUBSTANCE

INN: Zoledronic acid

Chemical name: ([1-hydroxy-2-(1H-imidazol-1-)ethylidene]bisphosphonic acid; 2-(imidazol-1-yl)-1-hydroxy-ethane-1,1-diphosphonic acid (monohydrate)

Structure:

![Structure of Zoledronic Acid]

Molecular formula: C$_{5}$H$_{10}$N$_{2}$O$_{7}$P$_{2}$·H$_{2}$O

Molecular Mass: 290.11 (monohydrate)

Appearance: A white crystalline powder.

Solubility: Sparingly soluble in 0.1N sodium hydroxide solution, slightly soluble in water and 0.1N hydrochloric acid and practically insoluble in organic solvents.

Zoledronic acid is not the subject of a European Pharmacopoeia monograph.

Synthesis of the active substance from the designated starting materials has been adequately described and appropriate in-process controls and intermediate specifications are applied. Satisfactory specification tests are in place for all starting materials and reagents and these are supported by relevant Certificates of Analysis. Appropriate proof-of-structure data have been supplied. All potential known impurities have been identified and characterised.

An appropriate specification is provided for the active substance. Analytical methods have been appropriately validated and are satisfactory for ensuring compliance with the relevant specifications. Batch analysis data are provided and comply with the proposed specification.

Satisfactory Certificates of Analysis have been provided for all working standards.

Suitable specifications have been provided for all packaging used. The primary packaging has been shown to comply with current guidelines concerning contact with foodstuff.

Appropriate stability data have been generated supporting a suitable retest period when stored in the proposed packaging.

MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Other Ingredient

Other ingredients consist of the pharmaceutical excipients, namely mannitol (E421), sodium citrate (E331) and water for injections. Appropriate justification for the inclusion of each excipient has been provided.

All excipients comply with their respective European Pharmacopoeia monographs. Certificates of Analysis have been provided for all excipients, showing compliance with the proposed specification.
None of the excipients contain materials of animal or human origin. No genetically modified organisms (GMO) have been used in the preparation of these excipients.

**Pharmaceutical Development**
The objective of the development programme was to produce a product that could be considered a generic medicinal product of Zometa 4mg/5ml concentrate for solution for infusion (Novartis Europharma Limited, UK).

Suitable pharmaceutical development data have been provided for this application.

Comparative physicochemical data have been provided for this product and the reference product Zometa 4mg/5ml concentrate for solution for infusion (Novartis).

**Manufacturing Process**
A satisfactory batch formula has been provided for the manufacture of the product, along with an appropriate account of the manufacturing process. The manufacturing process has been validated with pilot-scale batches and has shown satisfactory results. The Marketing Authorisation Holder has committed to performing process validation studies on future full-scale production batches.

**Finished Product Specification**
The finished product specification is acceptable. Test methods have been described and have been validated adequately. Batch data have been provided and comply with the release specifications. Certificates of Analysis have been provided for all working standards used.

**Container-Closure System**
The finished product is supplied in 5 ml plastic vials made of clear colourless cycloolefine copolymer with fluoropolymer-coated bromobutyl rubber stoppers and aluminium caps with plastic flip-off components.

The product is available in pack sizes of 1, 4 and 10 vials. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Satisfactory specifications and Certificates of Analysis for the primary packaging material have been provided. All primary packaging is controlled to European Pharmacopoeia standards and complies with guidance concerning materials in contact with parenteral products.

**Stability of the Product**
Finished product stability studies were performed in accordance with current guidelines on batches of finished product in the packaging proposed for marketing. Based on the results, a shelf-life of 30 months has been proposed, with no special storage instructions for the product when stored in the vial.

Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion is stable for 24 hours at 2 - 8 °C after further dilution in 100 ml physiological saline or 5 % w/v glucose solution.

It is stated that, unless the method of opening or dilution precludes the risk of microbial contamination, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions are the responsibility of the user.
Suitable post approval stability commitments have been provided to continue stability testing on batches of finished product.

**Bioequivalence/Bioavailability**
A bioequivalence study was not necessary to support this application for this aqueous solution, parenteral product.

**Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), Product Information Leaflet (PIL) and Labels**
The SmPC, PIL and labels are satisfactory from a pharmaceutical perspective.

A package leaflet has been submitted to the MHRA along with results of consultations with target patient groups (‘user testing’), in accordance with Article 59 of Council Directive 2001/83/EC, as amended. The results indicate that the package leaflet is well-structured and organised, easy to understand and written in a comprehensive manner. The test shows that the patients/users are able to act upon the information that the leaflet contains.

**Marketing Authorisation Application (MAA) Form**
The MAA form is satisfactory from a pharmaceutical perspective.

**Expert Report (Quality Overall Summary)**
The quality overall summary has been written by an appropriately qualified person and is a suitable summary of the pharmaceutical aspects of the dossier.

**Conclusion**
The grant of a Marketing Authorisation is recommended.
III.2 NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

As the pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic and toxicological properties of zoledronic acid are well-known, no new non-clinical data have been submitted and none are required.

The applicant’s non-clinical expert report has been written by an appropriately qualified person and is satisfactory, providing an appropriate review of the pharmacology and toxicology of zoledronic acid.

Suitable justification has been provided for non-submission of an environmental risk assessment. As the application is for a generic version of an already authorised product, it is not expected that environmental exposure will increase following approval of the Marketing Authorisations for the proposed product.

The grant of a Marketing Authorisation is recommended.
III.3 CLINICAL ASPECTS

Clinical Pharmacology
No new clinical pharmacology data have been submitted and none are required for applications of this type. A bioequivalence study was not necessary to support this application for an aqueous parenteral product. According to CPMP guidelines, bioequivalence studies are not generally required for parenteral aqueous solutions (CPMP/EWP/QWP/1401/98 (NfG on the Investigation of Bioavailability and Bioequivalence).

Efficacy
No new efficacy data have been submitted and none are required for this type of application.

Safety
No new safety data have been submitted with this application and none are required. No new or unexpected safety concerns arose from this application. As an active ingredient, Zoledronic acid has a well-established safety profile and an acceptable level of safety in the proposed indications.

Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC), Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) and Labels
The SmPC, PIL and labels are acceptable from a clinical perspective. The SmPC is consistent with that for the innovator product. The PIL is consistent with the details in the SmPC and in line with the current guidance. The labelling is in line with the current guidance.

Clinical Expert Report (Clinical Overview)
The clinical overview has been written by an appropriately qualified physician and is a suitable summary of the clinical aspects of the dossier.

Pharmacovigilance System and Risk Management Plan
The Pharmacovigilance System, as described by the applicant, fulfils the requirements and provides adequate evidence that the applicant has the services of a qualified person responsible for pharmacovigilance, and has the necessary means for the notification of any adverse reaction suspected of occurring either in the Community or in a third country.

Suitable justification has been provided for not submitting a risk management plan for this product.

Conclusion
The grant of a Marketing Authorisation is recommended.
IV OVERALL CONCLUSION AND BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT

QUALITY
The important quality characteristics of Zoledronic Acid 4mg/5ml Concentrate for Solution for Infusion are well-defined and controlled. The specifications and batch analytical results indicate consistency from batch to batch. There are no outstanding quality issues that would have a negative impact on the benefit/risk balance.

NON-CLINICAL
No new non-clinical data were submitted and none are required for this type of application.

EFFICACY
No new clinical data were submitted for this application. No bioequivalence studies were submitted or required for this application.

SAFETY
No new or unexpected safety concerns arise from this application.

PRODUCT LITERATURE
The SmPC, PIL and labelling are satisfactory and consistent with those for the reference product, where appropriate and in line with current guidance.

BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT
The quality of the products is acceptable, and no new non-clinical or clinical safety concerns have been identified. The data supplied supports the claim that the applicant’s product and the innovator product are interchangeable. Extensive clinical experience with zoledronic acid is considered to have demonstrated the therapeutic value of the compound. The benefit/risk balance is therefore considered to be positive.
Module 6

STEPS TAKEN AFTER INITIAL PROCEDURE - SUMMARY

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<th>Outcome</th>
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