TARGIN® PROLONGED RELEASE TABLETS

NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Targin® 5 mg/2.5 mg, 10 mg/5 mg, 20 mg/10 mg and 40 mg/20 mg prolonged-release tablets

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Targin® 5 mg/2.5 mg Each prolonged-release tablet contains 5 mg of oxycodone hydrochloride equivalent to 4.5 mg oxycodone, and 2.73 mg of naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate equivalent to 2.5 mg naloxone hydrochloride and 2.25 mg naloxone. Excipient with known effect: Each prolonged-release tablet contains 68.17 mg lactose anhydrous

Targin® 10 mg/5 mg Each prolonged-release tablet contains 10 mg of oxycodone hydrochloride equivalent to 9.0 mg oxycodone, and 5.45 mg of naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate equivalent to 5.0 mg naloxone hydrochloride and 4.5 mg naloxone. Excipient with known effect: Each prolonged-release tablet contains 61.04 mg lactose anhydrous

Targin® 20 mg/10 mg Each prolonged-release tablet contains 20 mg of oxycodone hydrochloride equivalent to 18.0 mg oxycodone, and 10.9 mg of naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate equivalent to 10.0 mg naloxone hydrochloride and 9.0 mg naloxone Excipient with known effect: Each prolonged-release tablet contains 51.78 mg lactose anhydrous

Targin® 40 mg/20 mg Each prolonged-release tablet contains 40 mg of oxycodone hydrochloride equivalent to 36.0 mg oxycodone, and 21.8 mg of naloxone hydrochloride dihydrate equivalent to 20.0 mg naloxone hydrochloride and 18.0 mg naloxone Excipient with known effect: Each prolonged-release tablet contains 103.55 mg lactose anhydrous

For the full list of excipients, refer to *Pharmaceutical Particulars*.

PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Prolonged-release tablet

Targin® 5 mg/2.5 mg Blue, oblong tablets, with a nominal length of 9.5mm and with a film coating, embossed “OXN” on one side and “5” on the other side.

Targin® 10 mg/5 mg White, oblong tablets, with a nominal length of 9.5mm and with a film coating, embossed “OXN” on one side and “10” on the other side.

Targin® 20 mg/10 mg Pink, oblong tablets, with a nominal length of 9.5mm and with a film coating, embossed “OXN” on one side and “20” on the other side.

Targin® 40 mg/20 mg Yellow, oblong tablets, with a nominal length of 14mm and with a film coating, embossed “OXN” on one side and “40” on the other side.

CLINICAL PARTICULARS

Therapeutic indications

The management of moderate to severe chronic pain unresponsive to non-opioid analgesics.

The opioid antagonist naloxone is added to counteract opioid-induced constipation by blocking the action of oxycodone at opioid receptors locally in the gut.

Posology and method of administration

Posology

Analgesia

The analgesic efficacy of ***Targin***® is equivalent to oxycodone hydrochloride prolonged-release formulations.

The dosage should be adjusted to the intensity of pain and the sensitivity of the individual patient. Unless otherwise prescribed, ***Targin***® should be administered as follows:

Adults
The usual starting dose for an opioid naïve patient is 10 mg/5 mg of oxycodone hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride at 12 hourly intervals.

Lower strengths are available to facilitate dose titration when initiating opioid therapy and for individual dose adjustment.

Patients already receiving opioids may be started on higher doses of ***Targin***® depending on their previous opioid experience.

Targin® 5 mg/2.5 mg is intended for dose titration when initiating opioid therapy and individual dose adjustment.

The maximum daily dose of ***Targin***® is 160 mg oxycodone hydrochloride and 80 mg naloxone hydrochloride. The maximum daily dose is reserved for patients who have previously been maintained on a stable daily dose of Targin® and who have become in need of an increased dose. Special attention should be given to patients with compromised renal function and patients with mild hepatic impairment if an increased dose is considered. For patients requiring higher doses of ***Targin***®, administration of supplemental prolonged-release oxycodone hydrochloride at the same time intervals should be considered, taking into account the maximum daily dose of 400 mg prolonged-release oxycodone hydrochloride. In the case of supplemental oxycodone hydrochloride dosing, the beneficial effect of naloxone hydrochloride on bowel function may be impaired. After complete discontinuation of therapy with ***Targin***® with a subsequent switch to another opioid a worsening of the bowel function can be expected.

Some patients taking ***Targin***® according to a regular time schedule require immediate-release analgesics as "rescue" medication for breakthrough pain. ***Targin***® is a prolonged-release formulation and therefore not intended for the treatment of breakthrough pain. For the treatment of breakthrough pain, a single dose of "rescue medication" should approximate one sixth of the equivalent daily dose of oxycodone hydrochloride. The need for more than two "rescues" per day is usually an indication that the dose of ***Targin***® requires upward adjustment. This adjustment should be made every 1-2 days in steps of 5 mg/2.5 mg twice daily, or where necessary 10 mg/5 mg, oxycodone hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride until a stable dose is reached. The aim is to establish a patient-specific twice daily dose that will maintain adequate analgesia and make use of as little rescue medication as possible for as long as pain therapy is necessary.

A single dose of Targin® greater than 40mg/20mg or a total daily dose greater than 80mg/40mg is

only for use in patients in whom tolerance to an opioid of comparable potency has been established. Patients considered opioid tolerant are those receiving, for one week or longer, at least 60mg oral morphine/day, 25mcg transdermal fentanyl/hour, 30mg oral oxycodone/day, 8 mg oral hydromorphone/day, 25mg oral oxymorphone/day, or an equianalgesic dose of another opioid.

Targin® is taken at the determined dosage twice daily according to a fixed time schedule. While symmetric administration (the same dose mornings and evenings) subject to a fixed time schedule (every 12 hours) is appropriate for the majority of patients, some patients, depending on the individual pain situation, may benefit from asymmetric dosing tailored to their pain pattern. In general, the lowest effective analgesic dose should be selected.

In non-malignant pain therapy, daily doses of up to 40 mg/20 mg oxycodone hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride are usually sufficient, but higher doses may be needed.
For doses not realisable/practicable with this strength other strengths of this medicinal product are available.

Elderly patients
As for younger adults the dosage should be adjusted to the intensity of the pain and the sensitivity of the individual patient.

Patients with impaired hepatic function
A clinical trial has shown that plasma concentrations of both oxycodone and naloxone are elevated in patients with hepatic impairment. Naloxone concentrations were affected to a higher degree than oxycodone (refer to *Pharmacokinetic Properties*). The clinical relevance of a relative high naloxone exposure in hepatic impaired patients is yet not known. Caution must be exercised when administering ***Targin***® to patients with mild hepatic impairment (refer to S*pecial Warnings and Precautions for use*). In patients with moderate and severe hepatic impairment ***Targin***® is contraindicated (refer to *Contraindications*).

Patients with impaired renal function
A clinical trial has shown that plasma concentrations of both oxycodone and naloxone are elevated in patients with renal impairment (refer to *Pharmacokinetic Properties*). Naloxone concentrations were affected to a higher degree than oxycodone. The clinical relevance of a relative high naloxone exposure in renal impaired patients is yet not known. Caution should be exercised when administering ***Targin***® to patients with renal impairment (refer to *Special Warnings and Precautions for use*).

Paediatric population
The safety and efficacy of Targin in children aged below 18 years has not been established. No data are available.

Method of administration

Oral use.
Targin® is taken in the determined dosage twice daily in a fixed time schedule.
The prolonged-release tablets may be taken with or without food with sufficient liquid. ***Targin***® must be swallowed whole, and not broken or chewed or crushed.

Duration of use

Targin® should not be administered for longer than absolutely necessary. If long-term pain treatment is necessary in view of the nature and severity of the illness, careful and regular monitoring is required to establish whether and to what extent further treatment is necessary.

Analgesia

When the patient no longer requires opioid therapy, it may be advisable to taper the dose gradually (refer to *Special Warnings and Precautions for use*).

Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients,
- Any situation where opioids are contraindicated,
- Severe respiratory depression with hypoxia and/or hypercapnoea,
- Severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease,
- Cor pulmonale,
- Severe bronchial asthma,
- Non-opioid induced paralytic ileus,
- Moderate to severe hepatic impairment.

Special warnings and precautions for use

Caution must be exercised when administering these tablets to patients with:

- Severely impaired respiratory function
- Sleep apnoea
- CNS depressants co-administration (see below and section *Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction*)
- Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs, see below and section *Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction*)
- Tolerance, physical dependence and withdrawal (see below)
- Psychological dependence [addiction], abuse profile and history of substance and/or alcohol abuse (see below)
- Elderly or infirm
- Head injury, intracranial lesions or increased intracranial pressure, reduced level of consciousness of uncertain origin
- Epileptic disorder or predisposition to convulsions
- Hypotension
- Hypertension
- Pancreatitis
- Mild hepatic impairment
- Renal impairment
- Opioid-induced paralytic ileus
- Myxoedema
- Hypothyroidism
- Addison's disease (adrenal cortical insufficiency)
- Prostate hypertrophy
- Toxic psychosis
- Alcoholism
- Delirium tremens
- Cholelithiasis
- Pre-existing cardiovascular diseases

Monitor closely, especially upon initiation or following a dose increase.
Instruct patients to swallow ***Targin®*** tablets whole to avoid exposure to a potentially fatal dose of Targin®. In order not to impair the prolonged-release characteristic of the prolonged-release tablets, the prolonged-release tablets must be taken whole and must not be broken, chewed or crushed. Breaking, chewing or crushing the prolonged-release tablets for ingestion leads to a faster release of the active substances and the absorption of a possibly fatal dose of oxycodone (refer to *Overdose*).

<u>Respiratory depression</u>
The primary risk of opioid excess is respiratory depression.

Sleep-related breathing disorders
Opioids can cause sleep-related breathing disorders including central sleep apnoea (CSA) and sleep-related hypoxemia. Opioid use increases the risk of CSA in a dose-dependent manner. In patients who present with CSA, consider decreasing the total opioid dosage.

Risk from concomitant use of sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs:
Concomitant use of opioids, including oxycodone hydrochloride and sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs may result in sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death. Because of these risks, concomitant prescribing with these sedative medicines should be reserved for patients for whom alternative treatment options are not possible. If a decision is made to prescribe ***Targin*®** tablets concomitantly with sedative medicines, the lowest effective dose should be used, and the duration of treatment should be as short as possible.
The patients should be followed closely for signs and symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation. In this respect, it is strongly recommended to inform patients and their caregivers to be aware of these symptoms (see *Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction*).

MAOIs
***Targin*®** tablets must be administered with caution in patients taking MAOIs or who have received MAOIs within the previous two weeks.

Caution must also be exercised when administering ***Targin***® to patients with mild hepatic or renal impairment. A careful medical monitoring is particularly necessary for patients with severe renal impairment.

Diarrhoea may be considered as a possible effect of naloxone.

Tolerance, physical dependence and withdrawal
During long-term administration, the patient may develop tolerance to the medicinal product and require higher doses to maintain the desired effect. Chronic administration of ***Targin***® may lead to physical dependence. Withdrawal symptoms may occur upon the abrupt cessation of therapy. If therapy with ***Targin***® is no longer required, it may be advisable to reduce the daily dose gradually in order to avoid the occurrence of withdrawal syndrome (refer to *Posology and method of administration*).
Targin® is not suitable for the treatment of withdrawal symptoms.

Psychological dependence [addiction], abuse profile and history of substance and/or alcohol abuse
There is potential for development of psychological dependence (addiction) to opioid analgesics, including ***Targin***®**.** ***Targin***® should be used with particular care in patients with a history of alcohol and drug abuse. Oxycodone alone has an abuse profile similar to other strong agonist opioids.

In order not to impair the prolonged-release characteristic of the prolonged-release tablets, the prolonged-release tablets must be taken whole and must not be broken, chewed or crushed. Breaking, chewing or crushing the prolonged-release tablets for ingestion leads to a faster release of the active substances and the absorption of a possibly fatal dose of oxycodone (refer to *Overdose*).

Patients who have experienced somnolence and/or an episode of sudden sleep onset must refrain from driving or operating machines. Furthermore a reduction of the dose or termination of therapy may be considered. Because of possible additive effects, caution should be advised when patients are taking other sedating medicinal products in combination with ***Targin***® (Refer to *Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction, Effects on ability to drive and use machines*).
Concomitant use of alcohol and ***Targin***® may increase the undesirable effects of ***Targin***®; concomitant use should be avoided.

Studies have not been performed on the safety and efficacy of ***Targin***® in children and adolescents below the age of 18 years. Therefore, their use in children and adolescents under 18 years of age is not recommended.

There is no clinical experience in patients with cancer associated to peritoneal carcinomatosis or with sub-occlusive syndrome in advanced stages of digestive and pelvic cancers. Therefore, the use of ***Targin***® in this population is not recommended.

Targin® is not recommended for pre-operative use or within the first 12-24 hours post-operatively. Depending on the type and extent of surgery, the anaesthetic procedure selected, other co-medication and the individual condition of the patient, the exact timing for initiating postoperative treatment with ***Targin***® depends on a careful risk-benefit assessment for each individual patient.

Any abuse of ***Targin***® by drug addicts is strongly discouraged.

If abused parenterally, intranasally or orally by individuals dependent on opioid agonists, such as heroin, morphine, or methadone, ***Targin***® is expected to produce marked withdrawal symptoms - because of the opioid receptor antagonist characteristics of naloxone - or to intensify withdrawal symptoms already present (refer to *Overdose)*.

Targin® consists of a dual-polymer matrix, intended for oral use only. Abusive parenteral injections of the prolonged-release tablet constituents (especially talc) can be expected to result in local tissue necrosis and pulmonary granulomas or may lead to other serious, potentially fatal undesirable effects.

The empty prolonged-release tablet matrix may be visible in the stool.
Opioids such as oxycodone may influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal or -gonadal axes. Some changes that can be seen include an increase in serum prolactin and decreases in plasma cortisol and testosterone. Clinical symptoms may manifest from these hormonal changes.
In patients under long-term opioid treatment with higher doses of opioids, the switch to ***Targin***® can initially provoke withdrawal symptoms. Such patients may require specific attention.

Hyperalgesia that will not respond to a further dose increase of oxycodone may occur in particular in high doses. An oxycodone dose reduction or change in opioid may be required.

The use of ***Targin***® may produce positive results in doping controls. The use of ***Targin***® as a doping agent may become a health hazard.
This medicinal product contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take ***Targin***®.

Biliary tract disorders

Oxycodone can cause an increase in intrabiliary pressure and spasm as a result of its effects on the sphincter of Oddi; therefore, monitor patients with diseases of the biliary tract for worsening symptoms while administering oxycodone.

Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

The concomitant use of opioids with sedative medicines such as benzodiazepines or related drugs increases the risk of sedation, respiratory depression, coma and death because of additive CNS depressant effect. The dose and duration of concomitant use should be limited (see *Special warnings and precautions for use*).
Drugs which depress the CNS include, but are not limited to: other opioids, gabapentinoids such as pregabalin, anxiolytics, hypnotics and sedatives (including benzodiazepines), anti-depressants, antipsychotics, anti-histamines and anti-emetics. ***Targin***® must be administered with caution in patients taking MAOIs or who have received MAOIs within the previous two weeks.

Concomitant administration of oxycodone with serotonin agents, such as a Selective Serotonin Re-uptake Inhibitor (SSRI) or a Serotonin Norepinephrine Re-uptake Inhibitor (SNRI) may cause serotonin toxicity.

The symptoms of serotonin toxicity may include mental-status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia), neuromuscular abnormalities (e.g., hyperreflexia, incoordination, rigidity), and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea). Oxycodone should be used with caution and the dosage may need to be reduced in patients using these medications.

Alcohol may enhance the pharmacodynamic effects of ***Targin***®; concomitant use should be avoided.

Clinically relevant changes in International Normalized Ratio (INR or Quick-value) in both directions have been observed in individuals if oxycodone and coumarin anticoagulants are co-applied.

Oxycodone is metabolised primarily via the CYP3A4 pathways and partly via the CYP2D6 pathway (see section *Pharmacokinetic properties*). The activities of these metabolic pathways may be inhibited or induced by various co-administered drugs or dietary elements. ***Targin***® doses may need to be adjusted accordingly.

CYP3A4 inhibitors, such as macrolide antibiotics (e.g. clarithromycin, erythromycin, telithromycin), azole-antifungal agents (e.g. ketoconazole, voriconazole, itraconazole, posaconazole), protease inhibitors (e.g. ritonavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, saquinavir), cimetidine and grapefruit juice may cause decreased clearance of oxycodone which could lead to an increase in oxycodone plasma concentrations. A reduction in the dose of ***Targin***® and subsequent re-titration may be necessary.

CYP3A4 inducers, such as rifampicin, carbamazepine, phenytoin and St. John's Wort, may induce the metabolism of oxycodone and cause increased clearance of the drug, resulting in a decrease in oxycodone plasma concentrations. Caution is advised and further titration may be necessary to reach an adequate level of symptom control.

Theoretically, medicinal products that inhibit CYP2D6 activity, such as paroxetine, fluoxetine and quinidine, may cause decreased clearance of oxycodone which could lead to an increase in oxycodone plasma concentrations. Concomitant administration with CYP2D6 inhibitors had an insignificant effect on the elimination of oxycodone and also had no influence on the pharmacodynamic effects of oxycodone.

In vitro metabolism studies indicate that no clinically relevant interactions are to be expected between oxycodone and naloxone. The likelihood of clinically relevant interactions between paracetamol, acetylsalicylic acid or naltrexone and the combination of oxycodone and naloxone in therapeutic concentrations is minimal.

Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are no data from the use of ***Targin***® in pregnant women and during childbirth. Limited data on the use of oxycodone during pregnancy in humans reveal no evidence of an increased risk of congenital abnormalities. For naloxone, insufficient clinical data on exposed pregnancies are available. However, systemic exposure of the women to naloxone after use of ***Targin***® is relatively low (refer to *Pharmacokinetic properties*). Both oxycodone and naloxone pass into the placenta. Animal studies have not been performed with oxycodone and naloxone in combination. Animal studies with oxycodone or naloxone administered as single drugs have not revealed any teratogenic or embryotoxic effects. Long-term administration of oxycodone during pregnancy may lead to withdrawal symptoms in the newborn. If administered during childbirth, oxycodone may evoke respiratory depression in the newborn. ***Targin***® should only be used during pregnancy if the benefit outweighs the possible risks to the unborn child or neonate.

Prolonged use of Targin® during pregnancy can result in neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome, which may be life-threatening if not recognized and treated. If opioid use is required for a prolonged period in a pregnant

woman, advise the patient of the risk of neonatal opioid withdrawal syndrome and ensure that appropriate treatment will be available.

Breastfeeding
Oxycodone passes into the breast milk. A milk-plasma concentration ratio of 3.4:1 was measured and oxycodone effects in the suckling infant are therefore conceivable. It is not known whether naloxone also passes into the breast milk. However, after use of ***Targin***® systemic naloxone levels are very low (refer to *Pharmacokinetic properties*).

A risk to the suckling child cannot be excluded in particular following intake of multiple doses of ***Targin***® by the breast-feeding mother.

Breast-feeding should be discontinued during treatment with ***Targin***®**.**

Fertility

There are no data with respect to fertility.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Targin® has moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. This is particularly likely at the beginning of treatment with ***Targin***®, after dose increase or product rotation and if ***Targin***® is combined with other CNS depressant agents. Patients stabilised on a specific dosage will not necessarily be restricted. Therefore, patients should consult with their physician as to whether driving or the use of machinery is permitted.

Patients being treated with ***Targin***® and presenting with somnolence and/or sudden sleep episodes must be informed to refrain from driving or engaging in activities where impaired alertness may put themselves or others at risk of serious injury or death (e.g. operating machines) until such recurrent episodes and somnolence have resolved (see also sections *Special Warnings and precautions for use , Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction*).

Undesirable effects

The following frequencies are the basis for assessing undesirable effects:
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)
Within each frequency grouping, undesirable effects are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Undesirable effects in the treatment of pain

Immune system disorders
Uncommon: Hypersensitivity

Metabolism and nutrition disorders
Common: Decreased appetite up to loss of appetite

Psychiatric disorders
Common: Insomnia
Uncommon: Abnormal thinking, anxiety, confusional state, depression, libido decreased, nervousness,

restlessness
Rare: Drug dependence (see *Special warnings and precautions for use*)
Not known: Euphoric mood, hallucination, nightmares, aggression

Nervous system disorders
Common: Dizziness, headache, somnolence

Uncommon: Convulsions (particularly in persons with epileptic disorder or predisposition to convulsions), disturbance in attention, dysgeusia, speech disorder, syncope, tremor, lethargy

Not known: Paraesthesia, sedation, sleep apnoea syndrome (see *Special warnings and precautions for use*)

Eye disorders
Uncommon: Visual impairment

Ear and labyrinth disorders
Common: Vertigo

Cardiac disorders
Uncommon: Angina pectoris in particular in patients with history of coronary artery disease, palpitations
Rare: Tachycardia

Vascular disorders
Common: Hot flush
Uncommon: Blood pressure decreased, blood pressure increased

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders
Uncommon: Dyspnoea, rhinorrhoea, cough
Rare: Yawning
Not known: Respiratory depression

Gastrointestinal disorders
Common: Abdominal pain, constipation, diarrhoea, dry mouth, dyspepsia, vomiting, nausea, flatulence
Uncommon: Abdominal distension
Rare: Tooth disorder
Not known: Eructation

Hepatobiliary disorders
Unommon: Hepatic enzymes increased, biliary colic

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders
Common: Pruritus, skin reactions, hyperhidrosis

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders
Uncommon: Muscle spasms, muscle twitching, myalgia

Renal and urinary disorders
Uncommon: Micturition urgency
Rare: Urinary retention

Reproductive system and breast disorders
Not known: Erectile dysfunction

General disorders and administration site conditions
Common: Asthenia, fatigue

Uncommon: Chest pain, chills, drug withdrawal syndrome, malaise, pain, peripheral oedema, thirst

Investigations
Uncommon: Weight decreased
Rare: Weight increased

Injury, poisoning and procedural complications
Uncommon: Injuries from accidents

For the active substance oxycodone hydrochloride, the following additional undesirable effects are known:
Due to its pharmacological properties, oxycodone hydrochloride may cause respiratory depression, miosis, bronchial spasm and spasms of nonstriated muscles as well as suppress the cough reflex.

Infections and infestations
Rare: Herpes simplex

Immune system disorders
Not known: Anaphylactic reaction

Metabolism and nutrition disorders
Uncommon: Dehydration
Rare: Increased appetite

Psychiatric disorders
Common: Altered mood and personality change, decreased activity, psychomotor hyperactivity, agitation
Uncommon: Agitation, perception disturbances (e.g. derealisation), reduced libido,drug dependence

Nervous system disorders
Uncommon: Concentration impaired, migraine, dysgeusia, hypertonia, involuntary muscle contractions, hypoaesthesia, abnormal coordination
Not known: Hyperalgesia

Ear and labyrinth disorders
Uncommon: Hearing impaired

Vascular disorders
Uncommon: Vasodilatation

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders
Uncommon: Dysphonia

Gastrointestinal disorders
Common: Hiccups
Uncommon: Dysphagia, ileus, mouth ulceration, stomatitis
Rare: Melaena, gingival bleeding
Not known: Dental caries

Hepatobiliary disorders
Not known: Cholestasis

Not known: Sphincter of Oddi dysfunction

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders
Uncommon: Dry skin
Rare: Urticaria

Renal and urinary disorders
Common: Dysuria

Reproductive system and breast disorders
Uncommon: Hypogonadism
Rare: Amenorrhoea

General disorders and administration site conditions

Uncommon: Oedema ,thirst, drug tolerance
Not known: Drug withdrawal syndrome neonatal

Overdose

Symptoms of intoxication

Depending on the history of the patient, an overdose of ***Targin***® may be manifested by symptoms that are either triggered by oxycodone (opioid receptor agonist) or by naloxone (opioid receptor antagonist). Symptoms of oxycodone overdose include miosis, respiratory depression, somnolence progressing to stupor, skeletal muscle flaccidity, bradycardia as well as hypotension. Coma, non-cardiogenic pulmonary oedema and circulatory failure may occur in more severe cases and may lead to a fatal outcome. Symptoms of a naloxone overdose alone are unlikely.

Therapy of intoxication
Withdrawal symptoms due to an overdose of naloxone should be treated symptomatically in a closely-supervised environment.

Clinical symptoms suggestive of an oxycodone overdose may be treated by the administration of opioid antagonists (e.g. naloxone hydrochloride 0.4-2 mg intravenously). Administration should be repeated at 2-3 minute intervals, as clinically necessary. It is also possible to apply an infusion of 2 mg naloxone hydrochloride in 500 ml of 0.9% sodium chloride or 5% dextrose (0.004 mg/ml naloxone). The infusion should be run at a rate aligned to the previously administered bolus doses and to the patient's response. Consideration may be given to gastric lavage.

Supportive measures (artificial ventilation, oxygen, vasopressors and fluid infusions) should be employed, as necessary, to manage the circulatory shock accompanying an overdose. Cardiac arrest or arrhythmias may require cardiac massage or defibrillation. Artificial ventilation should be applied if necessary. Fluid and electrolyte metabolism should be maintained.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Pharmacodynamic properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: Analgesics; Opioids; Natural opium alkaloids

ATC code: N02AA55

Mechanism of action
Oxycodone and naloxone have an affinity for kappa, mu and delta opiate receptors in the brain, spinal cord

and peripheral organs (e.g. intestine). Oxycodone acts as opioid-receptor agonist at these receptors and to the endogenous opioid receptors in the CNS. By contrast, naloxone is a pure antagonist acting on all types of opioid receptors.

Pharmacodynamic effects
Because of the pronounced first-pass metabolism, the bioavailability of naloxone upon oral administration is < 3%, therefore a clinically relevant systemic effect is unlikely. Due to the local competitive antagonism of the opioid receptor mediated oxycodone effect by naloxone in the gut, naloxone reduces the bowel function disorders that are typical for opioid treatment.

Clinical efficacy and safety
Opioids can influence the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal or gonadal axes. Among the changes observed are an increase of prolactin in the serum and a reduced level of cortisol and testosterone in the plasma. Clinical symptoms may occur because of these hormone changes.

Preclinical studies show differing effects of natural opioids on components of the immune system. The clinical significance of these findings is not known. It is not known whether oxycodone, a semi-synthetic opioid, has similar effects on the immune system to natural opioids.

Analgesia
In a 12 weeks parallel group double-blinded study in 322 patients with opioid-induced constipation, patients who were treated with oxycodone hydrochloride - naloxone hydrochloride had on average one extra complete spontaneous (without laxatives) bowel movement in the last week of treatment, compared to patients who continued using similar doses of oxycodone hydrochloride prolonged release tablets ($p<0.0001$). The use of laxatives in the first four weeks was significantly lower in the oxycodone-naloxone group compared to the oxycodone monotherapy group (31% versus 55%, respectively, $p<0.0001$). Similar results were shown in a study with 265 non-cancer patients comparing daily doses of oxycodone hydrochloride/naloxone hydrochloride of 60 mg/30 mg to up to 80 mg/40 mg with oxycodone hydrochloride monotherapy in the same dose range.

Similar results were established in a five weeks, randomised, double-blind, confirmatory clinical Phase III study in 243 patients suffering from non-malignant or malignant pain and constipation caused/aggravated by opioids assessing daily doses up to 160 mg oxycodone PR. The study demonstrated a clinically relevant and statistically significant improvement of symptoms of constipation as measured by the Bowel Function Index (BFI) in subjects taking oxycodone hydrochloride - naloxone hydrochloride compared to subjects taking oxycodone hydrochloride prolonged release tablet (OxyPR), and similar analgesic efficacy. This result was further confirmed by the secondary efficacy analyses. The number of bowel movements, and particularly of complete spontaneous bowel movements (CSBM) increased significantly ($p<0.0001$ over the complete Double-blind Phase and $p=0.0006$ at week 5) in the oxycodone hydrochloride - naloxone hydrochloride group compared to the OxyPR group and stool consistency, as measured by the Bristol Stool Form Scale showed a shift towards optimum stool consistency types. This improvement in bowel function in the oxycodone hydrochloride - naloxone hydrochloride group was achieved with a significantly reduced intake in laxative rescue medication in daily dose as well as frequency of intakes ($p=0.0060$ for mean daily dose and 0.0057 for frequency at week 5).

Pharmacokinetic properties

Oxycodone hydrochloride

Absorption
Oxycodone has a high absolute bioavailability of up to 87% following oral administration.

Distribution
Following absorption, oxycodone is distributed throughout the entire body. Approximately 45% is bound to plasma protein. Oxycodone crosses the placenta and may be detected in breast milk.

Biotransformation
Oxycodone is metabolized in the gut and the liver to noroxycodone and oxymorphone and to various glucuronide conjugates. Noroxycodone, oxymorphone and noroxymorphone are produced via the cytochrome P450 system. Quinidine reduces the production of oxymorphone in man without substantially influencing the pharmacodynamics of oxycodone. The contribution of the metabolites to overall pharmacodynamic effect is insignificant.

Elimination
Oxycodone and its metabolites are excreted in both urine and faeces.

Naloxone hydrochloride

Absorption

Following oral administration, naloxone has a very low systemic availability of <3%.

Distribution
Naloxone passes into the placenta. It is not known, whether naloxone also passes into breast milk.

Biotransformation and Elimination
After parenteral administration, the plasma half-life is approximately one hour. The duration of action depends upon the dose and route of administration, intramuscular injection producing a more prolonged effect than intravenous doses. It is metabolised in the liver and excreted in the urine. The principal metabolites are naloxone glucuronide, 6□-Naloxol and its glucuronide.

Oxycodone hydrochloride/ naloxone hydrochloride combination (*Targin*®)

Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationships

The pharmacokinetic characteristics of oxycodone from ***Targin***® is equivalent to those of prolonged-release oxycodone hydrochloride tablets administered together with prolonged-release naloxone hydrochloride tablets.

All dosage strengths of ***Targin***® are interchangeable.

After the oral administration of ***Targin***® in maximum dose to healthy subjects, the plasma concentrations of naloxone are so low that it is not feasible to carry out a pharmacokinetic analysis. To conduct a pharmacokinetic analysis naloxone-3-glucuronide as surrogate marker is used, since its plasma concentration is high enough to measure.

Overall, following ingestion of a high-fat breakfast, the bioavailability and peak plasma concentration (Cmax) of oxycodone were increased by an average of 16% and 30% respectively compared to administration in the fasting state. This was evaluated as clinically not relevant, therefore ***Targin***® prolonged-release tablets may be taken with or without food (refer to *Posology and method of administration*).

In vitro drug metabolism studies have indicated that the occurrence of clinically relevant interactions involving ***Targin***® *is* unlikely.

Elderly patients Oxycodone: For AUC_T of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 118% (90% C.I.: 103, 135), for elderly compared with younger volunteers. For C_{max} of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 114% (90% C.I.: 102, 127). For C_{min} of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 128% (90% C.I.: 107, 152).

Naloxone: For AUC_T of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 182% (90% C.I.: 123, 270), for elderly compared with younger volunteers. For C_{max} of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 173% (90% C.I.: 107, 280). For C_{min} of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 317% (90% C.I.: 142, 708). Naloxone-3-glucuronide: For AUC_T of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 128% (90% C.I.: 113, 147), for elderly compared with younger volunteers. For C_{max} of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 127% (90% C.I.: 112, 144). For C_{min} of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 125% (90% C.I.: 105, 148).

Patients with impaired hepatic function
Oxycodone: For AUC_{INF} of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 143% (90% C.I.: 111, 184), 319% (90% C.I.: 248, 411) and 310% (90% C.I.: 241, 398) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For C_{max} of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 120% (90% C.I.: 99, 144), 201% (90% C.I.: 166, 242) and 191% (90% C.I.: 158, 231) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For $t_{1/2Z}$ of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 108% (90% C.I.: 70, 146), 176% (90% C.I.: 138, 215) and 183% (90% C.I.: 145, 221) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired

subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers.
Naloxone: For AUC_t of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 411% (90% C.I.: 152, 1112), 11518% (90% C.I.: 4259, 31149) and 10666% (90% C.I.: 3944, 28847) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For C_{max} of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 193% (90% C.I.: 115, 324), 5292% (90% C.I: 3148, 8896) and 5252% (90% C.I.: 3124, 8830) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. Due to insufficient amount of data available $t_{1/2z}$ and the corresponding AUC_{INF} of naloxone were not calculated. The bioavailability comparisons for naloxone were therefore based on AUC_t values.
Naloxone-3-glucuronide: For AUC_{INF} of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 157% (90% C.I.: 89, 279), 128% (90% C.I.: 72, 227) and 125% (90% C.I.: 71, 222) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For C_{max} of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 141% (90% C.I.: 100, 197), 118% (90% C.I.: 84, 166) and a decrease to 98% (90% C.I.: 70, 137) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For $t_{1/2z}$ of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 117% (90% C.I.: 72, 161), a decrease to 77% (90% C.I.: 32, 121) and a decrease to 94% (90% C.I.: 49, 139) for mild, moderate and severe hepatically impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers.

Patients with impaired renal function

Oxycodone: For AUC_{INF} of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 153% (90% C..: 130, 182), 166% (90% C.I.: 140, 196) and 224% (90% C.I.: 190, 266) for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For C_{max} of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 110% (90% C.I.: 94, 129), 135% (90% C.I.: 115, 159) and 167% (90% C.I.: 142, 196) for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For $t_{1/2z}$ of oxycodone, on average there was an increase to 149%, 123% and 142% for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers.

Naloxone: For AUC_t of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 2850% (90% C.I.: 369, 22042), 3910% (90% C.I.: 506, 30243) and 7612% (90% C.I.: 984, 58871) for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. For C_{max} of naloxone, on average there was an increase to 1076% (90% C.l.: 154, 7502), 858% (90% C.I.: 123, 5981) and 1675% (90% C.I.: 240, 11676) for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy volunteers. Due to insufficient amount of data available $t_{1/2Z}$ and the corresponding AUC_{INF} of naloxone were not calculated. The bioavailability comparisons for naloxone were therefore based on AUC_t values. The ratios may have been influenced by the inability to fully characterize the naloxone plasma profiles for the healthy subjects.

Naloxone-3-glucuronide: For AUC_{INF} of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 220% (90% C.I.: 148, 327), 370% (90% C.I.: 249, 550) and 525% (90% C.I.: 354, 781) for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy subjects. For C_{max} of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was an increase to 148% (90% C.I.: 110, 197), 202% (90% C.I.: 151, 271) and 239% (90% C.I.: 179, 320) for mild, moderate and severe renally impaired subjects, respectively, compared with healthy subjects. For $t_{1/2z}$ of naloxone-3-glucuronide, on average there was no significant change between the renally impaired subjects and the healthy subjects.

Abuse

To avoid damage to the prolonged-release properties of the tablets, ***Targin***® must not be broken, crushed or chewed, as this leads to a rapid release of the active substances. In addition, naloxone has a slower elimination rate when administered intranasally. Both properties mean that abuse of ***Targin***® will not have the effect intended. In oxycodone-dependent rats, the intravenous administration of oxycodone hydrochloride / naloxone hydrochloride at a ratio of 2:1 resulted in withdrawal symptoms.

Preclinical safety data

There are no data from studies on reproductive toxicity of the combination of oxycodone and naloxone. Studies with the single components showed that oyxcodone had no effect on fertility and early embryonic

development in male and female rats in doses of up to 8 mg/kg body weight and induced no malformations in rats in doses of up to 8 mg/kg and in rabbits in doses of 125 mg/kg bodyweight. However, in rabbits, when individual foetuses were used in statistical evaluation, a dose related increase in developmental variations was observed (increased incidences of 27 presacral vertebrae, extra pairs of ribs). When these parameters were statistically evaluated using litters, only the incidence of 27 presacral vertebrae was increased and only in the 125 mg/kg group, a dose level that produced severe pharmacotoxic effects in the pregnant animals. In a study on pre- and postnatal development in rats F1 body weights were lower at 6 mg/kg/d when compared to body weights of the control group at doses which reduced maternal weight and food intake (NOAEL 2 mg/kg body weight). There were neither effects on physical, reflexological, and sensory developmental parameters nor on behavioural and reproductive indices. The standard oral reproduction toxicity studies with naloxone show that at high oral doses naloxone was not teratogenic and/or embryo/foetotoxic, and does not affect perinatal/postnatal development. At very high doses (800 mg/kg/day) naloxone produced increased pup deaths in the immediate post-partum period at dosages that produced significant toxicity in maternal rats (e.g. body weight loss, convulsions). However, in surviving pups, no effects on development or behaviour were observed.

Long-term carcinogenicity studies with oxycodone/naloxone in combination or oxycodone as a single entity have not been performed. For naloxone, a 24-months oral carcinogenicity study was performed in rats with naloxone doses up to 100 mg/kg/day. The results indicate that naloxone is not carcinogenic under these conditions.

Oxycodone and naloxone as single entities show a clastogenic potential in *in vitro* assays. No similar effects were observed, however, under *in vivo* conditions, even at toxic doses. The results indicate that the mutagenic risk of ***Targin***® to humans at therapeutic concentrations may be ruled out with adequate certainty.

PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

List of excipients

Targin® 5 mg/2.5 mg
Tablet core:
Hydroxylpropylcellulose
Ethylcellulose,
Stearyl alcohol,
Lactose monohydrate,
Talc,
Magnesium stearate

Tablet coat:
Poly(vinylalcohol), partially hydrolysed
Titanium dioxide (E171),
Macrogol 3350,
Talc
Brilliant Blue FCF aluminium lake (E133)

Targin® *10 mg/5 mg*
Tablet core:
Ethylcellulose,
Stearyl alcohol,
Lactose monohydrate,
Talc,
Magnesium stearate
Povidone K30

Tablet coat:
Poly(vinylalcohol), partially hydrolysed

Titanium dioxide (E171),
Macrogol 3350,
Talc

Targin® *20 mg/10 mg*
Tablet core:
Ethylcellulose,
Stearyl alcohol,
Lactose monohydrate,
Talc,
Magnesium stearate
Povidone K30

Tablet coat:
Poly(vinylalcohol), partially hydrolysed
Titanium dioxide (E171),
Macrogol 3350,
Talc
Iron oxide red (E172)

Targin® *40 mg/20 mg*
Tablet core:
Ethylcellulose,
Stearyl alcohol,
Lactose monohydrate,
Talc,
Magnesium stearate
Povidone K30

Tablet coat:
Poly(vinylalcohol), partially hydrolysed
Titanium dioxide (E171),
Macrogol 3350,
Talc
Iron oxide yellow (E172)

Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

Shelf Life

3 years

Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 30°C.

Nature and contents of container

Aluminium/aluminium foil blisters containing 28 prolonged release tablets

Special precautions for disposal

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

MANUFACTURED BY:

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MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

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DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

March 2021

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