1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 25 mg hard capsules
PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 50 mg hard capsules
PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 75 mg hard capsules
PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 150 mg hard capsules

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each hard capsule contains 25 mg pregabalin.
Each hard capsule contains 50 mg pregabalin.
Each hard capsule contains 75 mg pregabalin.
Each hard capsule contains 150 mg pregabalin.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Hard capsule

PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 25 mg
Size '4', hard gelatin capsule having white opaque cap and white opaque body, imprinted '1358' on cap and '25' on body with black ink containing white to off-white powder.

PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 50 mg
Size '3', hard gelatin capsule having white opaque cap and white opaque body, imprinted '1359' on cap and '50' on body with black ink containing white to off-white powder.

PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 75 mg
Size '4', hard gelatin capsule having orange opaque cap and white opaque body, imprinted '1360' on cap and '75' on body with black ink containing white to off-white powder.

PREGABALIN ALVOGEN 150 mg
Size '1', hard gelatin capsule having white opaque cap and white opaque body, imprinted '1362' on cap and '150' on body with black ink containing white to off-white powder.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Neuropathic pain
Pregabalin is indicated for the treatment of neuropathic pain which includes diabetic peripheral neuropathy and post-herpetic neuralgia in adults.

Epilepsy
Pregabalin is indicated as adjunctive therapy in adults with partial seizures with or without secondary generalisation.

Generalised Anxiety Disorder
Pregabalin is indicated for the treatment of Generalised Anxiety Disorder (GAD) in adults.

Fibromyalgia
Pregabalin is indicated for the management of fibromyalgia.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology
The dose range is 150 to 600 mg per day given in either two or three divided doses.

Pregabalin may be taken with or without food.

Neuropathic pain
Pregabalin treatment can be started at a dose of 150 mg per day. Based on individual patient response and tolerability, the dosage may be increased to 300 mg per day after an interval of 3 to 7 days, and if needed, to a maximum dose of 600 mg per day after an additional 7-day interval.

Epilepsy
Pregabalin treatment can be started with a dose of 150 mg per day given as two or three divided doses. Based on individual patient response and tolerability, the dose may be increased to 300 mg per day after 1 week. The maximum dose of 600 mg per day may be achieved after an additional week.

Generalised Anxiety Disorder
The dose range is 150 to 600 mg per day given as two or three divided doses. The need for treatment should be reassessed regularly.

Pregabalin treatment can be started with a dose of 150 mg per day. Based on individual patient response and tolerability, the dose may be increased to 300 mg per day after 1 week. Following an additional week the dose may be increased to 450 mg per day. The maximum dose of 600 mg per day may be achieved after an additional week.

Fibromyalgia
The recommended dose of pregabalin is 300 to 450 mg per day. Dosing should begin at 75 mg two times a day (150 mg per day) and may be increased to 150 mg two times a day (300 mg per day) within 1 week based on efficacy and tolerability. Patients who do not experience sufficient benefit with 300 mg per day may be further increased to 225 mg two times a day (450 mg per day). Although pregabalin was also studied at 600 mg per day, there is no evidence that this dose confers additional benefit and that this dose was less tolerated.

In view of the dose-dependent adverse reactions, treatment with doses above 450 mg per day is not recommended.

Discontinuation of pregabalin
In accordance with current clinical practice, if pregabalin has to be discontinued it is recommended this should be done gradually over a minimum of 1 week independent of the indication (see sections 4.4 and 4.8).

Patients with renal impairment
Pregabalin is eliminated from the systemic circulation primarily by renal excretion as unchanged drug. As pregabalin clearance is directly proportional to creatinine clearance (see section 5.2), dose reduction in patients with compromised renal function must be individualised according to creatinine clearance (CLcr), as indicated in Table 1 determined using the following formula:

$$\text{CLcr (ml/min)} = \left(\frac{1.23 \times [140 - \text{age (years)}] \times \text{weight (kg)}}{\text{serum creatinine (µmol/l)}} \right) (\times 0.85 \text{ for female patients})$$

Pregabalin is removed effectively from plasma by haemodialysis (50% of drug in 4 hours). For patients receiving haemodialysis, the pregabalin daily dose should be adjusted based on renal function.

In addition to the daily dose, a supplementary dose should be given immediately following every 4-hour haemodialysis treatment (see Table 1).

Table 1
Pregabalin dose adjustment based on renal function

Creatinine clearance (CLcr) (ml/min)	***Total pregabalin daily dose ****		***Dose regimen***
	Starting dose (mg/day)	Maximum dose (mg/day)	
≥ 60	150	600	BID or TID
≥30 - <60	75	300	BID or TID
≥15 - <30	25 – 50	150	Once Daily or BID
< 15	25	75	Once Daily
Supplementary dose following haemodialysis (mg)			
	25	100	Single dose+

TID = Three divided doses
BID = Two divided doses
***** Total daily dose (mg/day) should be divided as indicated by dose regimen to provide mg/dose
+ Supplementary dose is a single additional dose

Patients with hepatic impairment
No dose adjustment is required for patients with hepatic impairment (see section 5.2).

Paediatric population
The safety and efficacy of pregabalin in children below the age of 12 years and in adolescents (12-17 years of age) have not been established. No data are available.

Elderly (over 65 years of age) population
Elderly patients may require a dose reduction of pregabalin due to a decreased renal function (see patients with renal impairment).

Method of administration
Pregabalin may be taken with or without food.
Pregabalin is for oral use only.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Diabetic patients
In accordance with current clinical practice, some diabetic patients who gain weight on pregabalin treatment may need to adjust hypoglycaemic medicinal products.

Hypersensitivity reactions
There have been reports in the postmarketing experience of hypersensitivity reactions, including cases of angioedema. Pregabalin should be discontinued immediately if symptoms of angioedema, such as facial, perioral, or upper airway swelling occur.

Dizziness, somnolence, loss of consciousness, confusion, and mental impairment
Pregabalin treatment has been associated with dizziness and somnolence, which could increase the occurrence of accidental injury (fall) in the elderly population. There have also been post-marketing reports of loss of consciousness, confusion and mental impairment. Therefore, patients should be advised to exercise caution until they are familiar with the potential effects of the medicinal product.

Vision-related effects
In controlled trials, a higher proportion of patients treated with pregabalin reported blurred vision than did patients treated with placebo which resolved in a majority of cases with continued dosing. In the clinical studies where ophthalmologic testing was conducted, the incidence of visual acuity reduction and visual field changes was greater in pregabalin-treated patients than in placebo-treated patients; the incidence of fundoscopic changes was greater in placebo-treated patients (see section 5.1).

In the post-marketing experience, visual adverse reactions have also been reported, including loss of vision, visual blurring or other changes of visual acuity, many of which were transient. Discontinuation of pregabalin may result in resolution or improvement of these visual symptoms.

Renal failure
Cases of renal failure have been reported and in some cases discontinuation of pregabalin did show reversibility of this adverse reaction.

Withdrawal of concomitant antiepileptic medicinal products
There are insufficient data for the withdrawal of concomitant antiepileptic medicinal products, once seizure control with pregabalin in the add-on situation has been reached, in order to reach monotherapy on pregabalin.

Withdrawal symptoms
After discontinuation of short-term and long-term treatment with pregabalin withdrawal symptoms have been observed in some patients. The following events have been mentioned: insomnia, headache, nausea, anxiety, diarrhoea, flu syndrome, nervousness, depression, pain, convulsion, hyperhidrosis and dizziness, suggestive of physical dependence. The patient should be informed about this at the start of the treatment.

Convulsions, including status epilepticus and grand mal convulsions, may occur during pregabalin use or shortly after discontinuing pregabalin.

Concerning discontinuation of long-term treatment of pregabalin, data suggest that the incidence and severity of withdrawal symptoms may be dose-related.

Congestive heart failure
There have been post-marketing reports of congestive heart failure in some patients receiving pregabalin. These reactions are mostly seen in elderly cardiovascular compromised patients during pregabalin treatment for a neuropathic indication. Pregabalin should be used with caution in these patients. Discontinuation of pregabalin may resolve the reaction.

Creatine kinase elevations
Treatment with pregabalin was associated with creatine kinase elevations. Mean changes in creatine kinase from baseline to the maximum values were 60 U/L for pregabalin-treated patients and 28 U/L for the placebo patients. In all controlled trials across multiple patient populations, 2% of patients on pregabalin and 1% of placebo patients had a value of creatine kinase at least three times the upper limit of normal. Three pregabalin-treated patients had events reported as rhabdomyolysis in pre-marketing clinical trials. The relationship between these myopathy events and pregabalin is not completely understood because the cases had documented factors that may have caused or contributed to these events. Pregabalin should be discontinued if myopathy is diagnosed or suspected or if markedly elevated creatine kinase levels occur in the context of symptoms of myopathy.

Suicidal ideation and behaviour
Suicidal ideation and behaviour have been reported in patients treated with anti-epileptic agents in several indications. A meta-analysis of randomised placebo controlled studies of anti-epileptic drugs has also shown a small increased risk of suicidal ideation and behaviour. The mechanism of this risk is not known and the available data do not exclude the possibility of an increased risk for pregabalin.

Therefore patients should be monitored for signs of suicidal ideation and behaviours and appropriate treatment should be considered. Patients (and caregivers of patients) should be advised to seek medical advice should signs of suicidal ideation or behaviour emerge.

Reduced lower gastrointestinal tract function
There are post-marketing reports of events related to reduced lower gastrointestinal tract function (e.g., intestinal obstruction, paralytic ileus, constipation) when pregabalin was co-administered with medications that have the potential to produce constipation, such as opioid analgesics. When pregabalin and opioids will be used in combination, measures to prevent constipation may be considered (especially in female patients and elderly).

Concomitant use with opioids
Caution is advised when prescribing pregabalin concomitantly with opioids due to risk of CNS depression (see section 4.5). In a case-control study of opioid users, those patients who took pregabalin concomitantly with an opioid had an increased risk for opioid-related death compared to opioid use alone (adjusted odds ratio [aOR], 1.68 [95% CI, 1.19 – 2.36]). This increased risk was observed at low doses of pregabalin (≤ 300 mg, aOR 1.52 [95% CI, 1.04 – 2.22]) and there was a trend for a greater risk at high doses of pregabalin (> 300 mg, aOR 2.51 [95% CI 1.24 – 5.06]).

There is evidence from case reports, human studies, and animal studies associating pregabalin with serious, life-threatening, or fatal respiratory depression when co-administered with CNS depressants, including opioids, or in the setting of underlying respiratory impairment. When the decision is made to co-prescribe pregabalin with another CNS depressant, particularly an opioid, or to prescribe pregabalin to patients with underlying respiratory impairment, monitor patients for symptoms of respiratory depression and sedation, and consider initiating pregabalin at a low dose. The management of respiratory depression may include close observation, supportive measures, and reduction or withdrawal of CNS depressants (including pregabalin).

There is more limited evidence from case reports, animal studies, and human studies associating pregabalin with serious respiratory depression, without co-administered CNS depressants or without underlying respiratory impairment. Patients with renal impairment might be at higher risk of experiencing this severe adverse reaction.

Misuse, abuse potential or dependence
Cases of misuse, abuse and dependence have been reported. Caution should be exercised in patients with a history of substance abuse and the patient should be monitored for symptoms of pregabalin misuse, abuse or dependence (development of tolerance, dose escalation, drug-seeking behaviour have been reported).

Encephalopathy
Cases of encephalopathy have been reported, mostly in patients with underlying conditions that may precipitate encephalopathy.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Since pregabalin is predominantly excreted unchanged in the urine, undergoes negligible metabolism in humans (< 2% of a dose recovered in urine as metabolites), does not inhibit drug metabolism *in vitro*, and is not bound to plasma proteins, it is unlikely to produce, or be subject to, pharmacokinetic interactions.

In vivo studies and population pharmacokinetic analysis
Accordingly, in *in vivo* studies no clinically relevant pharmacokinetic interactions were observed between pregabalin and phenytoin, carbamazepine, valproic acid, lamotrigine, gabapentin, lorazepam, oxycodone or ethanol. Population pharmacokinetic analysis indicated that oral antidiabetics, diuretics, insulin, phenobarbital, tiagabine and topiramate had no clinically significant effect on pregabalin clearance.

Oral contraceptives, norethisterone and/or ethinyl oestradiol
Co-administration of pregabalin with the oral contraceptives norethisterone and/or ethinyl oestradiol does not influence the steady-state pharmacokinetics of either substance.

CNS influencing medical products
Pregabalin may potentiate the effects of ethanol and lorazepam. In controlled clinical trials, multiple oral doses of pregabalin co-administered with oxycodone, lorazepam, or ethanol did not result in clinically important effects on respiration. In the postmarketing experience, there are reports of respiratory failure and coma in patients taking pregabalin and opioids and/or other CNS depressant medicinal products. Pregabalin appears to be additive in the impairment of cognitive and gross motor function caused by oxycodone.

In the post-marketing experience, there are reports of respiratory failure, coma and deaths in patients taking pregabalin and other CNS depressant medications, including in patients who are substance abusers.

Interactions and the elderly
No specific pharmacodynamic interaction studies were conducted in elderly volunteers. Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Women of childbearing potential/Contraception in males and females
As the potential risk for humans is unknown, effective contraception must be used in women of child bearing potential.

Pregnancy
There is a limited amount of data on the use of pregabalin in pregnant women. Data from an observational study, which included more than 2,700 pregnancies exposed to pregabalin based on routinely collected data from administrative and medical registers in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden, is as follows:

Major congenital malformations (MCM)
The risk of MCM among the paediatric population exposed to pregabalin in the first trimester was slightly higher compared to unexposed population (adjusted prevalence ratio and 95% confidence interval: 1.14 (0.96-1.35)), and compared to population exposed to lamotrigine (1.29 (1.01-1.65)) or to duloxetine (1.39 (1.07- 1.82)).

Birth and post-natal neurodevelopmental outcomes
There were no statistically significant findings for stillbirth, low birth weight, preterm birth, small for gestational age (SGA), low Apgar score at 5 minutes, and microcephaly. Adjusted prevalence ratios (aPRs, and 95% confidence intervals) results for the meta-analysis for stillbirth, low birth weight, preterm birth, SGA, low Apgar score at 5 minutes, and microcephaly for pregabalin-exposed compared to unexposed to antiepileptic drugs (AEDs) of 1.72 (1.02-2.91), 1.05 (0.91-1.21), 1.13 (0.99-1.29), 1.21 (1.01-1.44), 1.18 (0.95-1.48), and 1.09 (0.88-1.36) respectively.

In paediatric population exposed in utero, the study did not provide evidence of an increased risk for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), autism spectrum disorders (ASD), and intellectual disabilities (ID). In the meta-analyses of the neurodevelopmental outcomes (ADHD, ASD, and ID), results for ADHD, ASD, and ID for pregabalin-exposed compared to unexposed to AEDs were 1.32 (1.04-1.67), 1.00 (0.68-1.47), and 1.03 (0.80-1.32) respectively.

Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity. Pregabalin should not be used during pregnancy unless the benefit to the mother clearly outweighs the potential risk to the foetus. Effective contraception must be used in women of child-bearing potential.

Breast-feeding

Pregabalin is excreted in the milk of lactating women. As the safety of pregabalin in infants is not known, breast-feeding is not recommended during treatment with pregabalin. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breastfeeding or to discontinue from pregabalin therapy taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Fertility
There are no clinical data on the effects of pregabalin on female fertility.

In a clinical trial to assess the effect of pregabalin on sperm motility, healthy male subjects were exposed to pregabalin at a dose of 600 mg/day. After 3 months of treatment, there were no effects on sperm motility.

A fertilty study in female rats has shown adverse reproductive effects. Fertility studies in male rats have shown adverse reproductive and developmental effects. The clinical relevance of these findings is unknown (see section 5.3).

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Pregabalin may have minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines. Pregabalin may cause dizziness and somnolence and therefore may influence the ability to drive or use machines. Patients are advised not to drive, operate complex machinery or engage in other potentially hazardous activities until it is known whether this medicinal product affects their ability to perform these activities.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The pregabalin clinical program involved over 12,000 patients who were exposed to pregabalin, of whom over 7000 were in double-blind placebo controlled trials. The most commonly reported adverse reactions were dizziness and somnolence. Adverse reactions were usually mild to moderate in intensity. In all controlled studies, the discontinuation rate due to adverse reactions was 14% for patients receiving pregabalin and 5% for patients receiving placebo. The most common adverse reactions resulting in discontinuation from pregabalin treatment groups were dizziness and somnolence.
Selected adverse drug reactions that were treatment related in the pooled analysis of clinical trials, are listed in the table below by System Organ Class (SOC). The frequency of these terms has been based on all-causality adverse drug reactions in the clinical trial data set (very common (≥1/10), common (≥1/100, <1/10), uncommon (≥1/1000, <1/100) and rare (<1/1000)).

The adverse reactions listed may also be associated with the underlying disease and/or concomitant medicinal products.

MedDRA SOC	***Frequency***	***Undesirable effect***
Infections and infestations	Common	Nasopharyngitis
Blood and lymphatic system disorders	Uncommon	Neutropenia
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	Common	Appetite increased
	Uncommon	Anorexia, hypoglycaemia
Psychiatric disorders	Common	Euphoric mood, confusion, irritability, depression, disorientation, insomnia, libido decreased

	Uncommon	Hallucination, restlessness, agitation, depressed mood, elevated mood, mood swings, depersonalization, abnormal dreams, word finding difficulty, libido increased, anorgasmia
	Rare	Panic attack, disinhibition, apathy
Nervous system disorders	Very Common	Dizziness, somnolence
	Common	Ataxia, co-ordination abnormal, tremor, dysarthria, amnesia, memory impairment, disturbance in attention, paraesthesia, hypoesthesia, sedation, balance disorder, lethargy
	Uncommon	Syncope, myoclonus, psychomotor hyperactivity, dyskinesia, dizziness postural, intention tremor, nystagmus, cognitive disorder, speech disorder, hyporeflexia, hyperaesthesia, burning sensation
	Rare	Stupor, parosmia, hypokinesia, ageusia, dysgraphia
Eye disorders	Common	Vision blurred, diplopia
	Uncommon	Peripheral vision loss, visual disturbance, eye swelling, visual field defect, visual acuity reduced, eye pain, asthenopia, photopsia, dry eye, lacrimation increased, eye irritation
	Rare	Oscillopsia, altered visual depth perception, mydriasis, strabismus, visual brightness
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Common	Vertigo
	Uncommon	Hyperacusis
Cardiac disorders	Uncommon	Tachycardia, atrioventricular block first degree, sinus bradycardia
	Rare	Sinus tachycardia, sinus arrhythmia
Vascular disorders	Uncommon	Hypotension, hypertension, hot flushes, flushing, peripheral coldness
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Uncommon	Dyspnoea, epistaxis, cough, nasal congestion, rhinitis, snoring
	Rare	Throat tightness, nasal dryness

Gastrointestinal disorders	Common	Vomiting, constipation, flatulence, abdominal distension, dry mouth
	Uncommon	Gastrooesophageal reflux disease, salivary hypersecretion, hypoaesthesia oral
	Rare	Ascites, pancreatitis, dysphagia
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Uncommon	Rash papular, urticaria, sweating
	Rare	Cold sweat, Stevens-Johnson syndrome
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	Common	Muscle cramp, arthralgia, back pain, pain in limb, cervical spasm
	Uncommon	Joint swelling, myalgia, muscle twitching, neck pain, muscle stiffness
	Rare	Rhabdomyolysis
Renal and urinary disorders	Uncommon	Urinary incontinence, dysuria
	Rare	Renal failure, oliguria
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Uncommon	Erectile dysfunction, sexual dysfunction, ejaculation delayed, dysmenorrhoea
	Rare	Breast pain, amenorrhoea, breast discharge, breast enlargement
General disorders and administration site conditions	Common	Oedema peripheral, oedema, gait abnormal, fall, feeling drunk, feeling abnormal, fatigue
	Uncommon	Generalised oedema, chest tightness, pain, pyrexia, thirst, chills, asthenia
Investigations	Common	Weight increased
	Uncommon	Blood creatine phosphokinase increased, alanine aminotransferase increased, aspartate aminotransferase increased, blood glucose increased, platelet count decreased, blood potassium decreased, weight decreased
	Rare	White blood cell count decreased, blood creatinine increased

The following adverse drug reactions were reported during POST-MARKETING SURVEILLANCE:

Immune system disorder: Uncommon: Hypersensitivity; Rare: Angioedema, allergic reaction

Nervous system disorders: Very Common: Headache; Uncommon: Loss of consciousness, mental impairment

Eye disorders: Rare: Keratitis§

Cardiac disorders: Rare: Congestive heart failure

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: Rare: Pulmonary oedema§

Gastrointestinal disorders: Common: Nausea, diarrhea; Rare: Swollen tongue

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Uncommon: Face swelling, pruritus

Renal and urinary disorders: Rare: Urinary retention

Reproductive system and breast disorders: Rare: Gynaecomastia§

General disorders and administration site conditions: Uncommon: Malaise

§ Adverse drug reaction frequency estimated using "The Rule of 3".

4.9 Overdose

In the post-marketing experience, the most commonly reported adverse reactions observed when pregabalin was taken in overdose included affective disorder, somnolence, confusional state, depression, agitation, and restlessness. Seizures were also reported.

In rare occasions, cases of coma have been reported.

Treatment of pregabalin overdose should include general supportive measures and may include haemodialysis if necessary (see section 4.2 Table 1).

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antiepileptics, other antiepileptics, ATC code: N03AX16

The active substance, pregabalin, is a gamma-aminobutyric acid analogue ((S)-3-(aminomethyl)-5-methylhexanoic acid).

Mechanism of action
Pregabalin binds to an auxiliary subunit (α2-δ protein) of voltage-gated calcium channels in the central nervous system.

Clinical efficacy and safety

Neuropathic pain
Efficacy has been shown in studies in diabetic neuropathy and post-herpetic neuralgia. Efficacy has not been studied in other models of neuropathic pain.

Pregabalin has been studied in 9 controlled clinical studies of up to 13 weeks with twice a day dosing and up to 8 weeks with three times a day dosing. Overall, the safety and efficacy profiles for twice a day and three times a day dosing regimens were similar.

In clinical trials up to 13 weeks, a reduction in pain was seen by Week 1 and was maintained throughout the treatment period.

In controlled clinical trials 35% of the pregabalin treated patients and 18% of the patients on placebo had a 50% improvement in pain score. For patients, not experiencing somnolence, such an improvement was observed in 33% of patients treated with pregabalin and 18% of patients on placebo. For patients who experienced somnolence the responder rates were 48% on pregabalin and 16% on placebo.

Epilepsy Adjunctive Treatment
Pregabalin has been studied in 3 controlled clinical trials of 12 week duration with either twice a day dosing (BID) or three times a day (TID) dosing. Overall, the safety and efficacy profiles for BID and TID dosing regimens were similar.

A reduction in seizure frequency was observed by Week 1.

Generalised Anxiety Disorder
Pregabalin has been studied in 6 controlled trials of 4-6 week duration, an elderly study of 8 week duration and a long-term relapse prevention study with a double blind relapse prevention phase of 6 months duration.

Relief of the symptoms of GAD as reflected by the Hamilton Anxiety Rating Scale (HAM-A) was observed by Week 1.

In controlled clinical trials (4-8 week duration) 52% of the pregabalin treated patients and 38% of the patients on placebo had at least a 50% improvement in HAM-A total score from baseline to endpoint.

In controlled trials, a higher proportion of patients treated with pregabalin reported blurred vision than did patients treated with placebo which resolved in a majority of cases with continued dosing. Ophthamologic testing (including visual acuity testing, formal visual field testing and dilated funduscopic examination) was conducted in over 3600 patients within controlled clinical trials. In these patients, visual acuity was reduced in 6.5% of patients treated with pregabalin, and 4.8% of placebo-treated patients. Visual field changes were detected in 12.4% of pregabalin-treated, and 11.7% of placebo-treated patients. Funduscopic changes were observed in 1.7% of pregabalin-treated and 2.1% of placebo-treated patients.

Fibromyalgia
Pregabalin as monotherapy has been studied in 5 placebo-controlled studies, three of 12 weeks fixed-dose duration, one of 7 weeks fixed-dose duration, and a 6-month study demonstrating long-term efficacy. Pregabalin treatment in all fixed-dose studies produced a significant reduction in pain associated with fibromyalgia at doses from 300 to 600 mg per day (BID).

In the three 12-week fixed-dose studies, 40% of pregabalin-treated patients experienced a 30% or more improvement in pain score versus 28% of the patients on placebo; 23% of treated patients experienced a 50% or more improvement in pain score versus 15% of the patients on placebo.

Pregabalin produced significantly superior global assessment scores via the Patient Global Impression of Change (PGIC) in the three 12-week fixed-dose studies as compared to placebo treatment (41% patients feeling very much or much improved on pregabalin versus 29% on placebo). As measured by Fibromyalgia Impact Questionnaire (FIQ), pregabalin produced a statistically significant improvement in function versus placebo treatment in 2 out of the 3 fixed-dose studies in which it was evaluated.

Pregabalin treatment produced significant improvements in patient-reported sleep outcomes in the 4 fixed-dose studies as measured by Medical Outcomes Study Sleep Scale (MOS-SS) Sleep disturbance subscale, MOS-SS overall sleep problem index, and the daily sleep quality diary.

In the 6-month study, improvement in pain, global assessment (PGIC), function (FIQ total score) and sleep (MOS-SS Sleep disturbance subscale) were maintained for pregabalin-treated patients for a significantly longer period compared to placebo.

Pregabalin 600 mg per day showed an additional improvement in patient-reported sleep outcomes as compared to 300 and 450 mg per day; mean effects on pain, global assessment, and FIQ were similar at 450 and 600 mg per day, although the 600 mg per day dose was less well tolerated.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Pregabalin steady-state pharmacokinetics are similar in healthy volunteers and patients with epilepsy receiving anti-epileptic drugs.

Absorption
Pregabalin is rapidly absorbed when administered in the fasted state, with peak plasma concentrations occurring within 1 hour following both single and multiple dose administration. Pregabalin oral bioavailability is estimated to be ≥ 90% and is independent of dose. Following repeated administration, steady state is achieved within 24 to 48 hours. The rate of pregabalin absorption is decreased when given with food resulting in a decrease in C_{max} by approximately 25-30% and a delay in t_{max} to approximately 2.5 hours. However, administration of pregabalin with food has no clinically significant effect on the extent of pregabalin absorption.

Distribution
In preclinical studies, pregabalin has been shown to cross the blood brain barrier in mice, rats, and monkeys. Pregabalin has been shown to cross the placenta in rats and is present in the milk of lactating rats. In humans, the apparent volume of distribution of pregabalin following oral administration is approximately 0.56 l/kg. Pregabalin is not bound to plasma proteins.

Biotransformation
Pregabalin undergoes negligible metabolism in humans. Following a dose of radiolabelled pregabalin, approximately 98% of the radioactivity recovered in the urine was unchanged pregabalin. The N-methylated derivative of pregabalin, the major metabolite of pregabalin found in urine, accounted for 0.9% of the dose. In preclinical studies, there was no indication of racemisation of pregabalin S-enantiomer to the R-enantiomer.

Elimination
Pregabalin is eliminated from the systemic circulation primarily by renal excretion as unchanged drug. Pregabalin mean elimination half-life is 6.3 hours. Pregabalin plasma clearance and renal clearance are directly proportional to creatinine clearance (see section 5.2 Renal impairment).
Dose adjustment in patients with reduced renal function or undergoing haemodialysis is necessary (see section 4.2 Table 1).

Linearity/non-linearity
Pregabalin pharmacokinetics are linear over the recommended daily dose range. Inter-subject pharmacokinetic variability for pregabalin is low (< 20%). Multiple dose pharmacokinetics are predictable from single-dose data. Therefore, there is no need for routine monitoring of plasma concentrations of pregabalin.

Gender
Clinical trials indicate that gender does not have a clinically significant influence on the plasma concentrations of pregabalin.

Renal impairment
Pregabalin clearance is directly proportional to creatinine clearance. In addition, pregabalin is effectively removed from plasma by haemodialysis (following a 4 hour haemodialysis treatment plasma pregabalin concentrations are reduced by approximately 50%). Because renal elimination is the major elimination pathway, dose reduction in patients with renal impairment and dose supplementation following haemodialysis is necessary (see section 4.2 Table 1).

Hepatic impairment

No specific pharmacokinetic studies were carried out in patients with impaired liver function. Since pregabalin does not undergo significant metabolism and is excreted predominantly as unchanged drug in the urine, impaired liver function would not be expected to significantly alter pregabalin plasma concentrations.

Elderly (over 65 years of age)
Pregabalin clearance tends to decrease with increasing age. This decrease in pregabalin oral clearance is consistent with decreases in creatinine clearance associated with increasing age. Reduction of pregabalin dose may be required in patients who have age related compromised renal function (see section 4.2 Table 1).

Breast-feeding mothers
The pharmacokinetics of 150 mg pregabalin given every 12 hours (300 mg daily dose) was evaluated in 10 lactating women who were at least 12 weeks post-partum. Lactation had little to no influence on pregabalin pharmacokinetics. Pregabalin was excreted into breast milk with average steady-state concentrations approximately 76% of those in maternal plasma. The estimated average daily infant dose of pregabalin from breast milk (assuming mean milk consumption of 150 mL/kg/day) was 0.31 mg/kg/day, which on a mg/kg basis would be approximately 7% of the maternal dose.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

In conventional safety pharmacology studies in animals, pregabalin was well-tolerated at clinically relevant doses. In repeated dose toxicity studies in rats and monkeys CNS effects were observed, including hypoactivity, hyperactivity and ataxia. An increased incidence of retinal atrophy commonly observed in aged albino rats was seen after long term exposure to pregabalin at exposures ≥ 5 times the mean human exposure at the maximum recommended clinical dose.

Pregabalin was not teratogenic in mice, rats or rabbits. Foetal toxicity in rats and rabbits occurred only at exposures sufficiently above human exposure. In prenatal/postnatal toxicity studies, pregabalin induced offspring developmental toxicity in rats at exposures > 2 times the maximum recommended human exposure.

Adverse effects on fertility in male and female rats were only observed at exposures sufficiently in excess of therapeutic exposure. Adverse effects on male reproductive organs and sperm parameters were reversible and occurred only at exposures sufficiently in excess of therapeutic exposure or were associated with spontaneous degenerative processes in male reproductive organs in the rat. Therefore the effects were considered of little or no clinical relevance.

Pregabalin is not genotoxic based on results of a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tests.

Two-year carcinogenicity studies with pregabalin were conducted in rats and mice. No tumours were observed in rats at exposures up to 24 times the mean human exposure at the maximum recommended clinical dose of 600 mg/day. In mice, no increased incidence of tumours was found at exposures similar to the mean human exposure, but an increased incidence of haemangiosarcoma was observed at higher exposures. The non-genotoxic mechanism of pregabalin-induced tumour formation in mice involves platelet changes and associated endothelial cell proliferation. These platelet changes were not present in rats or in humans based on short term and limited long term clinical data. There is no evidence to suggest an associated risk to humans.

In juvenile rats the types of toxicity do not differ qualitatively from those observed in adult rats. However, juvenile rats are more sensitive. At therapeutic exposures, there was evidence of CNS clinical signs of hyperactivity and bruxism and some changes in growth (transient body weight gain suppression). Effects on the oestrus cycle were observed at 5-fold the human therapeutic exposure. Neurobehavioral/cognitive effects were observed in juvenile rats 1-2 weeks after exposure >2 times (acoustic startle response) or >5 times (learning/memory) the human therapeutic exposure. Reduced acoustic startle response was observed in juvenile rats 1-2 weeks after exposure at > 2 times the human therapeutic exposure. Nine weeks after exposure, this effect was no longer observable.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Capsule shell:

Cap:

<25 mg, 50 mg, 75 mg, 150 mg>:
Gelatin
Purified water
Titanium dioxide
Sodium Lauryl Sulphate

<75 mg>:
Iron oxide, red

Body:

Gelatin
Purified water
Titanium dioxide
Sodium Lauryl Sulphate

Black printing ink:

Shellac
Iron oxide, black
Potassium hydroxide

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

Please refer to outer carton.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Please refer to outer carton.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

PREGABALIN ALVOGEN is packaged into Alu/Alu blister packs of 56 hard capsules.

Not all presentations may be available locally.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7. Name and Address of Manufacturer

Please refer to outer carton.

8. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

09/2022