ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS
1. **NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Aerius 5 mg film-coated tablets

2. **QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each tablet contains 5 mg desloratadine.

**Excipient(s) with known effect:**
This medicine contains lactose.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. **PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Film-coated tablets

4. **CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

4.1 **Therapeutic indications**

Aerius is indicated in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older for the relief of symptoms associated with:
- allergic rhinitis (see section 5.1)
- urticaria (see section 5.1)

4.2 **Posology and method of administration**

**Posology**

*Adults and adolescents (12 years of age and over)*

The recommended dose of Aerius is one tablet once a day.

Intermittent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks) should be managed in accordance with the evaluation of patient’s disease history and the treatment could be discontinued after symptoms are resolved and reinitiated upon their reappearance. In persistent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), continued treatment may be proposed to the patients during the allergen exposure periods.

*Paediatric population*

There is limited clinical trial efficacy experience with the use of desloratadine in adolescents 12 through 17 years of age (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

The safety and efficacy of Aerius 5 mg film-coated tablets in children below the age of 12 years have not been established. No data are available.

**Method of administration**

*Oral use.*

The dose can be taken with or without food.

4.3 **Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1, or to loratadine.
4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

In the case of severe renal insufficiency, Aerius should be used with caution (see section 5.2).

Desloratadine should be administered with caution in patients with medical or familial history of seizures, and mainly young children, being more susceptible to develop new seizures under desloratadine treatment. Healthcare providers may consider discontinuing desloratadine in patients who experience a seizure while on treatment.

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No clinically relevant interactions were observed in clinical trials with desloratadine tablets in which erythromycin or ketoconazole were co-administered (see section 5.1).

Paediatric population
Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

In a clinical pharmacology trial, Aerius tablets taken concomitantly with alcohol did not potentiate the performance impairing effects of alcohol (see section 5.1). However, cases of alcohol intolerance and intoxication have been reported during post-marketing use. Therefore, caution is recommended if alcohol is taken concomitantly.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy
A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1,000 pregnancy outcomes) indicate no malformative nor foeto/neonatal toxicity of desloratadine. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of Aerius during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding
Desloratadine has been identified in breastfed newborns/infants of treated women. The effect of desloratadine on newborns/infants is unknown. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from Aerius therapy taking into account the benefit of breast feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Fertility
There are no data available on male and female fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Aerius has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines based on clinical trials. Patients should be informed that most people do not experience drowsiness. Nevertheless, as there is individual variation in response to all medicinal products, it is recommended that patients are advised not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or using machines, until they have established their own response to the medicinal product.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile
In clinical trials in a range of indications including allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, undesirable effects with Aerius were reported in 3% of patients
in excess of those treated with placebo. The most frequent of adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo were fatigue (1.2 %), dry mouth (0.8 %) and headache (0.6 %).

**Paediatric population**
In a clinical trial with 578 adolescent patients, 12 through 17 years of age, the most common adverse event was headache; this occurred in 5.9 % of patients treated with desloratadine and 6.9 % of patients receiving placebo.

**Tabulated list of adverse reactions**
The frequency of the clinical trial adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo and other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period are listed in the following table. Frequencies are defined as 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) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

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**Paediatric population**
Other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period in paediatric patients with an unknown frequency included QT prolongation, arrhythmia, bradycardia, abnormal behaviour, and aggression.

**Reporting of suspected adverse reactions**
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V.

**4.9 Overdose**
The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.
Treatment
In the event of overdose, consider standard measures to remove unabsorbed active substance. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended.

Desloratadine is not eliminated by haemodialysis; it is not known if it is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis.

Symptoms
Based on a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 45 mg of desloratadine was administered (nine times the clinical dose), no clinically relevant effects were observed.

Paediatric population
The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: antihistamines – H₁ antagonist, ATC code: R06A X27

Mechanism of action
Desloratadine is a non-sedating, long-acting histamine antagonist with selective peripheral H₁-receptor antagonist activity. After oral administration, desloratadine selectively blocks peripheral histamine H₁-receptors because the substance is excluded from entry to the central nervous system.

Desloratadine has demonstrated antiallergic properties from in vitro studies. These include inhibiting the release of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, and IL-13 from human mast cells/basophils, as well as inhibition of the expression of the adhesion molecule P-selectin on endothelial cells. The clinical relevance of these observations remains to be confirmed.

Clinical efficacy and safety
In a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 20 mg of desloratadine was administered daily for 14 days, no statistically or clinically relevant cardiovascular effect was observed. In a clinical pharmacology trial, in which desloratadine was administered at a dose of 45 mg daily (nine times the clinical dose) for ten days, no prolongation of QTc interval was seen.

No clinically relevant changes in desloratadine plasma concentrations were observed in multiple-dose ketoconazole and erythromycin interaction trials.

Desloratadine does not readily penetrate the central nervous system. In controlled clinical trials, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, there was no excess incidence of somnolence as compared to placebo. Aerius given at a single daily dose of 7.5 mg did not affect psychomotor performance in clinical trials. In a single dose study performed in adults, desloratadine 5 mg did not affect standard measures of flight performance including exacerbation of subjective sleepiness or tasks related to flying.

In clinical pharmacology trials, co-administration with alcohol did not increase the alcohol-induced impairment in performance or increase in sleepiness. No significant differences were found in the psychomotor test results between desloratadine and placebo groups, whether administered alone or with alcohol.

In patients with allergic rhinitis, Aerius was effective in relieving symptoms such as sneezing, nasal discharge and itching, as well as ocular itching, tearing and redness, and itching of palate. Aerius effectively controlled symptoms for 24 hours.
Paediatric population

The efficacy of Aerius tablets has not been clearly demonstrated in trials with adolescent patients 12 through 17 years of age.

In addition to the established classifications of seasonal and perennial, allergic rhinitis can alternatively be classified as intermittent allergic rhinitis and persistent allergic rhinitis according to the duration of symptoms. Intermittent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks. Persistent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks.

Aerius was effective in alleviating the burden of seasonal allergic rhinitis as shown by the total score of the rhino-conjunctivitis quality of life questionnaire. The greatest amelioration was seen in the domains of practical problems and daily activities limited by symptoms.

Chronic idiopathic urticaria was studied as a clinical model for urticarial conditions, since the underlying pathophysiology is similar, regardless of etiology, and because chronic patients can be more easily recruited prospectively. Since histamine release is a causal factor in all urticarial diseases, desloratadine is expected to be effective in providing symptomatic relief for other urticarial conditions, in addition to chronic idiopathic urticaria, as advised in clinical guidelines.

In two placebo-controlled six week trials in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria, Aerius was effective in relieving pruritus and decreasing the size and number of hives by the end of the first dosing interval. In each trial, the effects were sustained over the 24 hour dosing interval. As with other antihistamine trials in chronic idiopathic urticaria, the minority of patients who were identified as non-responsive to antihistamines was excluded. An improvement in pruritus of more than 50% was observed in 55% of patients treated with desloratadine compared with 19% of patients treated with placebo. Treatment with Aerius also significantly reduced interference with sleep and daytime function, as measured by a four-point scale used to assess these variables.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption
Desloratadine plasma concentrations can be detected within 30 minutes of administration. Desloratadine is well absorbed with maximum concentration achieved after approximately 3 hours; the terminal phase half-life is approximately 27 hours. The degree of accumulation of desloratadine was consistent with its half-life (approximately 27 hours) and a once daily dosing frequency. The bioavailability of desloratadine was dose proportional over the range of 5 mg to 20 mg.

In a pharmacokinetic trial in which patient demographics were comparable to those of the general seasonal allergic rhinitis population, 4% of the subjects achieved a higher concentration of desloratadine. This percentage may vary according to ethnic background. Maximum desloratadine concentration was about 3-fold higher at approximately 7 hours with a terminal phase half-life of approximately 89 hours. The safety profile of these subjects was not different from that of the general population.

Distribution
Desloratadine is moderately bound (83% - 87%) to plasma proteins. There is no evidence of clinically relevant medicine accumulation following once daily dosing of desloratadine (5 mg to 20 mg) for 14 days.

Biotransformation
The enzyme responsible for the metabolism of desloratadine has not been identified yet, and therefore, some interactions with other medicinal products cannot be fully excluded. Desloratadine does not inhibit CYP3A4 in vivo, and in vitro studies have shown that the medicinal product does not inhibit CYP2D6 and is neither a substrate nor an inhibitor of P-glycoprotein.
Elimination
In a single dose trial using a 7.5 mg dose of desloratadine, there was no effect of food (high-fat, high caloric breakfast) on the disposition of desloratadine. In another study, grapefruit juice had no effect on the disposition of desloratadine.

Renally impaired patients
The pharmacokinetics of desloratadine in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (CRI) was compared with that of healthy subjects in one single-dose study and one multiple dose study. In the single-dose study, the exposure to desloratadine was approximately 2 and 2.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate and severe CRI, respectively, than in healthy subjects. In the multiple-dose study, steady state was reached after Day 11, and compared to healthy subjects the exposure to desloratadine was ~1.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate CRI and ~2.5-fold greater in subjects with severe CRI. In both studies, changes in exposure (AUC and C_max) of desloratadine and 3-hydroxydesloratadine were not clinically relevant.

5.3 Preclinical safety data
Desloratadine is the primary active metabolite of loratadine. Non-clinical studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine demonstrated that there are no qualitative or quantitative differences in the toxicity profile of desloratadine and loratadine at comparable levels of exposure to desloratadine.

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, toxicity to reproduction and development. The lack of carcinogenic potential was demonstrated in studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients
Tablet core: calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, talc.
Tablet coating: film coat (containing lactose monohydrate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol 400, indigotin (E132)), clear coat (containing hypromellose, macrogol 400), carnauba wax, white wax.

6.2 Incompatibilities
Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life
2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage
Do not store above 30°C.
Store in the original package.

6.5 Nature and contents of container
Aerius is supplied in blisters comprised of laminate blister film with foil lidding. The materials of the blister consist of a polychlorotrifluoroethylene (PCTFE)/Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) film (product contact surface) with an aluminium foil lidding coated with a vinyl heat seal coat (product contact surface) which is heat sealed.
Packs of 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 30, 50, 90, 100 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS

EU/1/00/160/001-013
EU/1/00/160/036

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 15 January 2001
Date of latest renewal: 15 January 2006

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency http://www.ema.europa.eu.
1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablets

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each orodispersible tablet contains 2.5 mg desloratadine.

Excipient(s) with known effect:
This medicine contains mannitol and aspartame (E951).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Orodispersible tablet

Light-red, flat-faced, round, speckled tablets, one side branded with “K”

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Aerius is indicated in adults, adolescents aged 12 years and older and children aged 6 – 11 years old for the relief of symptoms associated with:
- allergic rhinitis (see section 5.1)
- urticaria (see section 5.1)

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Adults and adolescents (12 years of age and over)
The recommended dose of Aerius is two 2.5 mg orodispersible tablets placed in the mouth once a day.

Paediatric population
Children 6 to 11 years of age: the recommended dose of Aerius is one 2.5 mg orodispersible tablet placed in mouth once a day.

The safety and efficacy of Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablets in children below the age of 6 years have not been established. No data are available.

There is limited clinical trial efficacy experience with the use of desloratadine in children 6 through 11 years of age (see section 5.2).

There is limited clinical trial efficacy experience with the use of desloratadine in adolescents 12 through 17 years of age (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

Intermittent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks) should be managed in accordance with the evaluation of patient’s disease history and the treatment could be discontinued after symptoms are resolved and reinitiated upon their reappearance.

In persistent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), continued treatment may be proposed to the patients during the allergen exposure periods.
Method of administration
Oral use.
The dose can be taken with or without food.
Immediately before use, the blister must be carefully peeled open and the dose of orodispersible tablet removed without crushing it. The dose of orodispersible tablet is placed in the mouth where it will disperse immediately. Water or other liquid is not needed to swallow the dose. The dose must be taken as soon as the blister has been opened.

4.3 Contraindications
Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1, or to loratadine.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use
In the case of severe renal insufficiency, Aerius should be used with caution (see section 5.2).
Desloratadine should be administered with caution in patients with medical or familial history of seizures, and mainly young children, being more susceptible to develop new seizures under desloratadine treatment. Healthcare providers may consider discontinuing desloratadine in patients who experience a seizure while on treatment.

This product contains 1.4 mg of phenylalanine per 2.5 mg dose of Aerius orodispersible tablet. Phenylalanine may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction
No clinically relevant interactions were observed in clinical trials with desloratadine tablets in which erythromycin or ketoconazole were co-administered (see section 5.1).

Paediatric population
Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

In a clinical pharmacology trial, Aerius tablets taken concomitantly with alcohol did not potentiate the performance impairing effects of alcohol (see section 5.1). However, cases of alcohol intolerance and intoxication have been reported during post-marketing use. Therefore, caution is recommended if alcohol is taken concomitantly.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy
A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1,000 pregnancy outcomes) indicate no malformative nor foeto/neonatal toxicity of desloratadine. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of Aerius during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding
Desloratadine has been identified in breastfed newborns/infants of treated women. The effect of desloratadine on newborns/infants is unknown. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from Aerius therapy taking into account the benefit of breast feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Fertility
There are no data available on male and female fertility.
4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Aerius has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines based on clinical trials. Patients should be informed that most people do not experience drowsiness. Nevertheless, as there is individual variation in response to all medicinal products, it is recommended that patients are advised not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or using machines, until they have established their own response to the medicinal product.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile
In clinical trials, desloratadine in the syrup formulation was administered to a paediatric population. The overall incidence of adverse reactions was similar between the desloratadine syrup and the placebo groups and did not differ significantly than the safety profile seen in adult patients.

In clinical trials in a range of indications including allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, undesirable effects with Aerius tablets were reported in 3 % of patients in excess of those treated with placebo. The most frequent of adverse events reported in excess of placebo were fatigue (1.2 %), dry mouth (0.8 %) and headache (0.6 %).

Paediatric population
In a clinical trial with 578 adolescent patients, 12 through 17 years of age, the most common adverse event was headache; this occurred in 5.9 % of patients treated with desloratadine and 6.9 % of patients receiving placebo.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions
The frequency of the clinical trial adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo and other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period are listed in the following table. Frequencies are defined as 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) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

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Paediatric population
Other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period in paediatric patients with an unknown frequency included QT prolongation, arrhythmia, bradycardia, abnormal behaviour, and aggression.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V.

4.9 Overdose
The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

Treatment
In the event of overdose, consider standard measures to remove unabsorbed active substance. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended.

Desloratadine is not eliminated by haemodialysis; it is not known if it is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis.

Symptoms
Based on a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 45 mg of desloratadine was administered (nine times the clinical dose), no clinically relevant effects were observed.

Paediatric population
The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties
Pharmacotherapeutic group: antihistamines – H₁ antagonist, ATC code: R06A X27

Mechanism of action
Desloratadine is a non-sedating, long-acting histamine antagonist with selective peripheral H₁-receptor antagonist activity. After oral administration, desloratadine selectively blocks peripheral histamine H₁-receptors because the substance is excluded from entry to the central nervous system.

Desloratadine has demonstrated antiallergic properties from in vitro studies. These include inhibiting the release of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, and IL-13 from human mast cells/basophils, as well as inhibition of the expression of the adhesion molecule P-selectin on endothelial cells. The clinical relevance of these observations remains to be confirmed.

Clinical efficacy and safety
In a multiple dose trial, Aerius orodispersible tablets were well tolerated.

At the recommended dose, Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablet was found to be bioequivalent to the Aerius 5 mg conventional tablet formulation of desloratadine. Therefore, the efficacy of Aerius orodispersible tablet is expected to be the same as with the Aerius tablet formulation.
In a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 20 mg of desloratadine was administered daily for 14 days, no statistically or clinically relevant cardiovascular effect was observed. In a clinical pharmacology trial, in which desloratadine was administered at a dose of 45 mg daily (nine times the clinical dose) for ten days, no prolongation of QTc interval was seen.

No clinically relevant changes in desloratadine plasma concentrations were observed in multiple-dose, ketoconazole and erythromycin interaction trials.

Desloratadine does not readily penetrate the central nervous system. In clinical trials, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, there was no excess incidence of somnolence as compared to placebo. Aerius tablets given at a single daily dose of 7.5 mg did not affect psychomotor performance in clinical trials. In a single dose study performed in adults, desloratadine 5 mg did not affect standard measures of flight performance including exacerbation of subjective sleepiness or tasks related to flying.

In clinical pharmacology trials, co-administration with alcohol did not increase the alcohol-induced impairment in performance or increase in sleepiness. No significant differences were found in the psychomotor test results between desloratadine and placebo groups, whether administered alone or with alcohol.

In patients with allergic rhinitis, Aerius tablets were effective in relieving symptoms such as sneezing, nasal discharge and itching, as well as ocular itching, tearing and redness, and itching of palate. Aerius tablets effectively controlled symptoms for 24 hours.

Paediatric population
The efficacy of Aerius tablets has not been clearly demonstrated in trials with adolescent patients 12 through 17 years of age.

In addition to the established classifications of seasonal and perennial, allergic rhinitis can alternatively be classified as intermittent allergic rhinitis and persistent allergic rhinitis according to the duration of symptoms. Intermittent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks. Persistent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks.

Aerius was effective in alleviating the burden of seasonal allergic rhinitis as shown by the total score of the rhino-conjunctivitis quality of life questionnaire. The greatest amelioration was seen in the domains of practical problems and daily activities limited by symptoms.

Chronic idiopathic urticaria was studied as a clinical model for urticarial conditions, since the underlying pathophysiology is similar, regardless of etiology, and because chronic patients can be more easily recruited prospectively. Since histamine release is a causal factor in all urticarial diseases, desloratadine is expected to be effective in providing symptomatic relief for other urticarial conditions, in addition to chronic idiopathic urticaria, as advised in clinical guidelines.

In two placebo-controlled six week trials in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria, Aerius was effective in relieving pruritus and decreasing the size and number of hives by the end of the first dosing interval. In each trial, the effects were sustained over the 24 hour dosing interval. As with other antihistamine trials in chronic idiopathic urticaria, the minority of patients who were identified as non-responsive to antihistamines was excluded. An improvement in pruritus of more than 50 % was observed in 55 % of patients treated with desloratadine compared with 19 % of patients treated with placebo. Treatment with Aerius also significantly reduced interference with sleep and daytime function, as measured by a four-point scale used to assess these variables.
5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption
Desloratadine plasma concentrations can be detected within 30 minutes of administration. Desloratadine is well absorbed with maximum concentration achieved after approximately 3 hours; the terminal phase half-life is approximately 27 hours. The degree of accumulation of desloratadine was consistent with its half-life (approximately 27 hours) and a once daily dosing frequency. The bioavailability of desloratadine was dose proportional over the range of 5 mg to 20 mg.

In a series of pharmacokinetic and clinical trials, 6% of the subjects reached a higher concentration of desloratadine. The prevalence of this poor metaboliser phenotype was comparable for adult (6%) and paediatric subjects 2- to 11-year old (6%), and greater among Blacks (18% adult, 16% paediatric) than Caucasians (2% adult, 3% paediatric) in both populations however the safety profile of these subjects was not different from that of the general population.

In a multiple-dose pharmacokinetic study conducted with the tablet formulation in healthy adult subjects, four subjects were found to be poor metabolisers of desloratadine. These subjects had a $C_{\text{max}}$ concentration about 3-fold higher at approximately 7 hours with a terminal phase half-life of approximately 89 hours.

Distribution
Desloratadine is moderately bound (83% - 87%) to plasma proteins. There is no evidence of clinically relevant medicine accumulation following once daily dosing of desloratadine (5 mg to 20 mg) for 14 days.

Biotransformation
The enzyme responsible for the metabolism of desloratadine has not been identified yet, and therefore, some interactions with other medicinal products cannot be fully excluded. Desloratadine does not inhibit CYP3A4 in vivo, and in vitro studies have shown that the medicinal product does not inhibit CYP2D6 and is neither a substrate nor an inhibitor of P-glycoprotein.

In single-dose crossover studies of Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets with Aerius 5 mg conventional tablets, the formulations were bioequivalent. Aerius 2.5 mg tablets has not been evaluated in paediatric patients however in conjunction with the dose finding studies in paediatrics, the pharmacokinetics data for Aerius orodispersible tablets supports the use of the 2.5 mg dose in paediatric patients 6 to 11 years of age.

Elimination
The presence of food prolongs $T_{\text{max}}$ for desloratadine from 2.5 to 4 hours and $T_{\text{max}}$ for 3-OH-desloratadine from 4 to 6 hours. In a separate study, grapefruit juice had no effect on the disposition of desloratadine. Water had no effect on the bioavailability of Aerius orodispersible tablets.

Renally impaired patients
The pharmacokinetics of desloratadine in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (CRI) was compared with that of healthy subjects in one single-dose study and one multiple dose study. In the single-dose study, the exposure to desloratadine was approximately 2 and 2.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate and severe CRI, respectively, than in healthy subjects. In the multiple-dose study, steady state was reached after Day 11, and compared to healthy subjects the exposure to desloratadine was ~1.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate CRI and ~2.5-fold greater in subjects with severe CRI. In both studies, changes in exposure (AUC and $C_{\text{max}}$) of desloratadine and 3-hydroxydesloratadine were not clinically relevant.
5.3 Preclinical safety data

Desloratadine is the primary active metabolite of loratadine. Non-clinical studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine demonstrated that there are no qualitative or quantitative differences in the toxicity profile of desloratadine and loratadine at comparable levels of exposure to desloratadine.

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, toxicity to reproduction and development. The collective analysis of preclinical and clinical irritation studies for the orodispersible tablet indicate that this formulation in unlikely to pose risk for local irritation with clinical use. The lack of carcinogenic potential was demonstrated in studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

- microcrystalline cellulose
- pregelatinized starch
- sodium starch glycolate
- magnesium stearate
- butylated methacrylate copolymer
- crospovidone
- sodium hydrogen carbonate
- citric acid
- colloidal silicon dioxide
- ferric oxide
- mannitol
- aspartame (E951)
- flavour Tutti-Frutti

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in the original package.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aerius orodispersible tablets are supplied in unit dose blisters comprised of laminate blister film with foil lidding.

The blister materials consist of a four layer aluminum foil laminate cold form blister film and a paper backed laminated aluminum foil lidding film.

The cold form blister film is composed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film adhesively laminated to an oriented polyamide (OPA) film, adhesively laminated to aluminum foil, adhesively laminated to polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film.

Packs of 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90 and 100 orodispersible tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.
6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS

EU/1/00/160/037-048

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 15 January 2001
Date of latest renewal: 15 January 2006

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency http://www.ema.europa.eu.
1. **NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets

2. **QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each orodispersible tablet contains 5 mg desloratadine.

**Excipient(s) with known effect:**
This medicine contains mannitol and aspartame (E951).

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. **PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Orodispersible tablet

Light-red, flat-faced, round, speckled tablets, one side branded with “A”

4. **CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

4.1 **Therapeutic indications**

Aerius is indicated in adults and adolescents aged 12 years and older for the relief of symptoms associated with:
- allergic rhinitis (see section 5.1)
- urticaria (see section 5.1)

4.2 **Posology and method of administration**

**Posology**

*Adults and adolescents (12 years of age and over)*

The recommended dose of Aerius is one 5 mg orodispersible tablet placed in the mouth once a day.

Intermittent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks) should be managed in accordance with the evaluation of patient’s disease history and the treatment could be discontinued after symptoms are resolved and reinitiated upon their reappearance. In persistent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), continued treatment may be proposed to the patients during the allergen exposure periods.

*Paediatric population*

The safety and efficacy of Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets in children below the age of 12 years have not been established. No data are available.

There is limited clinical trial efficacy experience with the use of desloratadine in adolescents 12 through 17 years of age (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

**Method of administration**

*Oral use.*

The dose can be taken with or without food. Immediately before use, the blister must be carefully peeled open and the dose of orodispersible tablet removed without crushing it. The dose of orodispersible tablet is placed in the mouth where it will
disperse immediately. Water or other liquid is not needed to swallow the dose. The dose must be
taken as soon as the blister has been opened.

4.3 Contraindications

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

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

In the case of severe renal insufficiency, Aerius should be used with caution (see section 5.2).

Desloratadine should be administered with caution in patients with medical or familial history of
seizures, and mainly young children, being more susceptible to develop new seizures under
desloratadine treatment. Healthcare providers may consider discontinuing desloratadine in patients
who experience a seizure while on treatment.

This product contains 2.9 mg of phenylalanine per 5 mg dose of Aerius orodispersible tablet.
Phenylalanine may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No clinically relevant interactions were observed in clinical trials with desloratadine tablets in which
erythromycin or ketoconazole were co-administered (see section 5.1).

Paediatric population
Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

In a clinical pharmacology trial, Aerius tablets taken concomitantly with alcohol did not potentiate the
performance impairing effects of alcohol (see section 5.1). However, cases of alcohol intolerance and
intoxication have been reported during post-marketing use. Therefore, caution is recommended if
alcohol is taken concomitantly.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy
A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1,000 pregnancy outcomes) indicate no
malformative nor foeto/ neonatal toxicity of desloratadine. Animal studies do not indicate direct or
indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). As a precautionary
measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of Aerius during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding
Desloratadine has been identified in breastfed newborns/infants of treated women. The effect of
desloratadine on newborns/infants is unknown. A decision must be made whether to discontinue
breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from Aerius therapy taking into account the benefit of breast
feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Fertility
There are no data available on male and female fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Aerius has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines based on clinical trials.
Patients should be informed that most people do not experience drowsiness. Nevertheless, as there is
individual variation in response to all medicinal products, it is recommended that patients are advised
not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or using machines, until
they have established their own response to the medicinal product.
4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile
In clinical trials in a range of indications including allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, at
the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, undesirable effects with Aerius tablets were reported in 3 % of
patients in excess of those treated with placebo. The most frequent of adverse reactions reported in
excess of placebo were fatigue (1.2 %), dry mouth (0.8 %) and headache (0.6 %).

Paediatric population
In a clinical trial with 578 adolescent patients, 12 through 17 years of age, the most common adverse
event was headache; this occurred in 5.9 % of patients treated with desloratadine and 6.9 % of
patients receiving placebo.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions
The frequency of the clinical trial adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo and other
undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period are listed in the following table.
Frequencies are defined as 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) and not known (cannot
be estimated from the available data).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Organ Class</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Psychiatric disorders</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common</td>
<td></td>
<td>Hallucinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abnormal behaviour, aggression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Nervous system disorders</strong></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td></td>
<td>Dizziness, somnolence, insomnia, psychomotor hyperactivity, seizures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cardiac disorders</strong></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Tachycardia, palpitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td></td>
<td>QT prolongation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gastrointestinal disorders</strong></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Dry mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td></td>
<td>Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dyspepsia, diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hepatobiliary disorders</strong></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Elevations of liver enzymes, increased bilirubin, hepatitis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jaundice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Skin and subcutaneous tissue</strong></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Photosensitivity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>disorders</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Musculoskeletal and</strong></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Myalgia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>connective tissue disorders**</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>General disorders and</strong></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>administration site conditions**</td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Hypersensitivity reactions (such as anaphylaxis, angioedema, dyspnoea, pruritus, rash, and urticaria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not known</td>
<td></td>
<td>Asthenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Paediatric population
Other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period in paediatric patients with an
unknown frequency included QT prolongation, arrhythmia, bradycardia, abnormal behaviour, and
aggression.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It
allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare
professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system
listed in Appendix V.
4.9 Overdose

The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

Treatment
In the event of overdose, consider standard measures to remove unabsorbed active substance. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended.

Desloratadine is not eliminated by haemodialysis; it is not known if it is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis.

Symptoms
Based on a multiple dose clinical trial, in which up to 45 mg of desloratadine was administered (nine times the clinical dose), no clinically relevant effects were observed.

Paediatric population
The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: antihistamines – H₁ antagonist, ATC code: R06A X27

Mechanism of action
Desloratadine is a non-sedating, long-acting histamine antagonist with selective peripheral H₁-receptor antagonist activity. After oral administration, desloratadine selectively blocks peripheral histamine H₁-receptors because the substance is excluded from entry to the central nervous system.

Desloratadine has demonstrated antiallergic properties from in vitro studies. These include inhibiting the release of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, and IL-13 from human mast cells/basophils, as well as inhibition of the expression of the adhesion molecule P-selectin on endothelial cells. The clinical relevance of these observations remains to be confirmed.

Clinical efficacy and safety
In a multiple dose trial, Aerius orodispersible tablets were well tolerated.

At the recommended dose, Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablet was found to be bioequivalent to the Aerius 5 mg conventional tablet formulation of desloratadine. Therefore, the efficacy of Aerius orodispersible tablet is expected to be the same as with the Aerius tablet formulation.

In a multiple-dose clinical trial, in which up to 20 mg of desloratadine was administered daily for 14 days, no statistically or clinically relevant cardiovascular effect was observed. In a clinical pharmacology trial, in which desloratadine was administered at a dose of 45 mg daily (nine times the clinical dose) for ten days, no prolongation of QTc interval was seen.

No clinically relevant changes in desloratadine plasma concentrations were observed in multiple-dose, ketoconazole and erythromycin interaction trials.

Desloratadine does not readily penetrate the central nervous system. In clinical trials, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily, there was no excess incidence of somnolence as compared to placebo. Aerius tablets given at a single daily dose of 7.5 mg did not affect psychomotor performance.
in clinical trials. In a single dose study performed in adults, desloratadine 5 mg did not affect standard measures of flight performance including exacerbation of subjective sleepiness or tasks related to flying.

In clinical pharmacology trials, co-administration with alcohol did not increase the alcohol-induced impairment in performance or increase in sleepiness. No significant differences were found in the psychomotor test results between desloratadine and placebo groups, whether administered alone or with alcohol.

In patients with allergic rhinitis, Aerius tablets were effective in relieving symptoms such as sneezing, nasal discharge and itching, as well as ocular itching, tearing and redness, and itching of palate. Aerius tablets effectively controlled symptoms for 24 hours.

Paediatric population
The efficacy of Aerius tablets has not been clearly demonstrated in trials with adolescent patients 12 through 17 years of age.

In addition to the established classifications of seasonal and perennial, allergic rhinitis can alternatively be classified as intermittent allergic rhinitis and persistent allergic rhinitis according to the duration of symptoms. Intermittent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks. Persistent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks.

Aerius was effective in alleviating the burden of seasonal allergic rhinitis as shown by the total score of the rhino-conjunctivitis quality of life questionnaire. The greatest amelioration was seen in the domains of practical problems and daily activities limited by symptoms.

Chronic idiopathic urticaria was studied as a clinical model for urticarial conditions, since the underlying pathophysiology is similar, regardless of etiology, and because chronic patients can be more easily recruited prospectively. Since histamine release is a causal factor in all urticarial diseases, desloratadine is expected to be effective in providing symptomatic relief for other urticarial conditions, in addition to chronic idiopathic urticaria, as advised in clinical guidelines.

In two placebo-controlled six week trials in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria, Aerius was effective in relieving pruritus and decreasing the size and number of hives by the end of the first dosing interval. In each trial, the effects were sustained over the 24 hour dosing interval. As with other antihistamine trials in chronic idiopathic urticaria, the minority of patients who were identified as non-responsive to antihistamines was excluded. An improvement in pruritus of more than 50 % was observed in 55 % of patients treated with desloratadine compared with 19 % of patients treated with placebo. Treatment with Aerius also significantly reduced interference with sleep and daytime function, as measured by a four-point scale used to assess these variables.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption
Desloratadine plasma concentrations can be detected within 30 minutes of administration. Desloratadine is well absorbed with maximum concentration achieved after approximately 3 hours; the terminal phase half-life is approximately 27 hours. The degree of accumulation of desloratadine was consistent with its half-life (approximately 27 hours) and a once daily dosing frequency. The bioavailability of desloratadine was dose proportional over the range of 5 mg to 20 mg.

In a series of pharmacokinetic and clinical trials, 6 % of the subjects reached a higher concentration of desloratadine. The prevalence of this poor metaboliser phenotype was greater among Black adults than Caucasian adults (18 % vs. 2 %) however the safety profile of these subjects was not different from that of the general population.
In a multiple-dose pharmacokinetic study conducted with the tablet formulation in healthy adult subjects, four subjects were found to be poor metabolisers of desloratadine. These subjects had a $C_{\text{max}}$ concentration about 3-fold higher at approximately 7 hours with a terminal phase half-life of approximately 89 hours.

**Distribution**

Desloratadine is moderately bound (83 % - 87 %) to plasma proteins. There is no evidence of clinically relevant medicine accumulation following once daily dosing of desloratadine (5 mg to 20 mg) for 14 days.

**Biotransformation**

The enzyme responsible for the metabolism of desloratadine has not been identified yet, and therefore, some interactions with other medicinal products cannot be fully excluded. Desloratadine does not inhibit CYP3A4 \textit{in vivo}, and \textit{in vitro} studies have shown that the medicinal product does not inhibit CYP2D6 and is neither a substrate nor an inhibitor of P-glycoprotein.

In single-dose crossover studies of Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets with Aerius 5 mg conventional tablets, the formulations were bioequivalent.

**Elimination**

The presence of food prolongs $T_{\text{max}}$ for desloratadine from 2.5 to 4 hours and $T_{\text{max}}$ for 3-OH-desloratadine from 4 to 6 hours. In a separate study, grapefruit juice had no effect on the disposition of desloratadine. Water had no effect on the bioavailability of Aerius orodispersible tablets.

**Renally impaired patients**

The pharmacokinetics of desloratadine in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (CRI) was compared with that of healthy subjects in one single-dose study and one multiple dose study. In the single-dose study, the exposure to desloratadine was approximately 2 and 2.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate and severe CRI, respectively, than in healthy subjects. In the multiple-dose study, steady state was reached after Day 11, and compared to healthy subjects the exposure to desloratadine was $\sim$1.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate CRI and $\sim$2.5-fold greater in subjects with severe CRI. In both studies, changes in exposure (AUC and $C_{\text{max}}$) of desloratadine and 3-hydroxydesloratadine were not clinically relevant.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Desloratadine is the primary active metabolite of loratadine. Non-clinical studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine demonstrated that there are no qualitative or quantitative differences in the toxicity profile of desloratadine and loratadine at comparable levels of exposure to desloratadine.

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, toxicity to reproduction and development. The collective analysis of preclinical and clinical irritation studies for the orodispersible tablet indicate that this formulation is unlikely to pose risk for local irritation with clinical use. The lack of carcinogenic potential was demonstrated in studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

- microcrystalline cellulose
- pregelatinized starch
- sodium starch glycolate
- magnesium stearate
butylated methacrylate copolymer
crospovidone
sodium hydrogen carbonate
citric acid
colloidal silicon dioxide
ferric oxide
mannitol
aspartame (E951)
flavour Tutti-Frutti

6.2 Incompatibilities
Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life
2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage
Store in the original package.

6.5 Nature and contents of container
Aerius orodispersible tablets are supplied in unit dose blisters comprised of laminate blister film with foil lidding.

The blister materials consist of a four layer aluminum foil laminate cold form blister film and a paper backed laminated aluminum foil lidding film.
The cold form blister film is composed of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film adhesively laminated to an oriented polyamide (OPA) film, adhesively laminated to aluminum foil, adhesively laminated to polyvinyl chloride (PVC) film.
Packs of 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90 and 100 orodispersible tablets.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal
No special requirements

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS
EU/1/00/160/049-060

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION
Date of first authorisation: 15 January 2001
Date of latest renewal: 15 January 2006

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency http://www.ema.europa.eu.
1. **NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Aerius 0.5 mg/ml oral solution

2. **QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

Each ml of oral solution contains 0.5 mg desloratadine.

Excipient(s) with known effect:
This medicinal product contains 150 mg/ml of sorbitol

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. **PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Oral solution

4. **CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Aerius is indicated in adults, adolescents and children over the age of 1 year for the relief of symptoms associated with:
- allergic rhinitis (see section 5.1)
- urticaria (see section 5.1)

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

**Adults and adolescents (12 years of age and over)**
The recommended dose of Aerius is 10 ml (5 mg) oral solution once a day.

**Paediatric population**
The prescriber should be aware that most cases of rhinitis below 2 years of age are of infectious origin (see section 4.4) and there are no data supporting the treatment of infectious rhinitis with Aerius.

Children 1 through 5 years of age: 2.5 ml (1.25 mg) Aerius oral solution once a day.

Children 6 through 11 years of age: 5 ml (2.5 mg) Aerius oral solution once a day.

The safety and efficacy of Aerius 0.5 mg/ml oral solution in children below the age of 1 year have not been established. No data are available.

There is limited clinical trial efficacy experience with the use of desloratadine in children 1 through 11 years of age and adolescents 12 through 17 years of age (see sections 4.8 and 5.1).

Intermittent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks) should be managed in accordance with the evaluation of patient’s disease history and the treatment could be discontinued after symptoms are resolved and reinitiated upon their reappearance. In persistent allergic rhinitis (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), continued treatment may be proposed to the patients during the allergen exposure periods.
Method of administration
Oral use.
The dose can be taken with or without food.

4.3 Contraindications
Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1, or to loratadine.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use
Desloratadine should be administered with caution in patients with medical or familial history of seizures, and mainly young children, being more susceptible to develop new seizures under desloratadine treatment. Healthcare providers may consider discontinuing desloratadine in patients who experience a seizure while on treatment.

Paediatric population
In children below 2 years of age, the diagnosis of allergic rhinitis is particularly difficult to distinguish from other forms of rhinitis. The absence of upper respiratory tract infection or structural abnormalities, as well as patient history, physical examinations, and appropriate laboratory and skin tests should be considered.

Approximately 6% of adults and children 2- to 11-year old are phenotypic poor metabolisers of desloratadine and exhibit a higher exposure (see section 5.2). The safety of desloratadine in children 2- to 11-years of age who are poor metabolisers is the same as in children who are normal metabolisers. The effects of desloratadine in poor metabolisers < 2 years of age have not been studied.

In the case of severe renal insufficiency, Aerius should be used with caution (see section 5.2).

This medicinal product contains sorbitol; thus, patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucrase-isomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction
No clinically relevant interactions were observed in clinical trials with desloratadine tablets in which erythromycin or ketoconazole were co-administered (see section 5.1).

Paediatric population
Interaction studies have only been performed in adults.

In a clinical pharmacology trial, Aerius tablets taken concomitantly with alcohol did not potentiate the performance impairing effects of alcohol (see section 5.1). However, cases of alcohol intolerance and intoxication have been reported during post-marketing use. Therefore, caution is recommended if alcohol is taken concomitantly.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation
Pregnancy
A large amount of data on pregnant women (more than 1,000 pregnancy outcomes) indicate no malformative nor foetal/neonatal toxicity of desloratadine. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3). As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of Aerius during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding
Desloratadine has been identified in breastfed newborns/infants of treated women. The effect of desloratadine on newborns/infants is unknown. A decision must be made whether to discontinue
breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from Aerius therapy taking into account the benefit of breast feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Fertility
There are no data available on male and female fertility.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Aerius has no or negligible influence on the ability to drive and use machines based on clinical trials. Patients should be informed that most people do not experience drowsiness. Nevertheless, as there is individual variation in response to all medicinal products, it is recommended that patients are advised not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or using machines, until they have established their own response to the medicinal product.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

Paediatric population
In clinical trials in a paediatric population, the desloratadine syrup formulation was administered to a total of 246 children aged 6 months through 11 years. The overall incidence of adverse events in children 2 through 11 years of age was similar for the desloratadine and the placebo groups. In infants and toddlers aged 6 to 23 months, the most frequent adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo were diarrhoea (3.7 %), fever (2.3 %) and insomnia (2.3 %). In an additional study, no adverse events were seen in subjects between 6 and 11 years of age following a single 2.5 mg dose of desloratadine oral solution.

In a clinical trial with 578 adolescent patients, 12 through 17 years of age, the most common adverse event was headache; this occurred in 5.9 % of patients treated with desloratadine and 6.9 % of patients receiving placebo.

Adults and adolescents
At the recommended dose, in clinical trials involving adults and adolescents in a range of indications including allergic rhinitis and chronic idiopathic urticaria, undesirable effects with Aerius were reported in 3 % of patients in excess of those treated with placebo. The most frequent of adverse events reported in excess of placebo were fatigue (1.2 %), dry mouth (0.8 %) and headache (0.6 %).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions
The frequency of the clinical trial adverse reactions reported in excess of placebo and other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period are listed in the following table. Frequencies are defined as 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) and not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>System Organ Class</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Psychiatric disorders</td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Hallucinations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Abnormal behaviour, aggression</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nervous system disorders</td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Headache</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common (children less than 2 years)</td>
<td>Insomnia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Dizziness, somnolence, insomnia, psychomotor hyperactivity, seizures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cardiac disorders</td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Tachycardia, palpitations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>QT prolongation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### System Organ Class

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gastrointestinal disorders</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Dry mouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common (children less than 2 years)</td>
<td>Diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, dyspepsia, diarrhoea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hepatobiliary disorders</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Elevations of liver enzymes, increased bilirubin, hepatitis Jaundice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Photosensitivity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Photosensitivity</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Myalgia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General disorders and administration site conditions</th>
<th>Frequency</th>
<th>Adverse reactions seen with Aerius</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common</td>
<td>Fatigue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Common (children less than 2 years)</td>
<td>Fever</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Very rare</td>
<td>Hypersensitivity reactions (such as anaphylaxis, angioedema, dyspnoea, pruritus, rash, and urticaria)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not known</td>
<td>Asthenia</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Paediatric population

Other undesirable effects reported during the post-marketing period in paediatric patients with an unknown frequency included QT prolongation, arrhythmia, bradycardia, abnormal behaviour, and aggression.

### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V.

### 4.9 Overdose

The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.

#### Treatment

In the event of overdose, consider standard measures to remove unabsorbed active substance. Symptomatic and supportive treatment is recommended.

Desloratadine is not eliminated by haemodialysis; it is not known if it is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis.

#### Symptoms

Based on a multiple dose clinical trial in adults and adolescents, in which up to 45 mg of desloratadine was administered (nine times the clinical dose), no clinically relevant effects were observed.

### Paediatric population

The adverse event profile associated with overdosage, as seen during post-marketing use, is similar to that seen with therapeutic doses, but the magnitude of the effects can be higher.
5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: antihistamines – $H_1$ antagonist, ATC code: R06A X27

Mechanism of action

Desloratadine is a non-sedating, long-acting histamine antagonist with selective peripheral $H_1$-receptor antagonist activity. After oral administration, desloratadine selectively blocks peripheral histamine $H_1$-receptors because the substance is excluded from entry to the central nervous system.

Desloratadine has demonstrated antiallergic properties from in vitro studies. These include inhibiting the release of proinflammatory cytokines such as IL-4, IL-6, IL-8, and IL-13 from human mast cells/basophils, as well as inhibition of the expression of the adhesion molecule P-selectin on endothelial cells. The clinical relevance of these observations remains to be confirmed.

Clinical efficacy and safety

Paediatric population

Efficacy of Aerius oral solution has not been investigated in separate paediatric trials. However, the safety of desloratidine syrup formulation, which contains the same concentration of desloratadine as Aerius oral solution, was demonstrated in three paediatric trials. Children, 1-11 years of age, who were candidates for antihistamine therapy received a daily desloratadine dose of 1.25 mg (1 through 5 years of age) or 2.5 mg (6 through 11 years of age). Treatment was well tolerated as documented by clinical laboratory tests, vital signs, and ECG interval data, including QTc. When given at the recommended doses, the plasma concentrations of desloratadine (see section 5.2) were comparable in the paediatric and adult populations. Thus, since the course of allergic rhinitis/chronic idiopathic urticaria and the profile of desloratadine are similar in adults and paediatric patients, desloratadine efficacy data in adults can be extrapolated to the paediatric population.

Efficacy of Aerius syrup has not been investigated in paediatric trials in children less than 12 years of age.

Adults and adolescents

In a multiple dose clinical trial, in adults and adolescents, in which up to 20 mg of desloratadine was administered daily for 14 days, no statistically or clinically relevant cardiovascular effect was observed. In a clinical pharmacology trial, in adults and adolescents, in which desloratadine was administered to adults at a dose of 45 mg daily (nine times the clinical dose) for ten days, no prolongation of QTc interval was seen.

Desloratadine does not readily penetrate the central nervous system. In controlled clinical trials, at the recommended dose of 5 mg daily for adults and adolescents, there was no excess incidence of somnolence as compared to placebo. Aerius tablets given at a single daily dose of 7.5 mg to adults and adolescents did not affect psychomotor performance in clinical trials. In a single dose study performed in adults, desloratadine 5 mg did not affect standard measures of flight performance including exacerbation of subjective sleepiness or tasks related to flying.

In clinical pharmacology trials in adults, co-administration with alcohol did not increase the alcohol-induced impairment in performance or increase in sleepiness. No significant differences were found in the psychomotor test results between desloratadine and placebo groups, whether administered alone or with alcohol.

No clinically relevant changes in desloratadine plasma concentrations were observed in multiple-dose ketoconazole and erythromycin interaction trials.

In adult and adolescent patients with allergic rhinitis, Aerius tablets were effective in relieving symptoms such as sneezing, nasal discharge and itching, as well as ocular itching, tearing and redness,
and itching of palate. Aerius effectively controlled symptoms for 24 hours. The efficacy of Aerius tablets has not been clearly demonstrated in trials with adolescent patients 12 through 17 years of age.

In addition to the established classifications of seasonal and perennial, allergic rhinitis can alternatively be classified as intermittent allergic rhinitis and persistent allergic rhinitis according to the duration of symptoms. Intermittent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks. Persistent allergic rhinitis is defined as the presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks.

Aerius tablets were effective in alleviating the burden of seasonal allergic rhinitis as shown by the total score of the rhino-conjunctivitis quality of life questionnaire. The greatest amelioration was seen in the domains of practical problems and daily activities limited by symptoms.

Chronic idiopathic urticaria was studied as a clinical model for urticarial conditions, since the underlying pathophysiology is similar, regardless of etiology, and because chronic patients can be more easily recruited prospectively. Since histamine release is a causal factor in all urticarial diseases, desloratadine is expected to be effective in providing symptomatic relief for other urticarial conditions, in addition to chronic idiopathic urticaria, as advised in clinical guidelines.

In two placebo-controlled six week trials in patients with chronic idiopathic urticaria, Aerius was effective in relieving pruritus and decreasing the size and number of hives by the end of the first dosing interval. In each trial, the effects were sustained over the 24 hour dosing interval. As with other antihistamine trials in chronic idiopathic urticaria, the minority of patients who were identified as non-responsive to antihistamines was excluded. An improvement in pruritus of more than 50% was observed in 55% of patients treated with desloratadine compared with 19% of patients treated with placebo. Treatment with Aerius also significantly reduced interference with sleep and daytime function, as measured by a four-point scale used to assess these variables.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption
Desloratadine plasma concentrations can be detected within 30 minutes of desloratadine administration in adults and adolescents. Desloratadine is well absorbed with maximum concentration achieved after approximately 3 hours; the terminal phase half-life is approximately 27 hours. The degree of accumulation of desloratadine was consistent with its half-life (approximately 27 hours) and a once daily dosing frequency. The bioavailability of desloratadine was dose proportional over the range of 5 mg to 20 mg.

In a series of pharmacokinetic and clinical trials, 6% of the subjects reached a higher concentration of desloratadine. The prevalence of this poor metaboliser phenotype was comparable for adult (6%) and paediatric subjects 2- to 11-year old (6%), and greater among Blacks (18% adult, 16% paediatric) than Caucasians (2% adult, 3% paediatric) in both populations.

In a multiple-dose pharmacokinetic study conducted with the tablet formulation in healthy adult subjects, four subjects were found to be poor metabolisers of desloratadine. These subjects had a \( C_{\text{max}} \) concentration about 3-fold higher at approximately 7 hours with a terminal phase half-life of approximately 89 hours.

Similar pharmacokinetic parameters were observed in a multiple-dose pharmacokinetic study conducted with the syrup formulation in paediatric poor metaboliser subjects 2- to 11-year old diagnosed with allergic rhinitis. The exposure (AUC) to desloratadine was about 6-fold higher and the \( C_{\text{max}} \) was about 3 to 4 fold higher at 3-6 hours with a terminal half-life of approximately 120 hours. Exposure was the same in adult and paediatric poor metabolisers when treated with age-appropriate doses. The overall safety profile of these subjects was not different from that of the general population. The effects of desloratadine in poor metabolizers < 2 years of age have not been studied.
In separate single dose studies, at the recommended doses, paediatric patients had comparable AUC and C_{max} values of desloratadine to those in adults who received a 5 mg dose of desloratadine syrup.

**Distribution**
Desloratadine is moderately bound (83% - 87%) to plasma proteins. There is no evidence of clinically relevant active substance accumulation following once daily adult and adolescent dosing of desloratadine (5 mg to 20 mg) for 14 days.

In a single dose, crossover study of desloratadine, the tablet and the syrup formulations were found to be bioequivalent. As Aerius oral solution contains the same concentration of desloratadine, no bioequivalence study was required and it is expected to be equivalent to the syrup and tablet.

**Biotransformation**
The enzyme responsible for the metabolism of desloratadine has not been identified yet, and therefore, some interactions with other medicinal products cannot be fully excluded. Desloratadine does not inhibit CYP3A4 *in vivo*, and *in vitro* studies have shown that the medicinal product does not inhibit CYP2D6 and is neither a substrate nor an inhibitor of P-glycoprotein.

**Elimination**
In a single dose trial using a 7.5 mg dose of desloratadine, there was no effect of food (high-fat, high caloric breakfast) on the disposition of desloratadine. In another study, grapefruit juice had no effect on the disposition of desloratadine.

**Renally impaired patients**
The pharmacokinetics of desloratadine in patients with chronic renal insufficiency (CRI) was compared with that of healthy subjects in one single-dose study and one multiple dose study. In the single-dose study, the exposure to desloratadine was approximately 2 and 2.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate and severe CRI, respectively, than in healthy subjects. In the multiple-dose study, steady state was reached after Day 11, and compared to healthy subjects the exposure to desloratadine was ~1.5-fold greater in subjects with mild to moderate CRI and ~2.5-fold greater in subjects with severe CRI. In both studies, changes in exposure (AUC and C_{max}) of desloratadine and 3-hydroxydesloratadine were not clinically relevant.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Desloratadine is the primary active metabolite of loratadine. Non-clinical studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine demonstrated that there are no qualitative or quantitative differences in the toxicity profile of desloratadine and loratadine at comparable levels of exposure to desloratadine.

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, toxicity to reproduction and development. The lack of carcinogenic potential was demonstrated in studies conducted with desloratadine and loratadine.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients
sorbitol, propylene glycol, sucralse E 955, hypromellose 2910, sodium citrate dihydrate, natural and artificial flavour (bubblegum), citric acid anhydrous,
disodium edetate, 
purified water

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

2 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not freeze. Store in the original package.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Aerius oral solution, is supplied in 30, 50, 60, 100, 120, 150, 225 and 300 ml size Type III amber glass bottles closed with a plastic child resistant (C/R) screw closure having a multi-ply polyethylene-faced liner. All packages except the 150 ml package are supplied with a measuring spoon marked for doses of 2.5 ml and 5 ml. For the 150 ml package, a measuring spoon or an oral measuring syringe is provided, marked for doses of 2.5 ml and 5 ml.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBERS

EU/1/00/160/061-069

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 15 January 2001
Date of latest renewal: 15 January 2006

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

Detailed information on this medicinal product is available on the website of the European Medicines Agency http://www.ema.europa.eu.
ANNEX II

A. MANUFACTURERS RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE

B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE

C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORIZATION

D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT
A. MANUFACTURERS RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE

Name and address of the manufacturer responsible for batch release for film-coated tablets

SP Labo N.V.
Industriepark 30
2220 Heist-op-den-Berg
Belgium

Name and address of the manufacturer responsible for batch release for orodispersible tablet

SP Labo N.V.
Industriepark 30
2220 Heist-op-den-Berg
Belgium

Name and address of the manufacturer responsible for batch release for oral solution

SP Labo N.V.
Industriepark 30
2220 Heist-op-den-Berg
Belgium

B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE

Medicinal product subject to medical prescription.

C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION

- Periodic Safety Update Reports

The marketing authorisation holder shall submit periodic safety update reports for this product in accordance with the requirements set out in the list of Union reference dates (EURD list) provided for under Article 107c(7) of Directive 2001/83/EC and published on the European medicines web-portal.

D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

- Risk Management Plan (RMP)

The MAH shall perform the required pharmacovigilance activities and interventions detailed in the agreed RMP presented in Module 1.8.2 of the Marketing Authorisation and any agreed subsequent updates of the RMP.

An updated RMP should be submitted:

- At the request of the European Medicines Agency;
- Whenever the risk management system is modified, especially as the result of new information being received that may lead to a significant change to the benefit/risk profile or as the result of an important (pharmacovigilance or risk minimisation) milestone being reached.

If the dates for submission of a PSUR and the update of a RMP coincide, they can be submitted at the same time.
ANNEX III

LABELLING AND PACKAGE LEAFLET
A. LABELLING
PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING

BOX OF 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 30, 50, 90, 100 TABLETS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Aerius 5 mg film-coated tablets
desloratadine

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each tablet contains 5 mg desloratadine.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains lactose.
See leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

1 film-coated tablet
2 film-coated tablets
3 film-coated tablets
5 film-coated tablets
7 film-coated tablets
10 film-coated tablets
14 film-coated tablets
15 film-coated tablets
20 film-coated tablets
21 film-coated tablets
30 film-coated tablets
50 film-coated tablets
90 film-coated tablets
100 film-coated tablets

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Swallow the tablet whole with water.
Oral use
Read the package leaflet before use.

6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.
7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY

8. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package.

10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

<table>
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<th>Marketing Authorisation Number</th>
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<tbody>
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</tr>
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<td>100</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

13. BATCH NUMBER

Batch

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

Medicinal product subject to medical prescription.
### 15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE

### 16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

Aerius
### Minimum Particulars to Appear on Blisters or Strips

**Box of 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 30, 50, 90, 100 Tablets**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Name of the medicinal product</th>
<th>Aerius 5 mg tablet desloratadine</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Name of the marketing authorisation holder</td>
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<td>3. Expiry date</td>
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<td>4. Batch number</td>
<td>Batch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Other</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING

BOX OF 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 ORODISPERSIBLE TABLETS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablets
desloratadine

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each dose of orodispersible tablet contains 2.5 mg desloratadine.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains mannitol and aspartame.
See leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

5 orodispersible tablets
6 orodispersible tablets
10 orodispersible tablets
12 orodispersible tablets
15 orodispersible tablets
18 orodispersible tablets
20 orodispersible tablets
30 orodispersible tablets
50 orodispersible tablets
60 orodispersible tablets
90 orodispersible tablets
100 orodispersible tablets

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Oral use
Read the package leaflet before use.

6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY
8. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store in the original package.

10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

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<td>EU/1/00/160/048</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. BATCH NUMBER

Batch

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

Medicinal product subject to medical prescription.

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE
Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablet
# MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON BLISTERS OR STRIPS

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td><strong>NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>desloratadine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td><strong>NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td><strong>EXPIRY DATE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>EXP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td><strong>BATCH NUMBER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Batch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td><strong>OTHER</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING

BOX OF 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90, 100 ORODISPERSIBLE TABLETS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets
desloratadine

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each dose of orodispersible tablet contains 5 mg desloratadine.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains mannitol and aspartame.
See leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Tablets</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
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<tr>
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<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90</td>
<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100</td>
<td>orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Oral use
Read the package leaflet before use.

6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY
8. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Store in the original package.

10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Tablets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/049</td>
<td>5 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/050</td>
<td>6 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/051</td>
<td>10 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/052</td>
<td>12 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/053</td>
<td>15 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/054</td>
<td>18 orodispersible tablets</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/055</td>
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<td>90 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EU/1/00/160/060</td>
<td>100 orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

13. BATCH NUMBER

Batch

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

Medicinal product subject to medical prescription.

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE
16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablet
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON BLISTERS OR STRIPS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>desloratadine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3. EXPIRY DATE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EXP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4. BATCH NUMBER</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5. OTHER</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING
BOTTLE OF 30 ML, 50 ML, 60 ML, 100 ML, 120 ML, 150 ML, 225 ML, 300 ML

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Aerius 0.5 mg/ml oral solution
desloratadine

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each ml of oral solution contains 0.5 mg desloratadine.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains propylene glycol and sorbitol.
See leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

oral solution
30 ml with 1 spoon
50 ml with 1 spoon
60 ml with 1 spoon
100 ml with 1 spoon
120 ml with 1 spoon
150 ml with 1 spoon
150 ml with 1 oral syringe
225 ml with 1 spoon
300 ml with 1 spoon

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Oral use
Read the package leaflet before use.

6. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

7. OTHER SPECIAL WARNING(S), IF NECESSARY
8. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Do not freeze. Store in the original package.

10. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL OF UNUSED MEDICINAL PRODUCTS OR WASTE MATERIALS DERIVED FROM SUCH MEDICINAL PRODUCTS, IF APPROPRIATE

11. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

| EU/1/00/160/061 | 30 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/062 | 50 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/063 | 60 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/064 | 100 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/065 | 120 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/066 | 150 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/069 | 150 ml with 1 oral syringe |
| EU/1/00/160/067 | 225 ml with 1 spoon |
| EU/1/00/160/068 | 300 ml with 1 spoon |

13. BATCH NUMBER

Batch

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

Medicinal product subject to medical prescription.

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE

16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

Aerius
MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON SMALL IMMEDIATE PACKAGING UNITS
BOTTLE OF 30 ML, 50 ML, 60 ML, 100 ML, 120 ML, 150 ML, 225 ML, 300 ML

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Aerius 0.5 mg/ml oral solution
desloratadine

2. METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

Oral use

3. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

4. BATCH NUMBER

Batch

5. CONTENTS BY WEIGHT, BY VOLUME OR BY UNIT

30 ml
50 ml
60 ml
100 ml
120 ml
150 ml
225 ml
300 ml

6. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains propylene glycol and sorbitol.
See leaflet for further information.

7. NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd
Hertford Road, Hoddesdon
Hertfordshire EN11 9BU
United Kingdom
8. SPECIAL WARNING THAT THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT MUST BE STORED OUT OF THE SIGHT AND REACH OF CHILDREN

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

9. SPECIAL STORAGE CONDITIONS

Do not freeze. Store in the original package.
B. PACKAGE LEAFLET
What is in this leaflet

1. What Aerius is and what it is used for

What Aerius is
Aerius contains desloratadine which is an antihistamine.

How Aerius works
Aerius is an antiallergy medicine that does not make you drowsy. It helps control your allergic reaction and its symptoms.

When Aerius should be used
Aerius relieves symptoms associated with allergic rhinitis (inflammation of the nasal passages caused by an allergy, for example, hay fever or allergy to dust mites) in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older. These symptoms include sneezing, runny or itchy nose, itchy palate, and itchy, red or watery eyes.

Aerius is also used to relieve the symptoms associated with urticaria (a skin condition caused by an allergy). These symptoms include itching and hives.

Relief of these symptoms lasts a full day and helps you to resume your normal daily activities and sleep.

2. What you need to know before you take Aerius

Do not take Aerius
- if you are allergic to desloratadine, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) or to loratadine.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Aerius:
- if you have poor kidney function.
- if you have medical or familial history of seizures.
Use in children and adolescents
Do not give this medicine to children less than 12 years of age.

Other medicines and Aerius
There are no known interactions of Aerius with other medicines.
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Aerius with food, drink and alcohol
Aerius may be taken with or without a meal.
Use caution when taking Aerius with alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.
Taking Aerius is not recommended if you are pregnant or nursing a baby.

Fertility
There is no data available on male/female fertility.

Driving and using machines
At the recommended dose, this medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive or use machines. Although most people do not experience drowsiness, it is recommended not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or operating machinery until you have established your own response to the medicinal product.

Aerius contains lactose
Aerius tablets contain lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3. How to take Aerius

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and over
The recommended dose is one tablet once a day with water, with or without food.

This medicine is for oral use.
Swallow the tablet whole.

Regarding the duration of treatment, your physician will determine the type of allergic rhinitis you are suffering from and will determine for how long you should take Aerius.
If your allergic rhinitis is intermittent (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks), your physician will recommend you a treatment schedule that will depend on the evaluation of the history of your disease.
If your allergic rhinitis is persistent (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), your physician may recommend you a longer term treatment.

For urticaria, the duration of treatment may be variable from patient to patient and therefore you should follow the instructions of your physician.
If you take more Aerius than you should
Take Aerius only as it is prescribed for you. No serious problems are expected with accidental overdose. However, if you take more Aerius than you were told to, tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately.

If you forget to take Aerius
If you forget to take your dose on time, take it as soon as possible and then go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Aerius
If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

During the marketing of Aerius, cases of severe allergic reactions (difficulty in breathing, wheezing, itching, hives and swelling) have been reported very rarely. If you notice any of these serious side effects, stop taking the medicine and seek urgent medical advice straight away.

In clinical studies in adults, side effects were about the same as with a dummy tablet. However, fatigue, dry mouth and headache were reported more often than with a dummy tablet. In adolescents, headache was the most commonly reported side effect.

In clinical studies with Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

Common: the following may affect up to 1 in 10 people
- fatigue
- dry mouth
- headache

Adults
During the marketing of Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

Very rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people
- severe allergic reactions
- fast heartbeat
- vomiting
- dizziness
- muscle pain
- restlessness with increased body movement
- rash
- stomach ache
- upset stomach
- drowsiness
- hallucinations
- liver inflammation
- pounding or irregular heartbeat
- feeling sick (nausea)
- diarrhoea
- inability to sleep
- seizures
- abnormal liver function tests

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
- unusual weakness
- yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
- increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun, even in case of hazy sun, and to UV light, for instance to UV lights of a solarium
- changes in the way the heart beats
- abnormal behaviour
- aggression

Children
Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
- slow heartbeat
- abnormal behaviour
- change in the way the heart beats
- aggression
Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Aerius

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package.

Do not use this medicine if you notice any change in the appearance of the tablets.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Aerius contains

- The active substance is desloratadine 5 mg
- The other ingredients of the tablet are calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, talc. Tablet coating contains film coat (containing lactose monohydrate, hypromellose, titanium dioxide, macrogol 400, indigotin (E132)), clear coat (containing hypromellose, macrogol 400), carnauba wax, white wax.

What Aerius looks like and contents of the pack

Aerius 5 mg film-coated tablets are packed in blisters in packs of 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10, 14, 15, 20, 21, 30, 50, 90 or 100 tablets.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder: Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU, United Kingdom.

Manufacturer: SP Labo N.V., Industriepark 30, B-2220 Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium.

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Afgelegenheid/Country</th>
<th>Contact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| België/Belgique/Belgien | MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL  
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)  
d poc_belux@merck.com |
| Litouva | UAB Merck Sharp & Dohme  
Tel. + 370 5 278 02 47  
msd_lituva@merck.com |
България
Мерк Шарп и Доум България ЕООД
Тел.: +359 2 819 3737
info-msdbg@merck.com

Česká republika
Merck Sharp & Dohme s.r.o.
Tel: +420 233 010 111
dpoc_czechslovak@merck.com

Danmark
MSD Danmark ApS
Tlf: +45 4482 4000
dkmail@merck.com

Deutschland
MSD SHARP & DOHME GMBH
Tel: 0800 673 673 673
(+49 (0) 89 4561 2612)
e-mail@msd.de

Eesti
Merck Sharp & Dohme OÜ
Tel: + 372 6144 200
msdeesti@merck.com

Ελλάδα
MSD Α.Φ.Β.Ε.Ε.
Τηλ: +30 210 98 97 300
dpoc_greece@merck.com

España
Merck Sharp & Dohme de España, S.A.
Tel: +34 91 321 06 00
msd_info@merck.com

Franca
MSD France
Tél: + 33 (0)1 80 46 40 40

Hrvatska
Merck Sharp & Dohme d.o.o.
Tel: + 385 1 6611 333
croatia_info@merck.com

Ireland
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ireland (Human Health) Limited
Tel: +353 (0)1 2998700
medinfo_ireland@merck.com

Luxembourg/Luxemburg
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

Magyarország
MSD Pharma Hungary Kft.
Tel.: +36 1 888 5300
hungary_msd@merck.com

Malta
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Tel: 8007 4433 (+356 99917558)
malta_info@merck.com

Nederland
Merck Sharp & Dohme BV
Tel: 0800 9999000 (+31 23 5153153)
medicalinfo.nl@merck.com

Österreich
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ges.m.b.H.
Tel: +43 (0) 1 26 044
msd-medizin@merck.com

Polska
MSD Polska Sp. z o.o.
Tel: +48 22 549 51 00
msdpolska@merck.com

Portugal
Merck Sharp & Dohme, Lda
Tel: +351 21 4465700
clic@merck.com

România
Merck Sharp & Dohme Romania S.R.L.
Tel: + 40 21 529 29 00
msdromania@merck.com

Slovenija
Merck Sharp & Dohme, inovativna zdravila d.o.o.
Tel: +386 1 5204 201
msd.slovenia@merck.com
Ísland
Visitor hf.
Sími: + 354 535 70 00

Slovenská republika
Merck Sharp & Dohme, s. r. o.
Tel: +421 2 58282010
dpoc_czechslovak@merck.com

Italia
MSD Italia S.r.l.
Tel: +39 06 361911
medicalinformation.it@merck.com

Suomi/Finland
MSD Finland Oy
Puh/Tel: + 358 (0)9 804 650
info@msd.fi

Κύπρος
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Τηλ.: 800 00 673
(+357 22866700)
cyprus_info@merck.com

Sverige
Merck Sharp & Dohme (Sweden) AB
Tel: +46 77 5700488
medicinskinfo@merck.com

Latvija
SIA Merck Sharp & Dohme Latvija
Tel: + 371 67364224
msd_lv@merck.com

United Kingdom
Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited
Tel: +44 (0) 1992 467272
medicalinformationuk@merck.com

This leaflet was last revised in

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website http://www.ema.europa.eu.
Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablets

desloratadine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet
1. What Aerius orodispersible tablet is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Aerius orodispersible tablet
3. How to take Aerius orodispersible tablet
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Aerius orodispersible tablet
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Aerius orodispersible tablet is and what it is used for

What Aerius is
Aerius contains desloratadine which is an antihistamine.

How Aerius works
Aerius orodispersible tablet is an antiallergy medicine that does not make you drowsy. It helps control your allergic reaction and its symptoms.

When Aerius should be used
Aerius orodispersible tablet relieves symptoms associated with allergic rhinitis (inflammation of the nasal passages caused by an allergy, for example, hay fever or allergy to dust mites) in adults, adolescents and children 6 years of age and older. These symptoms include sneezing, runny or itchy nose, itchy palate, and itchy, red or watery eyes.

Aerius orodispersible tablet is also used to relieve the symptoms associated with urticaria (a skin condition caused by an allergy). These symptoms include itching and hives.

Relief of these symptoms lasts a full day and helps you to resume your normal daily activities and sleep.

2. What you need to know before you take Aerius orodispersible tablet

Do not take Aerius orodispersible tablet
- if you are allergic to desloratadine, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) or to loratadine.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Aerius:
- if you have poor kidney function.
- if you have medical or familial history of seizures.
Use in children and adolescents
Do not give this medicine to children less than 6 years of age.

Other medicines and Aerius
There are no known interactions of Aerius with other medicines. 
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Aerius orodispersible tablet with food, drink and alcohol
Aerius orodispersible tablet does not need to be taken with water or liquid. Additionally, Aerius orodispersible tablet may be taken with or without a meal. Use caution when taking Aerius with alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine. Taking Aerius is not recommended if you are pregnant or nursing a baby.

Fertility
There is no data available on male/female fertility.

Driving and using machines
At the recommended dose, this medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive or use machines. Although most people do not experience drowsiness, it is recommended not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or operating machinery until you have established your own response to the medicinal product.

Aerius orodispersible tablet contains aspartame
This product contains aspartame. Aspartame is a source of phenylalanine, which may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.

3. How to take Aerius orodispersible tablet
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and over
The recommended dose is two tablets once a day with or without food.

This medicine is for oral use.
Before using, carefully peel open the blister and remove the dose of orodispersible tablet without crushing it. Place it in your mouth and it will disperse immediately. Water or other liquid is not needed to swallow the dose. Take the dose immediately after removal from the blister.

Children from 6 to 11 years of age
The recommended dose is one tablet once a day with or without food.

Regarding the duration of treatment, your physician will determine the type of allergic rhinitis you are suffering from and will determine for how long you should take Aerius orodispersible tablets. If your allergic rhinitis is intermittent (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks), your physician will recommend you a treatment schedule that will depend on the evaluation of the history of your disease.
If your allergic rhinitis is persistent (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), your physician may recommend you a longer term treatment.
For urticaria, the duration of treatment may be variable from patient to patient and therefore you should follow the instructions of your physician.

**If you take more Aerius orodispersible tablet than you should**
Take Aerius orodispersible tablet only as prescribed for you. No serious problems are expected with accidental overdose. However, if you take more Aerius orodispersible tablet than you were told to, tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately.

**If you forget to take Aerius orodispersible tablet**
If you forget to take your dose on time, take it as soon as possible and then go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses.

**If you stop taking Aerius orodispersible tablet**
If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

### 4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects although not everybody gets them.

During the marketing of Aerius, cases of severe allergic reactions (difficulty in breathing, wheezing, itching, hives and swelling) have been reported very rarely. If you notice any of these serious side effects, stop taking the medicine and seek urgent medical advice straight away.

In clinical studies in adults, side effects were about the same as with a dummy tablet. However, fatigue, dry mouth and headache were reported more often than with a dummy tablet. In adolescents, headache was the most commonly reported side effect.

In clinical studies with Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

- **Common: the following may affect up to 1 in 10 people**
  - fatigue
  - dry mouth
  - headache

- **Adults**
  During the marketing of Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

  - Very rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people
    - severe allergic reactions
    - fast heartbeat
    - vomiting
    - dizziness
    - muscle pain
    - restlessness with increased body movement
    - rash
    - stomach ache
    - upset stomach
    - drowsiness
    - hallucinations
    - liver inflammation
    - pounding or irregular heartbeat
    - feeling sick (nausea)
    - diarrhoea
    - inability to sleep
    - seizures
    - abnormal liver function tests

- **Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data**
  - unusual weakness
  - yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
  - increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun, even in case of hazy sun, and to UV light, for instance to UV lights of a solarium
  - changes in the way the heart beats
  - abnormal behaviour
  - aggression
Children
Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
● slow heartbeat ● change in the way the heart beats
● abnormal behaviour ● aggression

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Aerius orodispersible tablet

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in the original package.

Do not use this medicine if you notice any change in the appearance of Aerius orodispersible tablet.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Aerius orodispersible tablet contains

- The active substance is desloratadine 2.5 mg
- The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate, butylated methacrylate copolymer, crospovidone, sodium hydrogen carbonate, citric acid, colloidal silicon dioxide, ferric oxide, mannitol, aspartame (E951) and flavour Tutti-Frutti.

What Aerius orodispersible tablet looks like and contents of the pack

Aerius 2.5 mg orodispersible tablet is light red, speckled, and round with “K” branded on one side. Aerius orodispersible tablet is packed in unit dose blisters in packs of 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90 and 100 doses of orodispersible tablet. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder: Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU, United Kingdom.

Manufacturer: SP Labo N.V., Industriepark 30, B-2220 Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium.

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:
België/Belgique/Belgien
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

Lietuva
UB Merck Sharp & Dohme
Tel. + 370 5 278 02 47
msd_lietuva@merck.com

Luxembourg/Luxemburg
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

Magyarország
MSD Pharma Hungary Kft.
Tel.: +36 1 888 5300
hungary_msd@merck.com

Danmark
MSD Danmark ApS
Tlf: +45 4482 4000
dkmail@merck.com

Malta
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Tel: 8007 4433 (+356 99917558)
malta_info@merck.com

Česká republika
Merck Sharp & Dohme s.r.o.
Tel: +420 233 010 111
dpoc_czechslovak@merck.com

Nederland
Merck Sharp & Dohme BV
Tel: 0800 9999000 (+31 23 5153153)
medicalinfo.nl@merck.com

Deutschland
MSD SHARP & DOHME GMBH
Tel: 0800 673 673 673
(+49 (0) 89 4561 2612)
e-mail@msd.de

Norge
Merck Sharp & Dohme AS
Tlf: +47 32 20 73 00
msdnorge@msd.no

Ελλάδα
MSD Α.Φ.Β.Ε.
Τηλ: +30 210 98 97 300
dpoc_greece@merck.com

Österreich
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ges.m.b.H.
Tel: +43 (0) 1 26 044
msd-medizin@merck.com

España
Merck Sharp & Dohme de España, S.A.
Tel: +34 91 321 06 00
msd_info@merck.com

Polska
MSD Polska Sp. z o.o.
Tel: +48 22 549 51 00
msdpolska@merck.com

Hrvatska
Merck Sharp & Dohme d.o.o.
Tel: + 385 1 6611 333
croatia_info@merck.com

Portugal
Merck Sharp & Dohme, Lda
Tel: +351 21 4465700
clic@merck.com

România
Merck Sharp & Dohme Romania S.R.L.
Tel: + 40 21 529 2900
msdromania@merck.com
Ireland
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ireland (Human Health) Limited
Tel: +353 (0)1 2998700
medinfo_ireland@merck.com

Ísland
Vistor hf.
Sími: + 354 535 70 00

Italia
MSD Italia S.r.l.
Tel: +39 06 361911
medicalinformation.it@merck.com

Κύπρος
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Τηλ.: 800 00 673
(+357 22866700)
cyprus_info@merck.com

Latvija
SIA Merck Sharp & Dohme Latvija
Tel: + 371 67364224
msd_lv@merck.com

Slovenija
Merck Sharp & Dohme, inovativna zdravila d.o.o.
Tel: +386 1 5204 201
msd.slovenia@merck.com

Slovenská republika
Merck Sharp & Dohme, s. r. o.
Tel: +421 2 58282010
dpoc_czechslovak@merck.com

Suomi/Finland
MSD Finland Oy
Puh/Tel: + 358 (0)9 804 650
info@msd.fi

Sverige
Merck Sharp & Dohme (Sweden) AB
Tel: +46 77 5700488
medicinskinfo@merck.com

United Kingdom
Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited
Tel: +44 (0) 1992 467272
medicalinformationuk@merck.com

This leaflet was last revised in

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website http://www.ema.europa.eu.
Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablets
desloratadine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet
1. What Aerius orodispersible tablet is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Aerius orodispersible tablet
3. How to take Aerius orodispersible tablet
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Aerius orodispersible tablet
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Aerius orodispersible tablet is and what it is used for

What Aerius is
Aerius contains desloratadine which is an antihistamine.

How Aerius works
Aerius orodispersible tablet is an antiallergy medicine that does not make you drowsy. It helps control your allergic reaction and its symptoms.

When Aerius should be used
Aerius orodispersible tablet relieves symptoms associated with allergic rhinitis (inflammation of the nasal passages caused by an allergy, for example, hay fever or allergy to dust mites) in adults and adolescents 12 years of age and older. These symptoms include sneezing, runny or itchy nose, itchy palate, and itchy, red or watery eyes.

Aerius orodispersible tablet is also used to relieve the symptoms associated with urticaria (a skin condition caused by an allergy). These symptoms include itching and hives.

Relief of these symptoms lasts a full day and helps you to resume your normal daily activities and sleep.

2. What you need to know before you take Aerius orodispersible tablet

Do not take Aerius orodispersible tablet
- if you are allergic to desloratadine, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) or to loratadine.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Aerius:
- if you have poor kidney function.
- if you have medical or familial history of seizures.
Use in children and adolescents
Do not give this medicine to children less than 12 years of age.

Other medicines and Aerius
There are no known interactions of Aerius with other medicines.
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Aerius orodispersible tablet with food, drink and alcohol
Aerius orodispersible tablet does not need to be taken with water or liquid. Additionally, Aerius orodispersible tablet may be taken with or without a meal. Use caution when taking Aerius with alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.
Taking Aerius is not recommended if you are pregnant or nursing a baby.

Fertility
There is no data available on male/female fertility.

Driving and using machines
At the recommended dose, this medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive or use machines. Although most people do not experience drowsiness, it is recommended not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or operating machinery until you have established your own response to the medicinal product.

Aerius orodispersible tablet contains aspartame
This product contains aspartame. Aspartame is a source of phenylalanine, which may be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.

3. How to take Aerius orodispersible tablet
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and over
The recommended dose is one tablet once a day with or without food.

This medicine is for oral use.
Before using, carefully peel open the blister and remove the dose of orodispersible tablet without crushing it. Place it in your mouth and it will disperse immediately. Water or other liquid is not needed to swallow the dose. Take the dose immediately after removal from the blister.

Regarding the duration of treatment, your physician will determine the type of allergic rhinitis you are suffering from and will determine for how long you should take Aerius orodispersible tablets.
If your allergic rhinitis is intermittent (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks), your physician will recommend you a treatment schedule that will depend on the evaluation of the history of your disease.
If your allergic rhinitis is persistent (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), your physician may recommend you a longer term treatment.

For urticaria, the duration of treatment may be variable from patient to patient and therefore you should follow the instructions of your physician.
If you take more Aerius orodispersible tablet than you should
Take Aerius orodispersible tablet only as prescribed for you. No serious problems are expected with accidental overdose. However, if you take more Aerius orodispersible tablet than you were told to, tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately.

If you forget to take Aerius orodispersible tablet
If you forget to take your dose on time, take it as soon as possible and then go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses.

If you stop taking Aerius orodispersible tablet
If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects
Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects although not everybody gets them.

During the marketing of Aerius, cases of severe allergic reactions (difficulty in breathing, wheezing, itching, hives and swelling) have been reported very rarely. If you notice any of these serious side effects, stop taking the medicine and seek urgent medical advice straight away.

In clinical studies in adults, side effects were about the same as with a dummy tablet. However, fatigue, dry mouth and headache were reported more often than with a dummy tablet. In adolescents, headache was the most commonly reported side effect.

In clinical studies with Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

Common: the following may affect up to 1 in 10 people
● fatigue
● dry mouth
● headache

Adults
During the marketing of Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

Very rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people
● severe allergic reactions
● fast heartbeat
● vomiting
● dizziness
● muscle pain
● restlessness with increased body movement
● rash
● stomach ache
● upset stomach
● drowsiness
● hallucinations
● liver inflammation
● pounding or irregular heartbeat
● feeling sick (nausea)
● diarrhoea
● inability to sleep
● seizures
● abnormal liver function tests

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
● unusual weakness
● yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
● increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun, even in case of hazy sun, and to UV light, for instance to UV lights of a solarium
● changes in the way the heart beats
● abnormal behaviour
● aggression

Children
Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
● slow heartbeat
● abnormal behaviour

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**Reporting of side effects**
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. **How to store Aerius orodispersible tablet**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in the original package.

Do not use this medicine if you notice any change in the appearance of Aerius orodispersible tablet.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. **Contents of the pack and other information**

**What Aerius orodispersible tablet contains**
- The active substance is desloratadine 5 mg
- The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch, sodium starch glycolate, magnesium stearate, butylated methacrylate copolymer, crospovidone, sodium hydrogen carbonate, citric acid, colloidal silicon dioxide, ferric oxide, mannitol, aspartame (E951) and flavour Tutti-Frutti.

**What Aerius orodispersible tablet looks like and contents of the pack**
Aerius 5 mg orodispersible tablet is light red, speckled, and round with “A” branded on one side. Aerius orodispersible tablet is packed in unit dose blisters in packs of 5, 6, 10, 12, 15, 18, 20, 30, 50, 60, 90 and 100 doses of orodispersible tablet.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**
Marketing Authorisation Holder: Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU, United Kingdom.
Manufacturer: SP Labo N.V., Industriepark 30, B-2220 Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium.

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

**Belgien/Belgique/Belgien**
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

**Lietuva**
UAB Merck Sharp & Dohme
Tel. +370 5 278 02 47
msd_lietuva@merck.com
България
Мерк Шарп и Доум България ЕООД
Тел.: +359 2 819 3737
info-msdbg@merck.com

Česká republika
Merck Sharp & Dohme s.r.o.
Tel: +420 233 010 111
dpoc_czechslovak@merck.com

Danmark
MSD Danmark ApS
Tlf: + 45 4482 4000
dkmail@merck.com

Deutschland
MSD SHARP & DOHME GMBH
Tel: 0800 673 673 673
(+49 (0) 89 4561 2612)
e-mail@msd.de

Eesti
Merck Sharp & Dohme OÜ
Tel: +372 6144 200
msdeesti@merck.com

Ελλάδα
MSD Α.Φ.Β.Ε.
Τηλ: +30 210 98 97 300
dpoc_greece@merck.com

España
Merck Sharp & Dohme de España, S.A.
Tel: +34 91 321 06 00
msd_info@merck.com

France
MSD France
Tél: + 33 (0) 1 80 46 40 40

Hrvatska
Merck Sharp & Dohme d.o.o.
Tel: + 385 1 6611 333
croatia_info@merck.com

Ireland
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ireland (Human Health) Limited
Tel: +353 (0)1 2998700
medinfo_ireland@merck.com

Luxembourg/Luxemburg
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

Magyarország
MSD Pharma Hungary Kft.
Tel.: +36 1 888 5300
hungary_msd@merck.com

Malta
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Tel: 8007 4433 (+356 99917558)
malta_info@merck.com

Nederland
Merck Sharp & Dohme BV
Tel: 0800 9999000 (+31 23 5153153)
medicalinfo.nl@merck.com

Norge
MSD (Norge) AS
Tlf: +47 32 20 73 00
msdnorge@msd.no

Österreich
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ges.m.b.H.
Tel: +43 (0) 1 26 044
msd-medizin@merck.com

Polska
MSD Polska Sp. z o.o.
Tel: +48 22 549 51 00
msdpolska@merck.com

Portugal
Merck Sharp & Dohme, Lda
Tel: +351 21 4465700
clic@merck.com

România
Merck Sharp & Dohme Romania S.R.L.
Tel: + 40 21 529 29 00
msdromania@merck.com

Slovenija
Merck Sharp & Dohme, inovativna zdravila d.o.o.
Tel: +386 1 5204 201
msd.slovenia@merck.com
Ísland
Vistor hf.
Sími: + 354 535 7000

Slovenská republika
Merck Sharp & Dohme, s. r. o.
Tel: +421 2 58282010
dpoec_czechslovak@merck.com

Italia
MSD Italia S.r.l.
Tel: +39 06 361911
medicalinformation.it@merck.com

Suomi/Finland
MSD Finland Oy
Puh/Tel: + 358 (0)9 804 650
info@msd.fi

Κύπρος
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Τηλ.: 800 00 673
(+357 22866700)
cyprus_info@merck.com

Sverige
Merck Sharp & Dohme (Sweden) AB
Tel: +46 77 5700488
medicinskinfo@merck.com

Latvija
SIA Merck Sharp & Dohme Latvija
Tel: + 371 67364224
msd_lv@merck.com

United Kingdom
Merck Sharp & Dohme Limited
Tel: +44 (0) 1992 467272
medicalinformationuk@merck.com

This leaflet was last revised in

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website http://www.ema.europa.eu.
Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Aerius 0.5 mg/ml oral solution
desloratadine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Aerius oral solution is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Aerius oral solution
3. How to take Aerius oral solution
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Aerius oral solution
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Aerius oral solution is and what it is used for

What Aerius is
Aerius contains desloratadine which is an antihistamine.

How Aerius works
Aerius oral solution is an antiallergy medicine that does not make you drowsy. It helps control your allergic reaction and its symptoms.

When Aerius should be used
Aerius oral solution relieves symptoms associated with allergic rhinitis (inflammation of the nasal passages caused by an allergy, for example, hay fever or allergy to dust mites) in adults, adolescents and children 1 year of age and older. These symptoms include sneezing, runny or itchy nose, itchy palate, and itchy, red or watery eyes.

Aerius oral solution is also used to relieve the symptoms associated with urticaria (a skin condition caused by an allergy). These symptoms include itching and hives.

Relief of these symptoms lasts a full day and helps you to resume your normal daily activities and sleep.

2. What you need to know before you take Aerius oral solution

Do not take Aerius oral solution
- if you are allergic to desloratadine, or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6) or loratadine.

Warnings and precautions
Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking Aerius:
- if you have poor kidney function.
- if you have medical or familial history of seizures.
Use in children and adolescents
Do not give this medicine to children less than 1 year of age.

Other medicines and Aerius
There are no known interactions of Aerius with other medicines.
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Aerius oral solution with food, drink and alcohol
Aerius may be taken with or without a meal.
Use caution when taking Aerius with alcohol.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.
Taking Aerius oral solution is not recommended if you are pregnant or nursing a baby.

Fertility
There is no data available on male/female fertility.

Driving and using machines
At the recommended dose, this medicine is not expected to affect your ability to drive or use machines. Although most people do not experience drowsiness, it is recommended not to engage in activities requiring mental alertness, such as driving a car or operating machinery until you have established your own response to the medicinal product.

Aerius oral solution contains sorbitol
Aerius oral solution contains sorbitol. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3. How to take Aerius oral solution
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Children
Children 1 through 5 years of age:
The recommended dose is 2.5 ml (½ of a 5 ml spoonful) of oral solution once a day.

Children 6 through 11 years of age:
The recommended dose is 5 ml (one 5 ml spoonful) of oral solution once a day.

Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and over
The recommended dose is 10 ml (two 5 ml spoonfuls) of oral solution once a day.

In case an oral measuring syringe is provided with the bottle of oral solution, you can alternatively use it to take the appropriate amount of oral solution.

This medicine is for oral use.

Swallow the dose of oral solution and then drink some water. You can take this medicine with or without food.

Regarding the duration of treatment, your physician will determine the type of allergic rhinitis you are suffering from and will determine for how long you should take Aerius oral solution.
If your allergic rhinitis is intermittent (presence of symptoms for less than 4 days per week or for less than 4 weeks), your physician will recommend you a treatment schedule that will depend on the evaluation of the history of your disease.

If your allergic rhinitis is persistent (presence of symptoms for 4 days or more per week and for more than 4 weeks), your physician may recommend you a longer term treatment.

For urticaria, the duration of treatment may be variable from patient to patient and therefore you should follow the instructions of your physician.

**If you take more Aerius oral solution than you should**

Take Aerius oral solution only as it is prescribed for you. No serious problems are expected with accidental overdose. However, if you take more Aerius oral solution than you were told to, tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse immediately.

**If you forget to take Aerius oral solution**

If you forget to take your dose on time, take it as soon as possible and then go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

**If you stop taking Aerius oral solution**

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

During the marketing of Aerius, cases of severe allergic reactions (difficulty in breathing, wheezing, itching, hives and swelling) have been reported very rarely. If you notice any of these serious side effects, stop taking the medicine and seek urgent medical advice straight away.

In clinical studies in most children and adults, side effects with Aerius were about the same as with a dummy solution or tablet. However, common side effects in children less than 2 years of age were diarrhoea, fever and insomnia while in adults, fatigue, dry mouth and headache were reported more often than with a dummy tablet.

In clinical studies with Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

**Children**

Common in children less than 2 years of age: the following may affect up to 1 in 10 children

- diarrhoea
- fever
- insomnia

**Adults**

Common: the following may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- fatigue
- dry mouth
- headache

During the marketing of Aerius, the following side effects were reported as:

**Adults**

Very rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- severe allergic reactions
- fast heartbeat
- vomiting

- rash
- stomach ache
- upset stomach

- pounding or irregular heartbeat
- feeling sick (nausea)
- diarrhoea
● dizziness ● muscle pain ● restlessness with increased body movement
● drowsiness ● hallucinations ● liver inflammation
● inability to sleep ● seizures ● abnormal liver function tests

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
● unusual weakness ● yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
● increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun, even in case of hazy sun, and to UV light, for instance to UV lights of a solarium
● changes in the way the heart beats
● abnormal behaviour
● aggression

Children
Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
● slow heartbeat ● change in the way the heart beats
● abnormal behaviour ● aggression

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the national reporting system listed in Appendix V. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Aerius oral solution

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not freeze. Store in the original package.

Do not use this medicine if you notice any change in the appearance of the oral solution.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Aerius oral solution contains
- The active substance is desloratadine 0.5 mg/ml
- The other ingredients of the oral solution are sorbitol, propylene glycol, sucralose E 955, hypromellose 2910, sodium citrate dihydrate, natural and artificial flavour (bubblegum), citric acid anhydrous, disodium edetate and purified water.

What Aerius oral solution looks like and contents of the pack
Aerius oral solution is available in bottles of 30, 50, 60, 100, 120, 150, 225 and 300 ml, with a childproof cap. For all packages except the 150 ml bottle, a measuring spoon is provided, marked for doses of 2.5 ml and 5 ml. For the 150 ml package, a measuring spoon or an oral measuring syringe is provided, marked for doses of 2.5 ml and 5 ml.
Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

Marketing Authorisation Holder: Merck Sharp & Dohme Ltd, Hertford Road, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire EN11 9BU, United Kingdom.

Manufacturer: SP Labo N.V., Industriepark 30, B-2220 Heist-op-den-Berg, Belgium.

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

**Belgïë/Belgique/Belgien**
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

**Lietuva**
UAB Merck Sharp & Dohme
Tel. + 370 5 278 02 47
msd_lietuva@merck.com

**Luxembourg/Luxemburg**
MSD Belgium BVBA/SPRL
Tél/Tel: 0800 38 693 (+32(0)27766211)
dpoc_belux@merck.com

**България**
Мерк Шарп и Доум България ЕООД
Тел.: +359 2 819 3737
info-msdbg@merck.com

**Magyarország**
MSD Pharma Hungary Kft.
Tel.: +36 1 888 5300
hungary_msd@merck.com

**Danmark**
MSD Danmark ApS
Tlf: + 45 4482 4000
dkmail@merck.com

**Malta**
Merck Sharp & Dohme Cyprus Limited
Tel: 8007 4433 (+356 99917558)
malta_info@merck.com

**Deutschland**
MSD SHARP & DOHME GMBH
Tel: 0800 673 673 673
(+49 (0) 89 4561 2612)
e-mail@msd.de

**Nederland**
Merck Sharp & Dohme BV
Tel: 0800 9999000 (+31 23 5153153)
medicalinfo.nl@merck.com

**Eesti**
Merck Sharp & Dohme OÜ
Tel: +372 6144 200
msdeesti@merck.com

**Norge**
MSD (Norge) AS
Tlf: +47 32 20 73 00
msdnorge@msd.no

**Ελλάδα**
MSD Α.Φ.Β.Ε.
Τηλ.: +30 210 98 97 300
dpoc_greece@merck.com

**Österreich**
Merck Sharp & Dohme Ges.m.b.H.
Tel: +43 (0) 1 26 044
msd-medizin@merck.com

**España**
Merck Sharp & Dohme de España, S.A.
Tel: +34 91 321 06 00
msd_info@merck.com

**Polska**
MSD Polska Sp. z o.o.
Tel: +48 22 549 51 00
msdpolska@merck.com
This leaflet was last revised in

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency website http://www.ema.europa.eu.
ANNEX IV

SCIENTIFIC CONCLUSIONS AND GROUNDS FOR THE VARIATION TO THE TERMS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION(S)
Scientific conclusions

Taking into account the PRAC Assessment Report on the PSUR(s) for desloratadine, the scientific conclusions of CHMP are as follows:

Two literature reports identified a possible relationship between aggressive reaction/abnormal behaviour and desloratadine use with supportive temporal relationships, positive dechallenges and some with positive rechallenges. Similar cases were reported in Eudravigilance for the reference period. Considering the potential seriousness of these events in children, and the number of reported cases with positive dechallenge and rechallenge, the ‘abnormal behaviour’ and ‘aggression’ should be added to the list of adverse drug reactions (ADRs) of desloratadine.

A literature article published during the reference period describes 4 cases of epilepsy in children with a family history of epilepsy or relevant medical history. The causality was assessed as possible for each case, based on temporal association and positive dechallenge. Based on these new data, it could be concluded that desloratadine may aggravate pre-existing seizures in patients (and mainly in children) with medical history of seizures, and that caution should be recommended in treating epileptic patients or those susceptible to convulsions with desloratadine.

Based on 4 new publications regarding a possible association between desloratadine and QT prolongation were reported in the literature and the fact that ‘QT prolongation’ is already listed as an ADR of desloratadine-containing products, this adverse reaction should be listed as an ADR of any desloratadine-containing product.

The CHMP agrees with the scientific conclusions made by the PRAC.

Grounds for the variation to the terms of the Marketing Authorisation(s)

On the basis of the scientific conclusions for desloratadine the CHMP is of the opinion that the benefit-risk balance of the medicinal product(s) containing desloratadine is unchanged subject to the proposed changes to the product information

The CHMP recommends that the terms of the marketing authorisation(s) should be varied.