

ANNEX I

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Febuxostat Krka 80 mg film-coated tablets

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each film-coated tablet contains 80 mg febuxostat.

Excipient(s) with known effect

- lactose (as monohydrate): 73 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet (tablet)

Off pink, oval, biconvex, film-coated tablets scored on one side. Tablet dimension: approximately 16 mm × 8 mm. The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Febuxostat Krka is indicated for the treatment of chronic hyperuricaemia in conditions where urate deposition has already occurred (including a history, or presence of, tophus and/or gouty arthritis).

Febuxostat Krka is indicated in adults.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

The recommended oral dose of Febuxostat Krka is 80 mg once daily without regard to food. If serum uric acid is > 6 mg/dL (357 µmol/L) after 2-4 weeks, Febuxostat Krka 120 mg once daily may be considered.

Febuxostat Krka works sufficiently quickly to allow retesting of the serum uric acid after 2 weeks. The therapeutic target is to decrease and maintain serum uric acid below 6 mg/dL (357 µmol/L).

Gout flare prophylaxis of at least 6 months is recommended (see section 4.4).

Elderly

No dose adjustment is required in the elderly (see section 5.2).

Renal impairment

The efficacy and safety have not been fully evaluated in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min, see section 5.2).

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment.

Hepatic impairment

The efficacy and safety of febuxostat has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child Pugh Class C).

The recommended dose in patients with mild hepatic impairment is 80 mg. Limited information is available in patients with moderate hepatic impairment.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Febuxostat Krka in children below the age of 18 years have not been established. No data are available.

Method of administration

Oral use

Febuxostat Krka should be taken by mouth and can be taken with or without food.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1. (see also section 4.8).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Cardiovascular disorders

In patients with pre-existing major cardiovascular diseases (e.g. myocardial infarction, stroke or unstable angina), during the development of the product and in one post registrational study (CARES), a higher number of fatal cardiovascular events were observed with febuxostat when compared to allopurinol.

However, in a subsequent post registrational study (FAST), febuxostat was not inferior to allopurinol in the incidence of both fatal and non-fatal cardiovascular events.

Treatment of this patient group should be exercised cautiously and they should be monitored regularly. For further details on cardiovascular safety of febuxostat refer to section 4.8 and section 5.1.

Medicinal product allergy / hypersensitivity

Rare reports of serious allergic/hypersensitivity reactions, including life-threatening Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic epidermal necrolysis and acute anaphylactic reaction/shock, have been collected in the post-marketing experience. In most cases, these reactions occurred during the first month of therapy with febuxostat. Some, but not all of these patients reported renal impairment and/or previous hypersensitivity to allopurinol. Severe hypersensitivity reactions, including Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) were associated with fever, haematological, renal or hepatic involvement in some cases.

Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for symptoms of allergic/hypersensitivity reactions (see section 4.8). Febuxostat treatment should be immediately stopped if serious allergic/hypersensitivity reactions, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, occur since early withdrawal is associated with a better prognosis. If patient has developed allergic/hypersensitivity reactions including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and acute anaphylactic reaction/shock, febuxostat must not be re-started in this patient at any time.

Acute gouty attacks (gout flare)

Febuxostat treatment should not be started until an acute attack of gout has completely subsided. Gout flares may occur during initiation of treatment due to changing serum uric acid levels resulting in mobilization of urate from tissue deposits (see section 4.8 and 5.1). At treatment initiation with febuxostat flare prophylaxis for at least 6 months with an NSAID or colchicine is recommended (see section 4.2).

If a gout flare occurs during febuxostat treatment, it should not be discontinued. The gout flare should be managed concurrently as appropriate for the individual patient. Continuous treatment with

febuxostat decreases frequency and intensity of gout flares.

Xanthine deposition

In patients in whom the rate of urate formation is greatly increased (e.g. malignant disease and its treatment, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome) the absolute concentration of xanthine in urine could, in rare cases, rise sufficiently to allow deposition in the urinary tract. As there has been no experience with febuxostat, its use in these populations is not recommended.

Mercaptopurine/azathioprine

Febuxostat use is not recommended in patients concomitantly treated with mercaptopurine/azathioprine as inhibition of xanthine oxidase by febuxostat may cause increased plasma concentrations of mercaptopurine/azathioprine that could result in severe toxicity. Where the combination cannot be avoided, a reduction of the dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine to the 20% or less of the previously prescribed dose is recommended in order to avoid possible haematological effects (see sections 4.5 and 5.3).

The patients should be closely monitored and the dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine should be subsequently adjusted based on the evaluation of the therapeutic response and the onset of eventual toxic effects.

Organ transplant recipients

As there has been no experience in organ transplant recipients, the use of febuxostat in such patients is not recommended (see section 5.1).

Theophylline

Co-administration of febuxostat 80 mg and theophylline 400 mg single dose in healthy subjects showed absence of any pharmacokinetic interaction (see section 4.5). Febuxostat 80 mg can be used in patients concomitantly treated with theophylline without risk of increasing theophylline plasma levels. No data is available for febuxostat 120 mg.

Liver disorders

During the combined phase 3 clinical studies, mild liver function test abnormalities were observed in patients treated with febuxostat (5.0%). Liver function test is recommended prior to the initiation of therapy with febuxostat and periodically thereafter based on clinical judgment (see section 5.1).

Thyroid disorders

Increased TSH values (>5.5 $\mu\text{IU/mL}$) were observed in patients on long-term treatment with febuxostat (5.5%) in the long term open label extension studies. Caution is required when febuxostat is used in patients with alteration of thyroid function (see section 5.1).

Excipients

Febuxostat Krka contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine. This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Mercaptopurine/azathioprine

On the basis of the mechanism of action of febuxostat on XO inhibition concomitant use is not recommended. Inhibition of XO by febuxostat may cause increased plasma concentrations of these drugs leading to myelotoxicity.

In case of concomitant administration with febuxostat, the dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine should be reduced to 20% or less of the previously prescribed dose (see sections 4.4 and 5.3).

The adequacy of the proposed dose adjustment, which was based on a modelling and simulation analysis from preclinical data in rats, was confirmed by the results of a clinical drug-drug interaction study in healthy volunteers, receiving azathioprine 100 mg alone and a reduced dose of azathioprine (25 mg) in combination with febuxostat (40 or 120 mg).

Drug interaction studies of febuxostat with other cytotoxic chemotherapy have not been conducted. No data is available regarding the safety of febuxostat during other cytotoxic therapy.

Rosiglitazone/CYP2C8 substrates

Febuxostat was shown to be a weak inhibitor of CYP2C8 in vitro. In a study in healthy subjects, coadministration of 120 mg febuxostat QD with a single 4 mg oral dose of rosiglitazone had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of rosiglitazone and its metabolite N-desmethyl rosiglitazone, indicating that febuxostat is not a CYP2C8 enzyme inhibitor in vivo. Thus, co-administration of febuxostat with rosiglitazone or other CYP2C8 substrates is not expected to require any dose adjustment for those compounds.

Theophylline

An interaction study in healthy subjects has been performed with febuxostat to evaluate whether the inhibition of XO may cause an increase in the theophylline circulating levels as reported with other XO inhibitors. The results of the study showed that the co-administration of febuxostat 80 mg QD with theophylline 400 mg single dose has no effect on the pharmacokinetics or safety of theophylline. Therefore no special caution is advised when febuxostat 80 mg and theophylline are given concomitantly. No data is available for febuxostat 120 mg.

Naproxen and other inhibitors of glucuronidation

Febuxostat metabolism depends on Uridine Glucuronosyl Transferase (UGT) enzymes. Medicinal products that inhibit glucuronidation, such as NSAIDs and probenecid, could in theory affect the elimination of febuxostat. In healthy subjects concomitant use of febuxostat and naproxen 250 mg twice daily was associated with an increase in febuxostat exposure (C_{max} 28%, AUC 41% and $t_{1/2}$ 26%). In clinical studies the use of naproxen or other NSAIDs/Cox-2 inhibitors was not related to any clinically significant increase in adverse events.

Febuxostat can be co-administered with naproxen with no dose adjustment of febuxostat or naproxen being necessary.

Inducers of glucuronidation

Potent inducers of UGT enzymes might possibly lead to increased metabolism and decreased efficacy of febuxostat. Monitoring of serum uric acid is therefore recommended 1-2 weeks after start of treatment with a potent inducer of glucuronidation. Conversely, cessation of treatment of an inducer might lead to increased plasma levels of febuxostat.

Colchicine/indometacin/hydrochlorothiazide/warfarin

Febuxostat can be co-administered with colchicine or indomethacin with no dose adjustment of febuxostat or the co-administered active substance being necessary.

No dose adjustment is necessary for febuxostat when administered with hydrochlorothiazide.

No dose adjustment is necessary for warfarin when administered with febuxostat. Administration of

febuxostat (80 mg or 120 mg once daily) with warfarin had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of warfarin in healthy subjects. INR and Factor VII activity were also not affected by the co-administration of febuxostat.

Desipramine/CYP2D6 substrates

Febuxostat was shown to be a weak inhibitor of CYP2D6 *in vitro*. In a study in healthy subjects, 120 mg febuxostat QD resulted in a mean 22% increase in AUC of desipramine, a CYP2D6 substrate indicating a potential weak inhibitory effect of febuxostat on the CYP2D6 enzyme *in vivo*. Thus, co-administration of febuxostat with other CYP2D6 substrates is not expected to require any dose adjustment for those compounds.

Antacids

Concomitant ingestion of an antacid containing magnesium hydroxide and aluminium hydroxide has been shown to delay absorption of febuxostat (approximately 1 hour) and to cause a 32% decrease in C_{max} , but no significant change in AUC was observed. Therefore, febuxostat may be taken without regard to antacid use.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Data on a very limited number of exposed pregnancies have not indicated any adverse effects of febuxostat on pregnancy or on the health of the foetus/new born child. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonal/foetal development or parturition (see section 5.3). The potential risk for human is unknown. Febuxostat should not be used during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

It is unknown whether febuxostat is excreted in human breast milk. Animal studies have shown excretion of this active substance in breast milk and an impaired development of suckling pups. A risk to a suckling infant cannot be excluded. Febuxostat should not be used while breastfeeding.

Fertility

In animals, reproduction studies up to 48 mg/kg/day showed no dose-dependent adverse effects on fertility (see section 5.3). The effect of Febuxostat Krka on human fertility is unknown.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Somnolence, dizziness, paraesthesia and blurred vision have been reported with the use of febuxostat. Patients should exercise caution before driving, using machinery or participating in dangerous activities until they are reasonably certain that Febuxostat Krka does not adversely affect performance.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported adverse reactions in clinical trials (4,072 subjects treated at least with a dose from 10 mg to 300 mg), post-authorisation safety studies (FAST study: 3001 subjects treated at least with a dose from 80 mg to 120 mg) and post-marketing experience are gout flares, liver function abnormalities, diarrhoea, nausea, headache, dizziness, dyspnoea, rash, pruritus, arthralgia, myalgia, pain in extremity, oedema and fatigue. These adverse reactions were mostly mild or moderate in severity. Rare serious hypersensitivity reactions to febuxostat, some of which were associated to systemic symptoms, and rare events of sudden cardiac death, have occurred in the post-marketing

experience.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$) and rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$) adverse reactions occurring in patients treated with febuxostat are listed below.

Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 1: Adverse reactions in combined phase 3, long-term extension studies, post-authorisation safety studies and post-marketing experience

Blood and lymphatic system disorders	<u>Rare</u> Pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis*, anaemia [#]
Immune system disorders	<u>Rare</u> Anaphylactic reaction*, drug hypersensitivity*
Endocrine disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Blood thyroid stimulating hormone increased, hypothyroidism
Eye disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Blurred vision <u>Rare</u> Retinal artery occlusion [#]
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	<u>Common</u> *** Gout flares <u>Uncommon</u> Diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, decrease appetite, weight increase <u>Rare</u> Weight decrease, increase appetite, anorexia
Psychiatric disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Libido decreased, insomnia <u>Rare</u> Nervousness, depressed mood [#] , sleep disorder [#]
Nervous system disorders	<u>Common</u> Headache, dizziness <u>Uncommon</u> Paraesthesia, hemiparesis, lethargy [#] , somnolence, altered taste, hypoaesthesia, hyposmia <u>Rare</u> Ageusia [#] , burning sensation [#]
Ear and labyrinth disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Tinnitus <u>Rare</u> Vertigo [#]
Cardiac disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Atrial fibrillation, palpitations, ECG abnormal, arrhythmia [#] <u>Rare</u> Sudden cardiac death*
Vascular disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Hypertension, flushing, hot flush <u>Rare</u> Circulatory collapse [#]
Respiratory system disorders	<u>Common</u> Dyspnoea

	<u>Uncommon</u> Bronchitis, upper respiratory tract infection, lower respiratory tract infection [#] , cough, rhinorrhoea [#] <u>Rare</u> Pneumonia [#]
Gastrointestinal disorders	<u>Common</u> Diarrhoea**, nausea <u>Uncommon</u> Abdominal pain, abdominal pain upper [#] , abdominal distension, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, vomiting, dry mouth, dyspepsia, constipation, frequent stools, flatulence, gastrointestinal discomfort, mouth ulceration, lip swelling [#] , pancreatitis <u>Rare</u> Gastrointestinal perforation [#] , stomatitis [#]
Hepato-biliary disorders	<u>Common</u> Liver function abnormalities** <u>Uncommon</u> Cholelithiasis <u>Rare</u> Hepatitis, jaundice*, liver injury*, cholecystitis [#]
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	<u>Common</u> Rash (including various types of rash reported with lower frequencies, see below), pruritus <u>Uncommon</u> Dermatitis, urticaria, skin discolouration, skin lesion, petechiae, rash macular, rash maculopapular, rash papular, hyperhidrosis, alopecia, eczema [#] , erythema, night sweats [#] , psoriasis [#] , rash pruritic [#] <u>Rare</u> Toxic epidermal necrolysis*, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome*, angioedema*, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms*, generalized rash (serious)*, exfoliative rash, rash follicular, rash vesicular, rash pustular, rash erythematous, rash morbilliform,
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	<u>Common</u> Arthralgia, myalgia, pain in extremity [#] <u>Uncommon</u> Arthritis, musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, muscle spasm, muscle tightness, bursitis, joint swelling [#] , back pain [#] , musculoskeletal stiffness [#] , joint stiffness <u>Rare</u> Rhabdomyolysis*, rotator cuff syndrome [#] , polymyalgia rheumatica [#]
Renal and urinary disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Renal failure, nephrolithiasis, haematuria, pollakiuria, proteinuria, micturition urgency, urinary tract infection [#] <u>Rare</u> Tubulointerstitial nephritis*
Reproductive system and breast disorder	<u>Uncommon</u> Erectile dysfunction

General disorders and administration site conditions	<u>Common</u> Oedema, fatigue <u>Uncommon</u> Chest pain, chest discomfort, pain [#] , malaise [#] <u>Rare</u> Thirst, feeling hot [#]
Investigations	<u>Uncommon</u> Blood amylase increase, platelet count decrease, WBC decrease, lymphocyte count decrease, blood creatine increase, blood creatinine increase, haemoglobin decrease, blood urea increase, blood triglycerides increase, blood cholesterol increase, haematocrit decrease, blood lactate dehydrogenase increased, blood potassium increase, INR increased [#] <u>Rare</u> Blood glucose increase, activated partial thromboplastin time prolonged, red blood cell count decrease, blood alkaline phosphatase increase, blood creatine phosphokinase increase*
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	<u>Uncommon</u> Contusion [#]

* Adverse reactions coming from post-marketing experience

** Treatment-emergent non-infective diarrhoea and abnormal liver function tests in the combined Phase 3 studies are more frequent in patients concomitantly treated with colchicine.

*** See section 5.1 for incidences of gout flares in the individual Phase 3 randomized controlled studies.

[#] Adverse reactions coming from post-authorisation safety studies

Description of selected adverse reactions

Rare serious hypersensitivity reactions to febuxostat, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic epidermal necrolysis and anaphylactic reaction/shock, have occurred in the post-marketing experience. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic epidermal necrolysis are characterised by progressive skin rashes associated with blisters or mucosal lesions and eye irritation. Hypersensitivity reactions to febuxostat can be associated to the following symptoms: skin reactions characterised by infiltrated maculopapular eruption, generalised or exfoliative rashes, but also skin lesions, facial oedema, fever, haematologic abnormalities such as thrombocytopenia and eosinophilia, and single or multiple organ involvement (liver and kidney including tubulointerstitial nephritis) (see section 4.4).

Gout flares were commonly observed soon after the start of treatment and during the first months. Thereafter, the frequency of gout flare decreases in a time-dependent manner. Gout flare prophylaxis is recommended (see section 4.2 and 4.4).

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

Patients with an overdose should be managed by symptomatic and supportive care.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antigout preparations, preparations inhibiting uric acid production; ATC code: M04AA03.

Mechanism of action

Uric acid is the end product of purine metabolism in humans and is generated in the cascade of hypoxanthine → xanthine → uric acid. Both steps in the above transformations are catalyzed by xanthine oxidase (XO). Febuxostat is a 2-arylthiazole derivative that achieves its therapeutic effect of decreasing serum uric acid by selectively inhibiting XO. Febuxostat is a potent, non-purine selective inhibitor of XO (NP-SIXO) with an *in vitro* inhibition K_i value less than one nanomolar. Febuxostat has been shown to potently inhibit both the oxidized and reduced forms of XO. At therapeutic concentrations febuxostat does not inhibit other enzymes involved in purine or pyrimidine metabolism, namely, guanine deaminase, hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyltransferase, orotate phosphoribosyltransferase, orotidine monophosphate decarboxylase or purine nucleoside phosphorylase.

Clinical efficacy and safety

The efficacy of febuxostat was demonstrated in three Phase 3 pivotal studies (the two pivotal APEX and FACT studies, and the additional CONFIRMS study described below) that were conducted in 4101 patients with hyperuricaemia and gout. In each phase 3 pivotal study, febuxostat demonstrated superior ability to lower and maintain serum uric acid levels compared to allopurinol. The primary efficacy endpoint in the APEX and FACT studies was the proportion of patients whose last 3 monthly serum uric acid levels were < 6.0 mg/dL (357 μ mol/L). In the additional phase 3 CONFIRMS study, for which results became available after the marketing authorisation for febuxostat was first issued, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients whose serum urate level was < 6.0 mg/dL at the final visit. No patients with organ transplant have been included in these studies (see section 4.2).

APEX Study: The Allopurinol and Placebo-Controlled Efficacy Study of Febuxostat (APEX) was a Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, 28-week study. One thousand and seventy-two (1072) patients were randomized: placebo (n=134), febuxostat 80 mg QD (n=267), febuxostat 120 mg QD (n=269), febuxostat 240 mg QD (n=134) or allopurinol (300 mg QD [n=258] for patients with a baseline serum creatinine \leq 1.5 mg/dL or 100 mg QD [n=10] for patients with a baseline serum creatinine >1.5 mg/dL and \leq 2.0 mg/dL). Two hundred and forty mg febuxostat (2 times the recommended highest dose) was used as a safety evaluation dose.

The APEX study showed statistically significant superiority of both the febuxostat 80 mg QD and the febuxostat 120 mg QD treatment arms *versus* the conventionally used doses of allopurinol 300 mg (n = 258) /100 mg (n = 10) treatment arm in reducing the sUA below 6 mg/dL (357 μ mol/L) (see Table 2 and Figure 1).

FACT Study: The Febuxostat Allopurinol Controlled Trial (FACT) Study was a Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, 52-week study. Seven hundred sixty (760) patients were randomized: febuxostat 80 mg QD (n=256), febuxostat 120 mg QD (n=251), or allopurinol 300 mg QD (n=253).

The FACT study showed the statistically significant superiority of both febuxostat 80 mg and febuxostat 120 mg QD treatment arms *versus* the conventionally used dose of allopurinol 300 mg treatment arm in reducing and maintaining sUA below 6 mg/dL (357 μ mol/L).

Table 2 summarises the primary efficacy endpoint results:

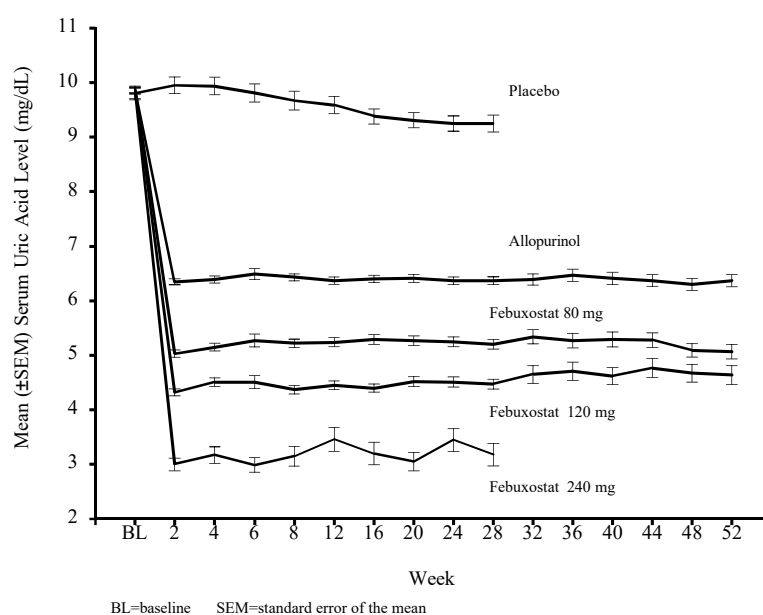
Table 2
Proportion of Patients with Serum Uric Acid Levels <6.0 mg/dL (357 μ mol/L)

Last Three Monthly Visits

Study	Febuxostat 80 mg QD	Febuxostat 120 mg QD	Allopurinol 300 / 100 mg QD ¹
APEX (28 weeks)	48%* (n=262)	65%* [#] (n=269)	22% (n=268)
FACT (52 weeks)	53%* (n=255)	62%* (n=250)	21 % (n=251)
Combined Results	51%* (n=517)	63%* [#] (n=519)	22% (n=519)
¹ results from subjects receiving either 100 mg QD (n=10: patients with serum creatinine >1.5 and ≤2.0 mg/dL) or 300 mg QD (n=509) were pooled for analyses. * p < 0.001 vs allopurinol, # p < 0.001 vs 80 mg			

The ability of febuxostat to lower serum uric acid levels was prompt and persistent. Reduction in serum uric acid level to <6.0 mg/dL (357 μmol/L) was noted by the Week 2 visit and was maintained throughout treatment. The mean serum uric acid levels over time for each treatment group from the two pivotal Phase 3 studies are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Mean Serum Uric Acid Levels in Combined Pivotal Phase 3 Studies



Note: 509 patients received allopurinol 300 mg QD; 10 patients with serum creatinine >1.5 and ≤2.0 mg/dL were dosed with 100 mg QD. (10 patients out of 268 in APEX study). 240 mg febuxostat was used to evaluate the safety of febuxostat at twice the recommended highest dose.

CONFIRMS Study: The CONFIRMS study was a Phase 3, randomized, controlled, 26-week study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of febuxostat 40 mg and 80 mg, in comparison with allopurinol 300 mg or 200 mg, in patients with gout and hyperuricaemia. Two thousand and two hundred-sixty nine (2269) patients were randomized: febuxostat 40 mg QD (n=757), febuxostat 80 mg QD (n=756), or allopurinol 300/200 mg QD (n=756). At least 65% of the patients had mild-moderate renal impairment (with creatinine clearance of 30-89 mL/min). Prophylaxis against gout flares was obligatory over the 26-week period.

The proportion of patients with serum urate levels of < 6.0 mg/dL (357 μmol/L) at the final visit, was

45% for 40 mg febuxostat, 67% for febuxostat 80 mg and 42% for allopurinol 300/200 mg, respectively.

Primary endpoint in the sub-group of patients with renal impairment

The APEX Study evaluated efficacy in 40 patients with renal impairment (i.e., baseline serum creatinine > 1.5 mg/dL and ≤2.0 mg/dL). For renally impaired subjects who were randomized to allopurinol, the dose was capped at 100 mg QD. Febuxostat achieved the primary efficacy endpoint in 44% (80 mg QD), 45% (120 mg QD), and 60% (240 mg QD) of patients compared to 0% in the allopurinol 100 mg QD and placebo groups.

There were no clinically significant differences in the percent decrease in serum uric acid concentration in healthy subjects irrespective of their renal function (58% in the normal renal function group and 55% in the severe renal dysfunction group).

An analysis in patients with gout and renal impairment was prospectively defined in the CONFIRMS study, and showed that febuxostat was significantly more efficacious in lowering serum urate levels to < 6 mg/dL compared to allopurinol 300 mg/200 mg in patients who had gout with mild to moderate renal impairment (65% of patients studied).

Primary endpoint in the sub group of patients with sUA ≥ 10 mg/dL

Approximately 40% of patients (combined APEX and FACT) had a baseline sUA of ≥ 10 mg/dL. In this subgroup febuxostat achieved the primary efficacy endpoint (sUA < 6.0 mg/dL at the last 3 visits) in 41% (80 mg QD), 48% (120 mg QD), and 66% (240 mg QD) of patients compared to 9% in the allopurinol 300 mg/100 mg QD and 0 % in the placebo groups.

In the CONFIRMS study, the proportion of patients achieving the primary efficacy endpoint (sUA < 6.0 mg/dL at the final visit) for patients with a baseline serum urate level of ≥ 10 mg/dL treated with febuxostat 40 mg QD was 27% (66/249), with febuxostat 80 mg QD 49% (125/254) and with allopurinol 300 mg/200 mg QD 31% (72/230), respectively.

Clinical Outcomes: proportion of patients requiring treatment for a gout flare

APEX study: During the 8-week prophylaxis period, a greater proportion of subjects in the febuxostat 120 mg (36%) treatment group required treatment for gout flare compared to febuxostat 80 mg (28%), allopurinol 300 mg (23%) and placebo (20%). Flares increased following the prophylaxis period and gradually decreased over time. Between 46% and 55% of subjects received treatment for gout flares from Week 8 and Week 28. Gout flares during the last 4 weeks of the study (Weeks 24-28) were observed in 15% (febuxostat 80, 120 mg), 14% (allopurinol 300 mg) and 20% (placebo) of subjects.

FACT study: During the 8-week prophylaxis period, a greater proportion of subjects in the febuxostat 120 mg (36%) treatment group required treatment for a gout flare compared to both the febuxostat 80 mg (22%) and allopurinol 300 mg (21%) treatment groups. After the 8-week prophylaxis period, the incidences of flares increased and gradually decreased over time (64% and 70% of subjects received treatment for gout flares from Week 8-52). Gout flares during the last 4 weeks of the study (Weeks 49-52) were observed in 6-8% (febuxostat 80 mg, 120 mg) and 11% (allopurinol 300 mg) of subjects.

The proportion of subjects requiring treatment for a gout flare (APEX and FACT Study) was numerically lower in the groups that achieved an average post-baseline serum urate level <6.0 mg/dL, <5.0 mg/dL, or <4.0 mg/dL compared to the group that achieved an average post-baseline serum urate level ≥6.0 mg/dL during the last 32 weeks of the treatment period (Week 20-Week 24 to Week 49 - 52 intervals).

During the CONFIRMS study, the percentages of patients who required treatment for gout flares (Day 1 through Month 6) were 31% and 25% for the febuxostat 80 mg and allopurinol groups, respectively. No difference in the proportion of patients requiring treatment for gout flares was observed between the febuxostat 80 mg and 40 mg groups.

Long-term, open label extension studies

EXCEL Study (C02-021): The Excel study was a three years Phase 3, open label, multicenter, randomised, allopurinol-controlled, safety extension study for patients who had completed the pivotal Phase 3 studies (APEX or FACT). A total of 1,086 patients were enrolled: febuxostat 80 mg QD (n=649), febuxostat 120 mg QD (n=292) and allopurinol 300/100 mg QD (n=145). About 69 % of patients required no treatment change to achieve a final stable treatment. Patients who had 3 consecutive sUA levels >6.0 mg/dL were withdrawn.

Serum urate levels were maintained over time (i.e. 91% and 93% of patients on initial treatment with febuxostat 80 mg and 120 mg, respectively, had sUA <6 mg/dL at Month 36).

Three years data showed a decrease in the incidence of gout flares with less than 4% of patients requiring treatment for a flare (i.e. more than 96% of patients did not require treatment for a flare) at Month 16-24 and at Month 30-36.

46% and 38%, of patients on final stable treatment of febuxostat 80 or 120 mg QD, respectively, had complete resolution of the primary palpable tophus from baseline to the Final Visit.

FOCUS Study (TMX-01-005) was a 5 years Phase 2, open-label, multicenter, safety extension study for patients who had completed the febuxostat 4 weeks of double blind dosing in study TMX-00-004.

116 patients were enrolled and received initially febuxostat 80 mg QD. 62% of patients required no dose adjustment to maintain sUA <6 mg/dL and 38% of patients required a dose adjustment to achieve a final stable dose.

The proportion of patients with serum urate levels of <6.0 mg/dL (357 µmol/L) at the final visit was greater than 80% (81-100%) at each febuxostat dose.

During the phase 3 clinical studies, mild liver function test abnormalities were observed in patients treated with febuxostat (5.0%). These rates were similar to the rates reported on allopurinol (4.2%) (see section 4.4). Increased TSH values (>5.5 µIU/mL) were observed in patients on long-term treatment with febuxostat (5.5%) and patients with allopurinol (5.8%) in the long term open label extension studies (see section 4.4).

Post Marketing long term studies

CARES Study was a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, non inferiority trial comparing CV outcomes with febuxostat versus allopurinol in patients with gout and a history of major CV disease including MI, hospitalization for unstable angina, coronary or cerebral revascularization procedure, stroke, hospitalized transient ischemic attack, peripheral vascular disease, or diabetes mellitus with evidence of microvascular or macrovascular disease. To achieve sUA less than 6 mg/dL, the dose of febuxostat was titrated from 40 mg up to 80 mg (regardless of renal function) and the dose of allopurinol was titrated in 100 mg increments from 300 to 600 mg in patients with normal renal function and mild renal impairment and from 200 to 400 mg in patients with moderate renal impairment.

The primary endpoint in CARES was the time to first occurrence of MACE, a composite of non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, CV death and unstable angina with urgent coronary revascularization.

The endpoints (primary and secondary) were analysed according to the intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis including all subjects who were randomized and received at least one dose of double-blind study medication.

Overall 56.6% of patients discontinued trial treatment prematurely and 45% of patients did not complete all trial visits.

In total, 6,190 patients were followed for a median of 32 months and the median duration of exposure was 728 days for patients in febuxostat group (n 3098) and 719 days in allopurinol group (n 3092).

The primary MACE endpoint occurred at similar rates in the febuxostat and allopurinol treatment groups (10.8% vs. 10.4% of patients, respectively; hazard ratio [HR] 1.03; two-sided repeated 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.89-1.21).

In the analysis of the individual components of MACE, the rate of CV deaths was higher with febuxostat than allopurinol (4.3% vs. 3.2% of patients; HR 1.34; 95% CI 1.03-1.73). The rates of the

other MACE events were similar in the febuxostat and allopurinol groups, i.e. non-fatal MI (3.6% vs. 3.8% of patients; HR 0.93; 95% CI 0.72-1.21), non-fatal stroke (2.3% vs. 2.3% of patients; HR 1.01; 95% CI 0.73-1.41) and urgent revascularization due to unstable angina (1.6% vs. 1.8% of patients; HR 0.86; 95% CI 0.59-1.26). The rate of all-cause mortality was also higher with febuxostat than allopurinol (7.8% vs. 6.4% of patients; HR 1.22; 95% CI 1.01-1.47), which was mainly driven by the higher rate of CV deaths in that group (see section 4.4).

Rates of adjudicated hospitalization for heart failure, hospital admissions for arrhythmias not associated with ischemia, venous thromboembolic events and hospitalization for transient ischemic attacks were comparable for febuxostat and allopurinol.

FAST study was a prospective, randomised, open-label, blinded-endpoint study comparing the CV safety profile of febuxostat versus allopurinol in patients with chronic hyperuricaemia (in conditions where urate deposition had already occurred) and CV risk factors (i.e. patients 60 years or older and with at least one other CV risk factor). Eligible patients received allopurinol treatment prior to randomization, and dose adjustments were required when needed, according to clinical judgement, EULAR recommendations and the approved posology. At the end of the allopurinol lead-in phase, patients with a sUA level of <0.36 mmol/L (<6 mg/dL) or receiving the maximum tolerated dose or the maximum licensed dose of allopurinol were randomised in a 1:1 ratio to receive either febuxostat or allopurinol treatment. The primary endpoint of the study FAST was the time to the first occurrence of any event included in the Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaborative (APTC) composite endpoint, which included: i) hospitalisation for non-fatal MI/biomarker positive acute coronary syndrome (ACS); ii) non-fatal stroke; iii) death due to a CV event. The primary analysis was based on the on-treatment (OT) approach.

Overall, 6,128 patients were randomized, 3063 to febuxostat and 3065 to allopurinol.

In the primary OT analysis, febuxostat was non-inferior to allopurinol in the incidence of the primary endpoint, which occurred in 172 patients (1.72/100 patient years) on febuxostat compared to 241 patients (2.05/100 patient years) on allopurinol, with an adjusted HR 0.85 (95% CI: 0.70, 1.03), $p<0.001$. The OT analysis for the primary endpoint in the subgroup of patients with a history of MI, stroke or ACS showed no significant difference between treatment groups: there were 65 (9.5%) patients with events in the febuxostat group and 83 (11.8%) patients with events in the allopurinol group; adjusted HR 1.02 (95% CI: 0.74-1.42); $p=0.202$.

Treatment with febuxostat was not associated with an increase in CV death or all-cause death, overall or in the subgroup of patients with a baseline history of MI, stroke or ACS. Overall, there were fewer deaths in the febuxostat group (62 CV deaths and 108 all-cause deaths), than in the allopurinol group (82 CV deaths and 174 all-cause deaths).

There was a greater reduction in uric acid levels on febuxostat treatment compared to allopurinol treatment.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

In healthy subjects, maximum plasma concentrations (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC) of febuxostat increased in a dose proportional manner following single and multiple doses of 10 mg to 120 mg. For doses between 120 mg and 300 mg, a greater than dose proportional increase in AUC is observed for febuxostat. There is no appreciable accumulation when doses of 10 mg to 240 mg are administered every 24 hours. Febuxostat has an apparent mean terminal elimination half-life ($t_{1/2}$) of approximately 5 to 8 hours.

Population pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analyses were conducted in 211 patients with hyperuricaemia and gout, treated with febuxostat 40-240 mg QD. In general, febuxostat pharmacokinetic parameters estimated by these analyses are consistent with those obtained from healthy subjects, indicating that healthy subjects are representative for pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic assessment in the patient population with gout.

Absorption

Febuxostat is rapidly (t_{max} of 1.0-1.5 h) and well absorbed (at least 84%). After single or multiple oral 80 and 120 mg once daily doses, C_{max} is approximately 2.8-3.2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, and 5.0-5.3 $\mu\text{g/mL}$,

respectively. Absolute bioavailability of the febuxostat tablet formulation has not been studied.

Following multiple oral 80 mg once daily doses or a single 120 mg dose with a high fat meal, there was a 49% and 38% decrease in C_{max} and a 18% and 16% decrease in AUC, respectively. However, no clinically significant change in the percent decrease in serum uric acid concentration was observed where tested (80 mg multiple dose). Thus, febuxostat may be taken without regard to food.

Distribution

The apparent steady state volume of distribution (V_{ss}/F) of febuxostat ranges from 29 to 75 L after oral doses of 10-300 mg. The plasma protein binding of febuxostat is approximately 99.2%, (primarily to albumin), and is constant over the concentration range achieved with 80 and 120 mg doses. Plasma protein binding of the active metabolites ranges from about 82% to 91%.

Biotransformation

Febuxostat is extensively metabolized by conjugation *via* uridine diphosphate glucuronosyltransferase (UDPGT) enzyme system and oxidation *via* the cytochrome P450 (CYP) system. Four pharmacologically active hydroxyl metabolites have been identified, of which three occur in plasma of humans. *In vitro* studies with human liver microsomes showed that those oxidative metabolites were formed primarily by CYP1A1, CYP1A2, CYP2C8 or CYP2C9 and febuxostat glucuronide was formed mainly by UGT 1A1, 1A8, and 1A9.

Elimination

Febuxostat is eliminated by both hepatic and renal pathways. Following an 80 mg oral dose of ^{14}C -labeled febuxostat, approximately 49% of the dose was recovered in the urine as unchanged febuxostat (3%), the acyl glucuronide of the active substance (30%), its known oxidative metabolites and their conjugates (13%), and other unknown metabolites (3%). In addition to the urinary excretion, approximately 45% of the dose was recovered in the faeces as the unchanged febuxostat (12%), the acyl glucuronide of the active substance (1%), its known oxidative metabolites and their conjugates (25%), and other unknown metabolites (7%).

Renal impairment

Following multiple doses of 80 mg of febuxostat in patients with mild, moderate or severe renal impairment, the C_{max} of febuxostat did not change, relative to subjects with normal renal function. The mean total AUC of febuxostat increased by approximately 1.8-fold from 7.5 $\mu g \cdot h/mL$ in the normal renal function group to 13.2 $\mu g \cdot h/mL$ in the severe renal dysfunction group. The C_{max} and AUC of active metabolites increased up to 2- and 4-fold, respectively. However, no dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment.

Hepatic impairment

Following multiple doses of 80 mg of febuxostat in patients with mild (Child-Pugh Class A) or moderate (Child-Pugh Class B) hepatic impairment, the C_{max} and AUC of febuxostat and its metabolites did not change significantly compared to subjects with normal hepatic function. No studies have been conducted in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C).

Age

There were no significant changes observed in AUC of febuxostat or its metabolites following multiple oral doses of febuxostat in elderly as compared to younger healthy subjects.

Gender

Following multiple oral doses of febuxostat, the C_{max} and AUC were 24% and 12% higher in females

than in males, respectively. However, weight-corrected C_{max} and AUC were similar between the genders. No dose adjustment is needed based on gender.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Effects in non-clinical studies were generally observed at exposures in excess of the maximum human exposure.

Pharmacokinetic modelling and simulation of rat data suggests that, when co-administered with febuxostat, the clinical dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine should be reduced to 20% or less of the previously prescribed dose in order to avoid possible haematological effects (see section 4.4 and 4.5).

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

In male rats, a statistically significant increase in urinary bladder tumours (transitional cell papilloma and carcinoma) was found only in association with xanthine calculi in the high dose group, at approximately 11 times human exposure. There was no significant increase in any other tumour type in either male or female mice or rats. These findings are considered a consequence of species specific purine metabolism and urine composition and of no relevance to clinical use.

A standard battery of test for genotoxicity did not reveal any biologically relevant genotoxic effects for febuxostat.

Febuxostat at oral doses up to 48 mg/kg/day was found to have no effect on fertility and reproductive performance of male and female rats.

There was no evidence of impaired fertility, teratogenic effects, or harm to the foetus due to febuxostat. There was high dose maternal toxicity accompanied by a reduction in weaning index and reduced development of offspring in rats at approximately 4.3 times human exposure. Teratology studies, performed in pregnant rats at approximately 4.3 times and pregnant rabbits at approximately 13 times human exposure did not reveal any teratogenic effects.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Tablet core

Lactose monohydrate
Cellulose, microcrystalline
Hydroxypropylcellulose
Croscarmellose sodium
Silica, colloidal hydrated
Magnesium stearate

Film coating

Poly(vinyl alcohol)
Macrogol 3350
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Talc
Iron oxide, red (E172)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Blister (PVC/PVDC/PVC//Alu): 14, 28, 56 or 84 film-coated tablets, in a box.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements for disposal.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

14 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/001

28 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/002

56 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/003

84 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/004

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 28 March 2019

Date of latest renewal: 7 December 2023

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

Febuxostat Krka 120 mg film-coated tablets

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each film-coated tablet contains 120 mg febuxostat.

Excipient(s) with known effect

- lactose (as monohydrate): 109 mg

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablet (tablet)

Brownish yellow, slightly biconvex, capsule shaped film-coated tablets scored on both sides. Tablet dimension: approximately 19 mm × 8 mm. The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Febuxostat Krka is indicated for the treatment of chronic hyperuricaemia in conditions where urate deposition has already occurred (including a history, or presence of, tophus and/or gouty arthritis).

Febuxostat Krka is indicated for the prevention and treatment of hyperuricaemia in adult patients undergoing chemotherapy for haematologic malignancies at intermediate to high risk of Tumor Lysis Syndrome (TLS).

Febuxostat Krka is indicated in adults.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

Gout: The recommended oral dose of Febuxostat Krka is 80 mg once daily without regard to food. If serum uric acid is > 6 mg/dL (357 µmol/L) after 2-4 weeks, Febuxostat Krka 120 mg once daily may be considered.

Febuxostat Krka works sufficiently quickly to allow retesting of the serum uric acid after 2 weeks. The therapeutic target is to decrease and maintain serum uric acid below 6 mg/dL (357 µmol/L).

Gout flare prophylaxis of at least 6 months is recommended (see section 4.4).

Tumor Lysis Syndrome:

The recommended oral dose of Febuxostat Krka is 120 mg once daily without regard to food. Febuxostat Krka should be started two days before the beginning of cytotoxic therapy and continued for a minimum of 7 days; however treatment may be prolonged up to 9 days according to chemotherapy duration as per clinical judgment.

Elderly

No dose adjustment is required in the elderly (see section 5.2).

Renal impairment

The efficacy and safety have not been fully evaluated in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min, see section 5.2).

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment.

Hepatic impairment

The efficacy and safety of febuxostat has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child Pugh Class C).

Gout: The recommended dose in patients with mild hepatic impairment is 80 mg. Limited information is available in patients with moderate hepatic impairment.

Tumour Lysis Syndrome: in the pivotal Phase III trial (FLORENCE) only subjects with severe hepatic insufficiency were excluded from trial participation. No dose adjustment was required for enrolled patients on the basis of hepatic function.

Paediatric population

The safety and efficacy of Febuxostat Krka in children below the age of 18 years have not been established. No data are available.

Method of administration

Oral use

Febuxostat Krka should be taken by mouth and can be taken with or without food.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1. (see also section 4.8).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Cardiovascular disorders

Treatment of chronic hyperuricaemia

In patients with pre-existing major cardiovascular diseases (e.g. myocardial infarction, stroke or unstable angina), during the development of the product and in one post registrational study (CARES), a higher number of fatal cardiovascular events were observed with febuxostat when compared to allopurinol.

However, in a subsequent post registrational study (FAST), febuxostat was not inferior to allopurinol in the incidence of both fatal and non-fatal cardiovascular events.

Treatment of this patient group should be exercised cautiously and they should be monitored regularly. For further details on cardiovascular safety of febuxostat refer to section 4.8 and section 5.1.

Prevention and treatment of hyperuricaemia in patients at risk of TLS

Patients undergoing chemotherapy for haematologic malignancies at intermediate to high risk of Tumor Lysis Syndrome treated with febuxostat should be under cardiac monitoring as clinically appropriate.

Medicinal product allergy / hypersensitivity

Rare reports of serious allergic/hypersensitivity reactions, including life-threatening Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic epidermal necrolysis and acute anaphylactic reaction/shock, have been collected in the post-marketing experience. In most cases, these reactions occurred during the first month of therapy with febuxostat. Some, but not all of these patients reported renal impairment and/or previous hypersensitivity to allopurinol. Severe hypersensitivity reactions, including Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) were associated with fever, haematological, renal or

hepatic involvement in some cases.

Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for symptoms of allergic/hypersensitivity reactions (see section 4.8). Febuxostat treatment should be immediately stopped if serious allergic/hypersensitivity reactions, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, occur since early withdrawal is associated with a better prognosis. If patient has developed allergic/hypersensitivity reactions including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and acute anaphylactic reaction/shock, febuxostat must not be re-started in this patient at any time.

Acute gouty attacks (gout flare)

Febuxostat treatment should not be started until an acute attack of gout has completely subsided. Gout flares may occur during initiation of treatment due to changing serum uric acid levels resulting in mobilization of urate from tissue deposits (see sections 4.8 and 5.1). At treatment initiation with febuxostat flare prophylaxis for at least 6 months with an NSAID or colchicine is recommended (see section 4.2).

If a gout flare occurs during febuxostat treatment, it should not be discontinued. The gout flare should be managed concurrently as appropriate for the individual patient. Continuous treatment with febuxostat decreases frequency and intensity of gout flares.

Xanthine deposition

In patients in whom the rate of urate formation is greatly increased (e.g. malignant disease and its treatment, Lesch-Nyhan syndrome) the absolute concentration of xanthine in urine could, in rare cases, rise sufficiently to allow deposition in the urinary tract. This has not been observed in the pivotal clinical study with febuxostat in the Tumor Lysis Syndrome. As there has been no experience with febuxostat, its use in patients with Lesch-Nyhan Syndrome is not recommended.

Mercaptopurine/azathioprine

Febuxostat use is not recommended in patients concomitantly treated with mercaptopurine/azathioprine as inhibition of xanthine oxidase by febuxostat may cause increased plasma concentrations of mercaptopurine/azathioprine that could result in severe toxicity.

Where the combination cannot be avoided, a reduction of the dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine to the 20% or less of the previously prescribed dose is recommended in order to avoid possible haematological effects (see sections 4.5 and 5.3).

The patients should be closely monitored and the dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine should be subsequently adjusted based on the evaluation of the therapeutic response and the onset of eventual toxic effects.

Organ transplant recipients

As there has been no experience in organ transplant recipients, the use of febuxostat in such patients is not recommended (see section 5.1).

Theophylline

Co-administration of febuxostat 80 mg and theophylline 400 mg single dose in healthy subjects showed absence of any pharmacokinetic interaction (see section 4.5). Febuxostat 80 mg can be used in patients concomitantly treated with theophylline without risk of increasing theophylline plasma levels. No data is available for febuxostat 120 mg.

Liver disorders

During the combined phase 3 clinical studies, mild liver function test abnormalities were observed in

patients treated with febuxostat (5.0%). Liver function test is recommended prior to the initiation of therapy with febuxostat and periodically thereafter based on clinical judgment (see section 5.1).

Thyroid disorders

Increased TSH values (>5.5 $\mu\text{IU/mL}$) were observed in patients on long-term treatment with febuxostat (5.5%) in the long term open label extension studies. Caution is required when febuxostat is used in patients with alteration of thyroid function (see section 5.1).

Excipients

Febuxostat Krka contains lactose. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine. This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Mercaptopurine/azathioprine

On the basis of the mechanism of action of febuxostat on XO inhibition concomitant use is not recommended. Inhibition of XO by febuxostat may cause increased plasma concentrations of these drugs leading to myelotoxicity.

In case of concomitant administration with febuxostat, the dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine should be reduced to the 20% or less of the previously prescribed dose (see sections 4.4 and 5.3).

The adequacy of the proposed dose adjustment, which was based on a modelling and simulation analysis from preclinical data in rats, was confirmed by the results of a clinical drug-drug interaction study in healthy volunteers, receiving azathioprine 100 mg alone and a reduced dose of azathioprine (25 mg) in combination with febuxostat (40 or 120 mg).

Drug interaction studies of febuxostat with other cytotoxic chemotherapy have not been conducted. In the Tumor Lysis Syndrome pivotal trial febuxostat 120 mg daily was administered to patients undergoing several chemotherapy regimens, including monoclonal antibodies. However, drug-drug and drug-disease interactions were not explored during this study. Therefore, possible interactions with any concomitantly administered cytotoxic drug cannot be ruled out.

Rosiglitazone/CYP2C8 substrates

Febuxostat was shown to be a weak inhibitor of CYP2C8 in vitro. In a study in healthy subjects, coadministration of 120 mg febuxostat QD with a single 4 mg oral dose of rosiglitazone had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of rosiglitazone and its metabolite N-desmethyl rosiglitazone, indicating that febuxostat is not a CYP2C8 enzyme inhibitor in vivo. Thus, co-administration of febuxostat with rosiglitazone or other CYP2C8 substrates is not expected to require any dose adjustment for those compounds.

Theophylline

An interaction study in healthy subjects has been performed with febuxostat to evaluate whether the inhibition of XO may cause an increase in the theophylline circulating levels as reported with other XO inhibitors. The results of the study showed that the co-administration of febuxostat 80 mg QD with theophylline 400 mg single dose has no effect on the pharmacokinetics or safety of theophylline. Therefore no special caution is advised when febuxostat 80 mg and theophylline are given concomitantly. No data is available for febuxostat 120 mg.

Naproxen and other inhibitors of glucuronidation

Febuxostat metabolism depends on Uridine Glucuronosyl Transferase (UGT) enzymes. Medicinal

products that inhibit glucuronidation, such as NSAIDs and probenecid, could in theory affect the elimination of febuxostat. In healthy subjects concomitant use of febuxostat and naproxen 250 mg twice daily was associated with an increase in febuxostat exposure (C_{max} 28%, AUC 41% and $t_{1/2}$ 26%). In clinical studies the use of naproxen or other NSAIDs/Cox-2 inhibitors was not related to any clinically significant increase in adverse events.

Febuxostat can be co-administered with naproxen with no dose adjustment of febuxostat or naproxen being necessary.

Inducers of glucuronidation

Potent inducers of UGT enzymes might possibly lead to increased metabolism and decreased efficacy of febuxostat. Monitoring of serum uric acid is therefore recommended 1-2 weeks after start of treatment with a potent inducer of glucuronidation. Conversely, cessation of treatment of an inducer might lead to increased plasma levels of febuxostat.

Colchicine/indometacin/hydrochlorothiazide/warfarin

Febuxostat can be co-administered with colchicine or indomethacin with no dose adjustment of febuxostat or the co-administered active substance being necessary.

No dose adjustment is necessary for febuxostat when administered with hydrochlorothiazide.

No dose adjustment is necessary for warfarin when administered with febuxostat. Administration of febuxostat (80 mg or 120 mg once daily) with warfarin had no effect on the pharmacokinetics of warfarin in healthy subjects. INR and Factor VII activity were also not affected by the co-administration of febuxostat.

Desipramine/CYP2D6 substrates

Febuxostat was shown to be a weak inhibitor of CYP2D6 *in vitro*. In a study in healthy subjects, 120 mg febuxostat QD resulted in a mean 22% increase in AUC of desipramine, a CYP2D6 substrate indicating a potential weak inhibitory effect of febuxostat on the CYP2D6 enzyme *in vivo*. Thus, co-administration of febuxostat with other CYP2D6 substrates is not expected to require any dose adjustment for those compounds.

Antacids

Concomitant ingestion of an antacid containing magnesium hydroxide and aluminium hydroxide has been shown to delay absorption of febuxostat (approximately 1 hour) and to cause a 32% decrease in C_{max} , but no significant change in AUC was observed. Therefore, febuxostat may be taken without regard to antacid use.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Data on a very limited number of exposed pregnancies have not indicated any adverse effects of febuxostat on pregnancy or on the health of the foetus/new born child. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonal/foetal development or parturition (see section 5.3). The potential risk for human is unknown. Febuxostat should not be used during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

It is unknown whether febuxostat is excreted in human breast milk. Animal studies have shown excretion of this active substance in breast milk and an impaired development of suckling pups. A risk

to a suckling infant cannot be excluded. Febuxostat should not be used while breastfeeding.

Fertility

In animals, reproduction studies up to 48 mg/kg/day showed no dose-dependent adverse effects on fertility (see section 5.3). The effect of Febuxostat Krka on human fertility is unknown.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Somnolence, dizziness, paraesthesia and blurred vision have been reported with the use of febuxostat. Patients should exercise caution before driving, using machinery or participating in dangerous activities until they are reasonably certain that Febuxostat Krka does not adversely affect performance.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported adverse reactions in clinical trials (4,072 subjects treated at least with a dose from 10 mg to 300 mg), post-authorisation safety studies (FAST study: 3001 subjects treated at least with a dose from 80 mg to 120 mg) and post-marketing experience in gout patients are gout flares, liver function abnormalities, diarrhoea, nausea, headache, dizziness, dyspnoea, rash, pruritus, arthralgia, myalgia, pain in extremity, oedema and fatigue. These adverse reactions were mostly mild or moderate in severity. Rare serious hypersensitivity reactions to febuxostat, some of which were associated to systemic symptoms, and rare events of sudden cardiac death, have occurred in the post-marketing experience.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

Common ($\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$), uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ to $< 1/100$) and rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1,000$) adverse reactions occurring in patients treated with febuxostat are listed below.

The frequencies are based on studies and post-marketing experience in gout patients.

Within each frequency grouping, adverse reactions are presented in order of decreasing seriousness.

Table 1: Adverse reactions in combined phase 3, long-term extension studies, post-authorisation safety studies and post-marketing experience in gout patients.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders	<u>Rare</u> Pancytopenia, thrombocytopenia, agranulocytosis*, anaemia [#]
Immune system disorders	<u>Rare</u> Anaphylactic reaction*, drug hypersensitivity*
Endocrine disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Blood thyroid stimulating hormone increased, hypothyroidism [#]
Eye disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Blurred vision <u>Rare</u> Retinal artery occlusion [#]
Metabolism and nutrition disorders	<u>Common***</u> Gout flares <u>Uncommon</u> Diabetes mellitus, hyperlipidemia, decrease appetite, weight increase <u>Rare</u> Weight decrease, increase appetite, anorexia
Psychiatric disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Libido decreased, insomnia

	<u>Rare</u> Nervousness, depressed mood [#] , sleep disorder [#]
Nervous system disorders	<u>Common</u> Headache, dizziness <u>Uncommon</u> Paraesthesia, hemiparesis, somnolence, lethargy [#] , altered taste, hypoaesthesia, hyposmia <u>Rare</u> Ageusia [#] , burning sensation
Ear and labyrinth disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Tinnitus <u>Rare</u> Vertigo [#]
Cardiac disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Atrial fibrillation, palpitations, ECG abnormal, left bundle branch block (see section Tumor Lysis Syndrome), sinus tachycardia (see section Tumor Lysis Syndrome), arrhythmia [#] <u>Rare</u> Sudden cardiac death*
Vascular disorders	<u>Uncommon</u> Hypertension, flushing, hot flush, haemorrhage (see section Tumor Lysis Syndrome) <u>Rare</u> Circulatory collapse [#]
Respiratory system disorders	<u>Common</u> Dyspnoea <u>Uncommon</u> Bronchitis, upper respiratory tract infection, lower respiratory tract infection [#] , cough, rhinorrhoea [#] <u>Rare</u> Pneumonia [#]
Gastrointestinal disorders	<u>Common</u> Diarrhoea**, nausea <u>Uncommon</u> Abdominal pain, abdominal pain upper [#] , abdominal distension, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease, vomiting, dry mouth, dyspepsia, constipation, frequent stools, flatulence, gastrointestinal discomfort, mouth ulceration, lip swelling [#] , pancreatitis <u>Rare</u> Gastrointestinal perforation [#] , stomatitis [#]
Hepato-biliary disorders	<u>Common</u> Liver function abnormalities** <u>Uncommon</u> Cholelithiasis <u>Rare</u> Hepatitis, jaundice*, liver injury*, cholecystitis [#]
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	<u>Common</u> Rash (including various types of rash reported with lower frequencies, see below), pruritus <u>Uncommon</u> Dermatitis, urticaria, skin discolouration, skin lesion, petechiae, rash macular, rash

	<p>maculopapular, rash papular, hyperhidrosis, alopecia, eczema[#], erythema, night sweats[#], psoriasis[#], rash pruritic[#]</p> <p><u>Rare</u></p> <p>Toxic epidermal necrolysis*, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome*, angioedema*, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms*, generalized rash (serious)*, exfoliative rash, rash follicular, rash vesicular, rash pustular, rash erythematous, rash morbilliform</p>
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders	<p><u>Common</u></p> <p>Arthralgia, myalgia, pain in extremity[#]</p> <p><u>Uncommon</u></p> <p>Arthritis, musculoskeletal pain, muscle weakness, muscle spasm, muscle tightness, bursitis, joint swelling[#], back pain[#], musculoskeletal stiffness[#], joint stiffness</p> <p><u>Rare</u></p> <p>Rhabdomyolysis*, rotator cuff syndrome[#], polymyalgia rheumatica[#]</p>
Renal and urinary disorders	<p><u>Uncommon</u></p> <p>Renal failure, nephrolithiasis, haematuria, pollakiuria, proteinuria, micturition urgency, urinary tract infection[#]</p> <p><u>Rare</u></p> <p>Tubulointerstitial nephritis*</p>
Reproductive system and breast disorder	<p><u>Uncommon</u></p> <p>Erectile dysfunction</p>
General disorders and administration site conditions	<p><u>Common</u></p> <p>Oedema, fatigue</p> <p><u>Uncommon</u></p> <p>Chest pain, chest discomfort, pain[#], malaise[#]</p> <p><u>Rare</u></p> <p>Thirst, feeling hot[#]</p>
Investigations	<p><u>Uncommon</u></p> <p>Blood amylase increase, platelet count decrease, WBC decrease, lymphocyte count decrease, blood creatine increase, blood creatinine increase, haemoglobin decrease, blood urea increase, blood triglycerides increase, blood cholesterol increase, haematocrit decrease, blood lactate dehydrogenase increased, blood potassium increase, INR increased[#]</p> <p><u>Rare</u></p> <p>Blood glucose increase, activated partial thromboplastin time prolonged, red blood cell count decrease, blood alkaline phosphatase increase, blood creatine phosphokinase increase*</p>
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications	<p><u>Uncommon</u></p> <p>Contusion[#]</p>

* Adverse reactions coming from post-marketing experience

** Treatment-emergent non-infective diarrhoea and abnormal liver function tests in the combined Phase 3 studies are more frequent in patients concomitantly treated with colchicine.

*** See section 5.1 for incidences of gout flares in the individual Phase 3 randomized controlled studies.

[#] Adverse reactions coming from post-authorisation safety studies

Description of selected adverse reactions

Rare serious hypersensitivity reactions to febuxostat, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic epidermal necrolysis and anaphylactic reaction/shock, have occurred in the post-marketing experience. Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Toxic epidermal necrolysis are characterised by progressive skin rashes associated with blisters or mucosal lesions and eye irritation. Hypersensitivity reactions to febuxostat can be associated to the following symptoms: skin reactions characterised by infiltrated maculopapular eruption, generalised or exfoliative rashes, but also skin lesions, facial oedema, fever, haematologic abnormalities such as thrombocytopenia and eosinophilia, and single or multiple organ involvement (liver and kidney including tubulointerstitial nephritis) (see section 4.4).

Gout flares were commonly observed soon after the start of treatment and during the first months. Thereafter, the frequency of gout flare decreases in a time-dependent manner. Gout flare prophylaxis is recommended (see section 4.2 and 4.4).

Tumor Lysis Syndrome

Summary of the safety profile

In the randomized, double-blind, Phase 3 pivotal FLORENCE (FLO-01) study comparing febuxostat with allopurinol (346 patients undergoing chemotherapy for haematologic malignancies and at intermediate-to-high risk of TLS), only 22 (6.4%) patients overall experienced adverse reactions, namely 11 (6.4%) patients in each treatment group. The majority of adverse reactions were either mild or moderate.

Overall, the FLORENCE trial did not highlight any particular safety concern in addition to the previous experience with febuxostat in gout, with the exception of the following three adverse reactions (listed above in table 1).

Cardiac disorders:

Uncommon: Left bundle branch block, sinus tachycardia

Vascular disorders:

Uncommon: haemorrhage

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

Patients with an overdose should be managed by symptomatic and supportive care.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Antigout preparations, preparations inhibiting uric acid production; ATC code: M04AA03.

Mechanism of action

Uric acid is the end product of purine metabolism in humans and is generated in the cascade of hypoxanthine → xanthine → uric acid. Both steps in the above transformations are catalyzed by

xanthine oxidase (XO). Febuxostat is a 2-arylthiazole derivative that achieves its therapeutic effect of decreasing serum uric acid by selectively inhibiting XO. Febuxostat is a potent, non-purine selective inhibitor of XO (NP-SIXO) with an *in vitro* inhibition K_i value less than one nanomolar. Febuxostat has been shown to potently inhibit both the oxidized and reduced forms of XO. At therapeutic concentrations febuxostat does not inhibit other enzymes involved in purine or pyrimidine metabolism, namely, guanine deaminase, hypoxanthine guanine phosphoribosyltransferase, orotate phosphoribosyltransferase, orotidine monophosphate decarboxylase or purine nucleoside phosphorylase.

Clinical efficacy and safety

Gout

The efficacy of febuxostat was demonstrated in three Phase 3 pivotal studies (the two pivotal APEX and FACT studies, and the additional CONFIRMS study described below) that were conducted in 4101 patients with hyperuricaemia and gout. In each phase 3 pivotal study, febuxostat demonstrated superior ability to lower and maintain serum uric acid levels compared to allopurinol. The primary efficacy endpoint in the APEX and FACT studies was the proportion of patients whose last 3 monthly serum uric acid levels were < 6.0 mg/dL ($357 \mu\text{mol/L}$). In the additional phase 3 CONFIRMS study, for which results became available after the marketing authorisation for febuxostat was first issued, the primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients whose serum urate level was < 6.0 mg/dL at the final visit. No patients with organ transplant have been included in these studies (see section 4.2).

APEX Study: The Allopurinol and Placebo-Controlled Efficacy Study of Febuxostat (APEX) was a Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, 28-week study. One thousand and seventy-two (1072) patients were randomized: placebo ($n=134$), febuxostat 80 mg QD ($n=267$), febuxostat 120 mg QD ($n=269$), febuxostat 240 mg QD ($n=134$) or allopurinol (300 mg QD [$n=258$] for patients with a baseline serum creatinine ≤ 1.5 mg/dL or 100 mg QD [$n=10$] for patients with a baseline serum creatinine > 1.5 mg/dL and ≤ 2.0 mg/dL). Two hundred and forty febuxostat (2 times the recommended highest dose) was used as a safety evaluation dose.

The APEX study showed statistically significant superiority of both the febuxostat 80 mg QD and the febuxostat 120 mg QD treatment arms *versus* the conventionally used doses of allopurinol 300 mg ($n = 258$) / 100 mg ($n = 10$) treatment arm in reducing the sUA below 6 mg/dL ($357 \mu\text{mol/L}$) (see Table 2 and Figure 1).

FACT Study: The Febuxostat Allopurinol Controlled Trial (FACT) Study was a Phase 3, randomized, double-blind, multicenter, 52-week study. Seven hundred sixty (760) patients were randomized: febuxostat 80 mg QD ($n=256$), febuxostat 120 mg QD ($n=251$), or allopurinol 300 mg QD ($n=253$).

The FACT study showed the statistically significant superiority of both febuxostat 80 mg and febuxostat 120 mg QD treatment arms *versus* the conventionally used dose of allopurinol 300 mg treatment arm in reducing and maintaining sUA below 6 mg/dL ($357 \mu\text{mol/L}$).

Table 2 summarises the primary efficacy endpoint results:

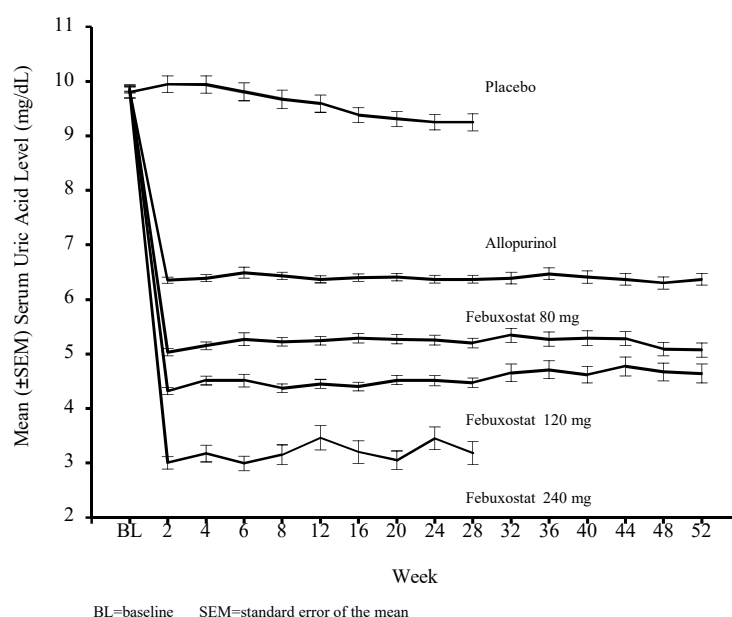
Table 2
Proportion of Patients with Serum Uric Acid Levels < 6.0 mg/dL ($357 \mu\text{mol/L}$)
Last Three Monthly Visits

Study	Febuxostat 80 mg QD	Febuxostat 120 mg QD	Allopurinol 300 / 100 mg QD ¹
APEX (28 weeks)	48%* ($n=262$)	65%*,# ($n=269$)	22% ($n=268$)
FACT (52 weeks)	53%* ($n=255$)	62%* ($n=250$)	21 % ($n=251$)
Combined	51%*	63%*,#	22%

Results	(n=517)	(n=519)	(n=519)
¹ results from subjects receiving either 100 mg QD (n=10: patients with serum creatinine >1.5 and ≤2.0 mg/dL) or 300 mg QD (n=509) were pooled for analyses.			
* p < 0.001 vs allopurinol, # p < 0.001 vs 80 mg			

The ability of febuxostat to lower serum uric acid levels was prompt and persistent. Reduction in serum uric acid level to <6.0 mg/dL (357 µmol/L) was noted by the Week 2 visit and was maintained throughout treatment. The mean serum uric acid levels over time for each treatment group from the two pivotal Phase 3 studies are shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 Mean Serum Uric Acid Levels in Combined Pivotal Phase 3 Studies



Note: 509 patients received allopurinol 300 mg QD; 10 patients with serum creatinine >1.5 and ≤2.0 mg/dL were dosed with 100 mg QD. (10 patients out of 268 in APEX study). 240 mg febuxostat was used to evaluate the safety of febuxostat at twice the recommended highest dose.

CONFIRMS Study: The CONFIRMS study was a Phase 3, randomized, controlled, 26-week study to evaluate the safety and efficacy of febuxostat 40 mg and 80 mg, in comparison with allopurinol 300 mg or 200 mg, in patients with gout and hyperuricaemia. Two thousand and two hundred-sixty nine (2269) patients were randomized: febuxostat 40 mg QD (n=757), febuxostat 80 mg QD (n=756), or allopurinol 300/200 mg QD (n=756). At least 65% of the patients had mild-moderate renal impairment (with creatinine clearance of 30-89 mL/min). Prophylaxis against gout flares was obligatory over the 26-week period.

The proportion of patients with serum urate levels of < 6.0 mg/dL (357 µmol/L) at the final visit, was 45% for 40 mg febuxostat, 67% for febuxostat 80 mg and 42% for allopurinol 300/200 mg, respectively.

Primary endpoint in the sub-group of patients with renal impairment

The APEX Study evaluated efficacy in 40 patients with renal impairment (i.e., baseline serum creatinine > 1.5 mg/dL and ≤2.0 mg/dL). For renally impaired subjects who were randomized to allopurinol, the dose was capped at 100 mg QD. Febuxostat achieved the primary efficacy endpoint in 44% (80 mg QD), 45% (120 mg QD), and 60% (240 mg QD) of patients compared to 0% in the allopurinol 100 mg QD and placebo groups.

There were no clinically significant differences in the percent decrease in serum uric acid concentration in healthy subjects irrespective of their renal function (58% in the normal renal function group and 55% in the severe renal dysfunction group).

An analysis in patients with gout and renal impairment was prospectively defined in the CONFIRMS study, and showed that febuxostat was significantly more efficacious in lowering serum urate levels to < 6 mg/dL compared to allopurinol 300 mg/200 mg in patients who had gout with mild to moderate renal impairment (65% of patients studied).

Primary endpoint in the sub group of patients with sUA \geq 10 mg/dL

Approximately 40% of patients (combined APEX and FACT) had a baseline sUA of \geq 10 mg/dL. In this subgroup febuxostat achieved the primary efficacy endpoint (sUA < 6.0 mg/dL at the last 3 visits) in 41% (80 mg QD), 48% (120 mg QD), and 66% (240 mg QD) of patients compared to 9% in the allopurinol 300 mg/100 mg QD and 0 % in the placebo groups.

In the CONFIRMS study, the proportion of patients achieving the primary efficacy endpoint (sUA < 6.0 mg/dL at the final visit) for patients with a baseline serum urate level of \geq 10 mg/dL treated with febuxostat 40 mg QD was 27% (66/249), with febuxostat 80 mg QD 49% (125/254) and with allopurinol 300 mg/200 mg QD 31% (72/230), respectively.

Clinical Outcomes: proportion of patients requiring treatment for a gout flare

APEX study: During the 8-week prophylaxis period, a greater proportion of subjects in the febuxostat 120 mg (36%) treatment group required treatment for gout flare compared to febuxostat 80 mg (28%), allopurinol 300 mg (23%) and placebo (20%). Flares increased following the prophylaxis period and gradually decreased over time. Between 46% and 55% of subjects received treatment for gout flares from Week 8 and Week 28. Gout flares during the last 4 weeks of the study (Weeks 24-28) were observed in 15% (febuxostat 80, 120 mg), 14% (allopurinol 300 mg) and 20% (placebo) of subjects.

FACT study: During the 8-week prophylaxis period, a greater proportion of subjects in the febuxostat 120 mg (36%) treatment group required treatment for a gout flare compared to both the febuxostat 80 mg (22%) and allopurinol 300 mg (21%) treatment groups. After the 8-week prophylaxis period, the incidences of flares increased and gradually decreased over time (64% and 70% of subjects received treatment for gout flares from Week 8-52). Gout flares during the last 4 weeks of the study (Weeks 49-52) were observed in 6-8% (febuxostat 80 mg, 120 mg) and 11% (allopurinol 300 mg) of subjects.

The proportion of subjects requiring treatment for a gout flare (APEX and FACT Study) was numerically lower in the groups that achieved an average post-baseline serum urate level <6.0 mg/dL, <5.0 mg/dL, or <4.0 mg/dL compared to the group that achieved an average post-baseline serum urate level \geq 6.0 mg/dL during the last 32 weeks of the treatment period (Week 20-Week 24 to Week 49 - 52 intervals).

During the CONFIRMS study, the percentages of patients who required treatment for gout flares (Day 1 through Month 6) were 31% and 25% for the febuxostat 80 mg and allopurinol groups, respectively. No difference in the proportion of patients requiring treatment for gout flares was observed between the febuxostat 80 mg and 40 mg groups.

Long-term, open label extension studies

EXCEL Study (C02-021): The Excel study was a three years Phase 3, open label, multicenter, randomised, allopurinol-controlled, safety extension study for patients who had completed the pivotal Phase 3 studies (APEX or FACT). A total of 1,086 patients were enrolled: febuxostat 80 mg QD (n=649), febuxostat 120 mg QD (n=292) and allopurinol 300/100 mg QD (n=145). About 69 % of patients required no treatment change to achieve a final stable treatment. Patients who had 3 consecutive sUA levels >6.0 mg/dL were withdrawn.

Serum urate levels were maintained over time (i.e. 91% and 93% of patients on initial treatment with febuxostat 80 mg and 120 mg, respectively, had sUA <6 mg/dL at Month 36).

Three years data showed a decrease in the incidence of gout flares with less than 4% of patients

requiring treatment for a flare (i.e. more than 96% of patients did not require treatment for a flare) at Month 16-24 and at Month 30-36.

46% and 38%, of patients on final stable treatment of febuxostat 80 or 120 mg QD, respectively, had complete resolution of the primary palpable tophus from baseline to the Final Visit.

FOCUS Study (TMX-01-005) was a 5 years Phase 2, open-label, multicenter, safety extension study for patients who had completed the febuxostat 4 weeks of double blind dosing in study TMX-00-004.

116 patients were enrolled and received initially febuxostat 80 mg QD. 62% of patients required no dose adjustment to maintain sUA <6 mg/dL and 38% of patients required a dose adjustment to achieve a final stable dose.

The proportion of patients with serum urate levels of <6.0 mg/dL (357 μ mol/L) at the final visit was greater than 80% (81-100%) at each febuxostat dose.

During the phase 3 clinical studies, mild liver function test abnormalities were observed in patients treated with febuxostat (5.0%). These rates were similar to the rates reported on allopurinol (4.2%) (see section 4.4). Increased TSH values (>5.5 μ IU/mL) were observed in patients on long-term treatment with febuxostat (5.5%) and patients with allopurinol (5.8%) in the long term open label extension studies (see section 4.4).

Post Marketing long term studies

CARES Study was a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, non inferiority trial comparing CV outcomes with febuxostat versus allopurinol in patients with gout and a history of major CV disease including MI, hospitalization for unstable angina, coronary or cerebral revascularization procedure, stroke, hospitalized transient ischemic attack, peripheral vascular disease, or diabetes mellitus with evidence of microvascular or macrovascular disease. To achieve sUA less than 6 mg/dL, the dose of febuxostat was titrated from 40 mg up to 80 mg (regardless of renal function) and the dose of allopurinol was titrated in 100 mg increments from 300 to 600 mg in patients with normal renal function and mild renal impairment and from 200 to 400 mg in patients with moderate renal impairment.

The primary endpoint in CARES was the time to first occurrence of MACE, a composite of non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, CV death and unstable angina with urgent coronary revascularization.

The endpoints (primary and secondary) were analysed according to the intention-to-treat (ITT) analysis including all subjects who were randomized and received at least one dose of double-blind study medication.

Overall 56.6% of patients discontinued trial treatment prematurely and 45% of patients did not complete all trial visits.

In total, 6,190 patients were followed for a median of 32 months and the median duration of exposure was 728 days for patients in febuxostat group (n 3098) and 719 days in allopurinol group (n 3092).

The primary MACE endpoint occurred at similar rates in the febuxostat and allopurinol treatment groups (10.8% vs. 10.4% of patients, respectively; hazard ratio [HR] 1.03; two-sided repeated 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.89-1.21).

In the analysis of the individual components of MACE, the rate of CV deaths was higher with febuxostat than allopurinol (4.3% vs. 3.2% of patients; HR 1.34; 95% CI 1.03-1.73). The rates of the other MACE events were similar in the febuxostat and allopurinol groups, i.e. non-fatal MI (3.6% vs. 3.8% of patients; HR 0.93; 95% CI 0.72-1.21), non-fatal stroke (2.3% vs. 2.3% of patients; HR 1.01; 95% CI 0.73-1.41) and urgent revascularization due to unstable angina (1.6% vs. 1.8% of patients; HR 0.86; 95% CI 0.59-1.26). The rate of all-cause mortality was also higher with febuxostat than allopurinol (7.8% vs. 6.4% of patients; HR 1.22; 95% CI 1.01-1.47), which was mainly driven by the higher rate of CV deaths in that group (see section 4.4).

Rates of adjudicated hospitalization for heart failure, hospital admissions for arrhythmias not associated with ischemia, venous thromboembolic events and hospitalization for transient ischemic attacks were comparable for febuxostat and allopurinol.

FAST study was a prospective, randomised, open-label, blinded-endpoint study comparing the CV safety profile of febuxostat versus allopurinol in patients with chronic hyperuricaemia (in conditions where urate deposition had already occurred) and CV risk factors (i.e. patients 60 years or older and with at least one other CV risk factor). Eligible patients received allopurinol treatment prior to randomization, and dose adjustments were required when needed, according to clinical judgement, EULAR recommendations and the approved posology. At the end of the allopurinol lead-in phase, patients with a sUA level of <0.36 mmol/L (<6 mg/dL) or receiving the maximum tolerated dose or the maximum licensed dose of allopurinol were randomised in a 1:1 ratio to receive either febuxostat or allopurinol treatment. The primary endpoint of the study FAST was the time to the first occurrence of any event included in the Antiplatelet Trialists' Collaborative (APTC) composite endpoint, which included: i) hospitalisation for non-fatal MI/biomarker positive acute coronary syndrome (ACS); ii) non-fatal stroke; iii) death due to a CV event. The primary analysis was based on the on-treatment (OT) approach.

Overall, 6,128 patients were randomized, 3063 to febuxostat and 3065 to allopurinol.

In the primary OT analysis, febuxostat was non-inferior to allopurinol in the incidence of the primary endpoint, which occurred in 172 patients (1.72/100 patient years) on febuxostat compared to 241 patients (2.05/100 patient years) on allopurinol, with an adjusted HR 0.85 (95% CI: 0.70, 1.03), $p < 0.001$. The OT analysis for the primary endpoint in the subgroup of patients with a history of MI, stroke or ACS showed no significant difference between treatment groups: there were 65 (9.5%) patients with events in the febuxostat group and 83 (11.8%) patients with events in the allopurinol group; adjusted HR 1.02 (95% CI: 0.74-1.42); $p = 0.202$.

Treatment with febuxostat was not associated with an increase in CV death or all-cause death, overall or in the subgroup of patients with a baseline history of MI, stroke or ACS. Overall, there were fewer deaths in the febuxostat group (62 CV deaths and 108 all-cause deaths), than in the allopurinol group (82 CV deaths and 174 all-cause deaths).

There was a greater reduction in uric acid levels on febuxostat treatment compared to allopurinol treatment.

Tumor Lysis Syndrome

The efficacy and safety of febuxostat in the prevention and treatment of Tumor Lysis Syndrome was evaluated in the FLORENCE (FLO-01) study. Febuxostat showed a superior and faster urate lowering activity compared to allopurinol.

FLORENCE was a randomized (1:1), double blind, phase III, pivotal trial comparing febuxostat 120 mg once daily with allopurinol 200 to 600 mg daily (mean allopurinol daily dose \pm standard deviation]: 349.7 ± 112.90 mg) in terms of control of serum uric acid level. Eligible patients had to be candidates for allopurinol treatment or have no access to rasburicase. Primary endpoints were serum uric acid area under the curve (AUCsUA₁₋₈) and change in serum creatinine (sC) level both from baseline to Day 8.

Overall, 346 patients with haematological malignancies undergoing chemotherapy and at intermediate / high risk of Tumor Lysis Syndrome were included. Mean AUC sUA₁₋₈ (mgxh/dl) was significantly lower with febuxostat (514.0 ± 225.71 vs 708.0 ± 234.42 ; least square means difference: -196.794 [95% confidence interval: -238.600; -154.988]; $p < .0001$). Furthermore, the mean serum uric acid level was significantly lower with febuxostat since the first 24 hours of treatment and at any following time point. No significant difference in mean serum creatinine change (%) occurred between febuxostat and allopurinol (-0.83 ± 26.98 vs -4.92 ± 16.70 respectively; least square means difference: 4.0970 [95% confidence interval: -0.6467; 8.8406]; $p = 0.0903$). With regard to secondary endpoints, no significant difference was detected in terms of incidence of laboratory TLS (8.1% and 9.2% in febuxostat and allopurinol arm, respectively; relative risk: 0.875 [95% confidence interval: 0.4408; 1.7369]; $p = 0.8488$) nor of clinical TLS (1.7% and 1.2% in febuxostat and allopurinol arm, respectively; relative risk: 0.994 [95% confidence interval: 0.9691; 1.0199]; $p = 1.0000$). Incidence of overall treatment-emergent signs and symptoms and adverse drug reactions was 67.6% vs 64.7% and 6.4% vs 6.4% with febuxostat and allopurinol respectively. In the FLORENCE study febuxostat demonstrated a superior control of serum uric acid level compared to allopurinol in patients scheduled to receive the latter drug. No data comparing febuxostat with rasburicase are currently available.

The efficacy and safety of febuxostat has not been established in patients with acute severe TLS, e.g. in patients who failed on other urate lowering therapies.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

In healthy subjects, maximum plasma concentrations (C_{\max}) and area under the plasma concentration time curve (AUC) of febuxostat increased in a dose proportional manner following single and multiple doses of 10 mg to 120 mg. For doses between 120 mg and 300 mg, a greater than dose proportional increase in AUC is observed for febuxostat. There is no appreciable accumulation when doses of 10 mg to 240 mg are administered every 24 hours. Febuxostat has an apparent mean terminal elimination half-life ($t_{1/2}$) of approximately 5 to 8 hours.

Population pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic analyses were conducted in 211 patients with hyperuricaemia and gout, treated with febuxostat 40-240 mg QD. In general, febuxostat pharmacokinetic parameters estimated by these analyses are consistent with those obtained from healthy subjects, indicating that healthy subjects are representative for pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic assessment in the patient population with gout.

Absorption

Febuxostat is rapidly (t_{\max} of 1.0-1.5 h) and well absorbed (at least 84%). After single or multiple oral 80 and 120 mg once daily doses, C_{\max} is approximately 2.8-3.2 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, and 5.0-5.3 $\mu\text{g/mL}$, respectively. Absolute bioavailability of the febuxostat tablet formulation has not been studied.

Following multiple oral 80 mg once daily doses or a single 120 mg dose with a high fat meal, there was a 49% and 38% decrease in C_{\max} and a 18% and 16% decrease in AUC, respectively. However, no clinically significant change in the percent decrease in serum uric acid concentration was observed where tested (80 mg multiple dose). Thus, febuxostat may be taken without regard to food.

Distribution

The apparent steady state volume of distribution (V_{ss}/F) of febuxostat ranges from 29 to 75 L after oral doses of 10-300 mg. The plasma protein binding of febuxostat is approximately 99.2%, (primarily to albumin), and is constant over the concentration range achieved with 80 and 120 mg doses. Plasma protein binding of the active metabolites ranges from about 82% to 91%.

Biotransformation

Febuxostat is extensively metabolized by conjugation *via* uridine diphosphate glucuronosyltransferase (UDPGT) enzyme system and oxidation *via* the cytochrome P450 (CYP) system. Four pharmacologically active hydroxyl metabolites have been identified, of which three occur in plasma of humans. *In vitro* studies with human liver microsomes showed that those oxidative metabolites were formed primarily by CYP1A1, CYP1A2, CYP2C8 or CYP2C9 and febuxostat glucuronide was formed mainly by UGT 1A1, 1A8, and 1A9.

Elimination

Febuxostat is eliminated by both hepatic and renal pathways. Following an 80 mg oral dose of ^{14}C -labeled febuxostat, approximately 49% of the dose was recovered in the urine as unchanged febuxostat (3%), the acyl glucuronide of the active substance (30%), its known oxidative metabolites and their conjugates (13%), and other unknown metabolites (3%). In addition to the urinary excretion, approximately 45% of the dose was recovered in the faeces as the unchanged febuxostat (12%), the acyl glucuronide of the active substance (1%), its known oxidative metabolites and their conjugates (25%), and other unknown metabolites (7%).

Renal impairment

Following multiple doses of 80 mg of febuxostat in patients with mild, moderate or severe renal impairment, the C_{\max} of febuxostat did not change, relative to subjects with normal renal function. The

mean total AUC of febuxostat increased by approximately 1.8-fold from 7.5 µg·h/mL in the normal renal function group to 13.2 µg·h/mL in the severe renal dysfunction group. The C_{max} and AUC of active metabolites increased up to 2- and 4-fold, respectively. However, no dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment.

Hepatic impairment

Following multiple doses of 80 mg of febuxostat in patients with mild (Child-Pugh Class A) or moderate (Child-Pugh Class B) hepatic impairment, the C_{max} and AUC of febuxostat and its metabolites did not change significantly compared to subjects with normal hepatic function. No studies have been conducted in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C).

Age

There were no significant changes observed in AUC of febuxostat or its metabolites following multiple oral doses of febuxostat in elderly as compared to younger healthy subjects.

Gender

Following multiple oral doses of febuxostat, the C_{max} and AUC were 24% and 12% higher in females than in males, respectively. However, weight-corrected C_{max} and AUC were similar between the genders. No dose adjustment is needed based on gender.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Effects in non-clinical studies were generally observed at exposures in excess of the maximum human exposure.

Pharmacokinetic modelling and simulation of rat data suggests that, when co-administered with febuxostat, the clinical dose of mercaptopurine/azathioprine should be reduced to 20% or less of the previously prescribed dose in order to avoid possible haematological effects (see section 4.4 and 4.5).

Carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, impairment of fertility

In male rats, a statistically significant increase in urinary bladder tumours (transitional cell papilloma and carcinoma) was found only in association with xanthine calculi in the high dose group, at approximately 11 times human exposure. There was no significant increase in any other tumour type in either male or female mice or rats. These findings are considered a consequence of species specific purine metabolism and urine composition and of no relevance to clinical use.

A standard battery of test for genotoxicity did not reveal any biologically relevant genotoxic effects for febuxostat.

Febuxostat at oral doses up to 48 mg/kg/day was found to have no effect on fertility and reproductive performance of male and female rats.

There was no evidence of impaired fertility, teratogenic effects, or harm to the foetus due to febuxostat. There was high dose maternal toxicity accompanied by a reduction in weaning index and reduced development of offspring in rats at approximately 4.3 times human exposure. Teratology studies, performed in pregnant rats at approximately 4.3 times and pregnant rabbits at approximately 13 times human exposure did not reveal any teratogenic effects.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Tablet core

Lactose monohydrate
Cellulose, microcrystalline
Hydroxypropylcellulose
Croscarmellose sodium
Silica, colloidal hydrated
Magnesium stearate

Film coating

Poly(vinyl alcohol)
Macrogol 3350
Titanium dioxide (E171)
Talc
Iron oxide, yellow (E172)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

3 years

6.4 Special precautions for storage

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Blister (PVC/PVDC/PVC//Alu): 14, 28, 56 or 84 film-coated tablets, in a box.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements for disposal.

7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

14 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/005
28 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/006
56 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/007
84 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/008

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 28 March 2019

Date of latest renewal: 7 December 2023

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. MANUFACTURER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE**
- B. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY AND USE**
- C. OTHER CONDITIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION**
- D. CONDITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS WITH REGARD TO THE SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

A. MANUFACTURER(S) RESPONSIBLE FOR BATCH RELEASE

Name and address of the manufacturer(s) responsible for batch release

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto
Šmarješka cesta 6
8501 Novo mesto
Slovenia

TAD Pharma GmbH
Heinz-Lohmann-Straße 5
27472 Cuxhaven
Germany

The printed package leaflet of the medicinal product must state the name and address of the manufacturer responsible for the release of the concerned batch.

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 (PSURs)**

The requirements for submission of PSURs for this medicinal product are set out in the list of Union reference dates (EURD list) provided for under Article 107c(7) of Directive 2001/83/EC and any subsequent updates 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 marketing authorisation holder (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.

ANNEX III
LABELLING AND PACKAGE LEAFLET

A. LABELLING

PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING**BOX****1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Febuxostat Krka 80 mg film-coated tablets

febuxostat

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each film-coated tablet contains 80 mg febuxostat.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains lactose (as monohydrate).

See leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

film-coated tablet

14 film-coated tablets

28 film-coated tablets

56 film-coated tablets

84 film-coated tablets

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Read the package leaflet before use.

Oral 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

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

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

14 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/001

28 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/002

56 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/003

84 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/004

13. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE

16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

Febuxostat Krka 80 mg

17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA

PC
SN
NN

PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON THE OUTER PACKAGING**BOX****1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

Febuxostat Krka 120 mg film-coated tablets

febuxostat

2. STATEMENT OF ACTIVE SUBSTANCE(S)

Each film-coated tablet contains 120 mg febuxostat.

3. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Contains lactose (as monohydrate).

See leaflet for further information.

4. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM AND CONTENTS

film-coated tablet

14 film-coated tablets

28 film-coated tablets

56 film-coated tablets

84 film-coated tablets

5. METHOD AND ROUTE(S) OF ADMINISTRATION

Read the package leaflet before use.

Oral 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

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

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia

12. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)

14 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/005

28 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/006

56 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/007

84 film-coated tablets: EU/1/18/1347/008

13. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

14. GENERAL CLASSIFICATION FOR SUPPLY

15. INSTRUCTIONS ON USE

16. INFORMATION IN BRAILLE

Febuxostat Krka 120 mg

17. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER – 2D BARCODE

2D barcode carrying the unique identifier included.

18. UNIQUE IDENTIFIER - HUMAN READABLE DATA

PC
SN
NN

MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON BLISTERS OR STRIPS
--

BLISTER (PVC/PVDC/PVC//Alu)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Febuxostat Krka 80 mg tablets

febuxostat

2. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER
--

KRKA

3. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

4. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

5. OTHER

MINIMUM PARTICULARS TO APPEAR ON BLISTERS OR STRIPS
--

BLISTER (PVC/PVDC/PVC//Alu)

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Febuxostat Krka 120 mg tablets

febuxostat

2. NAME OF THE MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER
--

KRKA

3. EXPIRY DATE

EXP

4. BATCH NUMBER

Lot

5. OTHER

B. PACKAGE LEAFLET

Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Febuxostat Krka 80 mg film-coated tablets Febuxostat Krka 120 mg film-coated tablets febuxostat

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 or pharmacist.
- 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 or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

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

1. What Febuxostat Krka is and what it is used for

Febuxostat Krka tablets contain the active substance febuxostat and are used to treat gout, which is associated with an excess of a chemical called uric acid (urate) in the body. In some people, the amount of uric acid builds up in the blood and may become too high to remain soluble. When this happens, urate crystals may form in and around the joints and kidneys. These crystals can cause sudden, severe pain, redness, warmth and swelling in a joint (known as a gout attack). Left untreated, larger deposits called tophi may form in and around joints. These tophi may cause joint and bone damage.

Febuxostat Krka works by reducing uric acid levels. Keeping uric acid levels low by taking Febuxostat Krka once every day stops crystals building up, and over time it reduces symptoms. Keeping uric acid levels sufficiently low for a long enough period can also shrink tophi.

Febuxostat Krka 120 mg tablets are also used to treat and prevent high blood levels of uric acid that may occur when you start to receive chemotherapy for blood cancers.

When chemotherapy is given, cancer cells are destroyed, and uric acid levels increase in the blood accordingly, unless the formation of uric acid is prevented.

Febuxostat Krka is for adults.

2. What you need to know before you take Febuxostat Krka

Do not take Febuxostat Krka

- if you are allergic to febuxostat or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Febuxostat Krka:

- if you have or have had heart failure or heart problems or stroke,
- if you have or have had kidney disease and/or serious allergic reaction to Allopurinol (a medicine used for the treatment of gout),

- if you have or have had liver disease or liver function test abnormalities,
- if you are being treated for high uric acid levels as a result of Lesch-Nyhan syndrome (a rare inherited condition in which there is too much uric acid in the blood),
- if you have thyroid problems.

Should you experience allergic reactions to Febuxostat Krka, stop taking this medicine (see also section 4). Possible symptoms of allergic reactions might be:

- rash including severe forms (e.g. blisters, nodules, itchy, exfoliative rash), itchiness
- swelling of limbs or face
- difficulties in breathing
- fever with enlarged lymph nodes
- but also serious life threatening allergic conditions with cardiac and circulatory arrest.

Your doctor might decide to permanently stop treatment with Febuxostat Krka.

There have been rare reports of potentially life-threatening skin rashes (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome) with the use of febuxostat, appearing initially as reddish target-like spots or circular patches often with central blister on the trunk. It may also include ulcers in the mouth, throat, nose, genitals and conjunctivitis (red and swollen eyes). The rash may progress to widespread blistering or peeling of the skin.

If you have developed Stevens-Johnson Syndrome with the use of febuxostat, you must not be re-started on Febuxostat Krka at any time. If you develop a rash or these skin symptoms, seek immediate advice from a doctor and tell that you are taking this medicine.

If you are having a gout attack at the moment (a sudden onset of severe pain, tenderness, redness, warmth and swelling in a joint), wait for the gout attack to subside before first starting treatment with Febuxostat Krka.

For some people, gout attacks may flare up when starting certain medicines that control uric acid levels. Not everyone gets flares, but you could get a flare-up even if you are taking Febuxostat Krka, and especially during the first weeks or months of treatment. It is important to keep taking Febuxostat Krka even if you have a flare, as Febuxostat Krka is still working to lower uric acid. Over time, gout flares will occur less often and be less painful if you keep taking Febuxostat Krka every day.

Your doctor will often prescribe other medicines, if they are needed, to help prevent or treat the symptoms of flares (such as pain and swelling in a joint).

In patients with very high urate levels (e.g. those undergoing cancer chemotherapy), treatment with uric acid-lowering medicines could lead to the build-up of xanthine in the urinary tract, with possible stones, even though this has not been observed in patients being treated with febuxostat for Tumor Lysis Syndrome.

Your doctor may ask you to have blood tests to check that your liver is working normally.

Children and adolescents

Do not give this medicine to children under the age of 18 because the safety and efficacy have not been established.

Other medicines and Febuxostat Krka

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

It is especially important to tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking medicines containing any of the following substances as they may interact with Febuxostat Krka and your doctor may wish to consider necessary measures:

- Mercaptopurine (used to treat cancer)
- Azathioprine (used to reduce immune response)
- Theophylline (used to treat asthma)

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

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.

It is not known if Febuxostat Krka may harm your unborn child. Febuxostat Krka should not be used during pregnancy. It is not known if Febuxostat Krka may pass into human breast milk. You should not take Febuxostat Krka if you are breast feeding, or if you are planning to breastfeed.

Driving and using machines

Be aware that you may experience dizziness, sleepiness, blurred vision and numbness or tingling sensation during treatment with this medicine and should not drive or operate machines if affected.

Febuxostat Krka contains lactose and sodium

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

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

3. How to take Febuxostat Krka

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

- The usual dose is one tablet daily. The score line is only there to help you break the tablet if you have difficulty swallowing it whole.
- The tablets should be taken by mouth and can be taken with or without food.

Gout

Febuxostat Krka is available as either an 80 mg tablet or a 120 mg tablet. Your doctor will have prescribed the strength most suitable for you.

Continue to take Febuxostat Krka every day even when you are not experiencing gout flare or attack.

Prevention and treatment of high uric acid levels in patients undergoing cancer chemotherapy

Febuxostat Krka is available as a 120 mg tablet.

Start taking Febuxostat Krka two days before chemotherapy and continue its use according to your doctor's advice. The treatment is usually short-term.

If you take more Febuxostat Krka than you should

In the event of an accidental overdose ask your doctor what to do, or contact your nearest accident and emergency department.

If you forget to take Febuxostat Krka

If you miss a dose of Febuxostat Krka take it as soon as you remember unless it is almost time for your next dose, in which case miss out the forgotten dose and take your next dose at the normal time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Febuxostat Krka

Do not stop taking Febuxostat Krka without the advice of your doctor even if you feel better. If you stop taking Febuxostat Krka your uric acid levels may begin to rise and your symptoms may worsen due to the formation of new crystals of urate in and around your joints and kidneys.

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

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Stop taking this medicine and contact your doctor immediately or go to an emergency department nearby if the following rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people) side effects occur, because a serious allergic reaction might follow:

- anaphylactic reactions, drug hypersensitivity (see also section 2 “Warnings and precautions”)
- potentially life-threatening skin rashes characterised by formation of blisters and shedding of the skin and inner surfaces of body cavities, e.g. mouth and genitals, painful ulcers in the mouth and/or genital areas, accompanied by fever, sore throat and fatigue (Stevens- Johnson Syndrome/ Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis), or by enlarged lymph nodes, liver enlargement, hepatitis (up to liver failure), raising of the white-cells count in the blood (drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms-DRESS) (see section 2)
- generalised skin rashes.

The common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) are:

- abnormal liver test results
- diarrhoea
- headache
- rash (including various types of rash, please see below under “uncommon” and “rare” sections)
- nausea
- increase in gout symptoms
- localised swelling due to retention of fluids in tissues (oedema).
- dizziness
- shortness of breath
- itching
- pain in extremity, pain/ache in muscles/joints
- fatigue

Other side effects which are not mentioned above are listed below.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people):

- decreased appetite, change in blood sugar levels (diabetes) of which a symptom may be excessive thirst, increased blood fat levels, weight increase
- loss of sex drive
- difficulty in sleeping, sleepiness.
- numbness, tingling, reduced or altered sensation (hypoesthesia, hemiparesis or paraesthesia), altered sense of taste, diminished sense of smell (hyposmia)
- abnormal ECG heart tracing, irregular or rapid heartbeats, feeling your heart beat (palpitation)
- hot flushes or flushing (e.g. redness of the face or neck), increased blood pressure, bleeding (hemorrhage, seen only in patients taking chemotherapy for blood disorders)
- cough, chest discomfort or pain, inflammation of nasal passage and/or throat (upper respiratory tract infection), bronchitis, lower respiratory tract infection
- dry mouth, abdominal pain/discomfort or wind, abdominal pain upper, heartburn/indigestion, constipation, more frequent passing of stools, vomiting, stomach discomfort
- itchy rash, hives, skin inflammation, skin discoloration, small red or purple spots on the skin, small, flat red spots on the skin, flat, red area on the skin that is covered with small confluent bumps, rash, areas of redness and spots on the skin, increased sweating, night sweating, alopecia, reddening of the skin (erythema), psoriasis, eczema, other type of skin conditions
- muscle cramp, muscle weakness, bursitis or arthritis (inflammation of joints usually accompanied by pain, swelling and/or stiffness), back pain, muscle spasm, muscle and/or joint stiffness
- blood in the urine, abnormal frequent urination, abnormal urine tests (increased level of proteins in the urine), a reduction in the ability of the kidneys to function properly, urinary tract infection
- chest pain, chest discomfort
- stones in the gallbladder or in bile ducts (cholelithiasis)
- increase in blood thyroid stimulating hormone (TSH) level
- changes in blood chemistry or amount of blood cells or platelets (abnormal blood test results)
- kidney stones

- erectile difficulties
- decreased activity of thyroid gland, blurred vision, change in vision
- ringing in the ears
- runny nose
- mouth ulceration
- inflammation of the pancreas: common symptoms are abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting
- urgent need to urinate
- pain
- malaise
- INR increased
- contusion
- lip swelling

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people):

- muscle damage, a condition which on rare occasions can be serious. It may cause muscle problems and particularly, if at the same time, you feel unwell or have a high temperature it may be caused by an abnormal muscle breakdown. Contact your doctor immediately if you experience muscle pain, tenderness or weakness
- severe swelling of the deeper layers of the skin, especially around the eyes, genitals, hands, feet or tongue, with possible sudden difficult breathing
- high fever in combination with measles-like skin rash, enlarged lymph nodes, liver enlargement, hepatitis (up to liver failure), raising of the white-cells count in the blood (leukocytosis, with or without eosinophilia)
- rash in various types (e.g. with white spots, with blisters, with blisters containing pus, with shedding of the skin, measles-like rash), widespread erythema, necrosis, and bullous detachment of the epidermis and mucous membranes, resulting in exfoliation and possible sepsis (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome/Toxic epidermal necrolysis)
- nervousness
- feeling thirsty
- weight decrease, increased appetite, uncontrolled loss of appetite (anorexia)
- abnormally low blood cell counts (white or red blood cells or platelets)
- changes or decrease in urine amount due to inflammation in the kidneys (tubulointerstitial nephritis)
- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)
- yellowing of the skin (jaundice)
- infection of the bladder
- liver damage
- increased level of creatine phosphokinase in blood (an indicator of muscle damage)
- sudden cardiac death.
- low red blood cell counts (anaemia)
- depression
- sleep disturbance
- loss of sense of taste
- burning sensation
- vertigo
- circulatory failure
- lung infection (pneumonia) of the lung
- mouth sores; inflammation of the mouth stomatitis
- gastrointestinal perforation
- rotator cuff syndrome
- polymyalgia rheumatic
- feeling hot
- sudden vision loss due to blockage of an artery in the eye

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. 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 Febuxostat Krka

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 packaging after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.

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 protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Febuxostat Krka contains

- The active substance is febuxostat.
Each film-coated tablet contains 80 mg febuxostat.
Each film-coated tablet contains 120 mg febuxostat.
- The other ingredients are lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, hydroxypropylcellulose, croscarmellose sodium, colloidal hydrated silica and magnesium stearate in the tablet core and poly(vinyl alcohol), macrogol 3350, titanium dioxide (E171), talc, yellow iron oxide (E172) - only for 120 mg film-coated tablets and red iron oxide (E172) - only for 80 mg film-coated tablets in the film coating.
See section 2 "Febuxostat Krka contains lactose and sodium".

What Febuxostat Krka looks like and contents of the pack

Febuxostat Krka 80 mg film-coated tablets (tablets) are off pink, oval, biconvex, film-coated tablets scored on one side. Tablet dimension: approximately 16 mm × 8 mm. The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

Febuxostat Krka 120 mg film-coated tablets (tablets) are brownish yellow, slightly biconvex, capsule shaped film-coated tablets scored on both sides. Tablet dimension: approximately 19 mm × 8 mm. The score line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

Febuxostat Krka is available in boxes containing 14, 28, 56 or 84 film-coated tablets in blisters. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia

Manufacturer

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia
TAD Pharma GmbH, Heinz-Lohmann-Straße 5, 27472 Cuxhaven, Germany

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

België/Belgique/Belgien

KRKA Belgium, SA.
Tél/Tel: + 32 (0) 487 50 73 62

Lietuva

UAB KRKA Lietuva
Tel: + 370 5 236 27 40

България

КРКА България ЕООД

Luxembourg/Luxemburg

KRKA Belgium, SA.

Тел.: + 359 (02) 962 34 50

Česká republika

KRKA ČR, s.r.o.

Tel: + 420 (0) 221 115 150

Danmark

KRKA Sverige AB

Tlf: + 46 (0)8 643 67 66 (SE)

Deutschland

TAD Pharma GmbH

Tel: + 49 (0) 4721 606-0

Eesti

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Ireland

KRKA Pharma Dublin, Ltd.

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Ísland

LYFIS ehf.

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KRKA Farmaceutici Milano S.r.l.

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KI.PA. (PHARMACAL) LIMITED

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This leaflet was last revised in

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site:
<http://www.ema.europa.eu>.