



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY  
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

19 May 2011

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Committee for medicinal products for human use (CHMP)

## Summary of opinion<sup>1</sup> (initial authorisation)

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### Levetiracetam ratiopharm

levetiracetam

On 19 May 2011 the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) adopted a positive opinion, recommending the granting of a marketing authorisation for the medicinal product Levetiracetam Ratiopharm 250 mg, 500 mg, 750 mg and 1000 mg film-coated tablets and Levetiracetam Ratiopharm 100 mg/ml oral solution intended for the treatment of epilepsy. The applicant for this medicinal product is Teva Pharma B.V. They may request a re-examination of any CHMP opinion, provided they notify the European Medicines Agency in writing of their intention within 15 days of receipt of the opinion

The active substance of Levetiracetam ratiopharm is levetiracetam, an antiepileptic agent (ATC code: N03AX14). Levetiracetam is a pyrrolidone derivative chemically unrelated to existing antiepileptic active substances. The mechanism of action of levetiracetam still remains to be fully elucidated but appears to be different from the mechanisms of current antiepileptic medicinal products. *In vitro* and *in vivo* experiments suggest that levetiracetam does not alter basic cell characteristics and normal neurotransmission.

Levetiracetam Ratiopharm is a generic of Keppra, which has been authorised in the EU since 29 September 2000. Studies have demonstrated the satisfactory quality of Levetiracetam Ratiopharm and its bioequivalence with Keppra. A question-and-answer document on generic medicines can be found [here](#).

The approved indication is as follows:

“Monotherapy in the treatment of partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in patients from 16 years of age with newly diagnosed epilepsy.

Levetiracetam Ratiopharm is indicated as adjunctive therapy:

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<sup>1</sup> Summaries of positive opinion are published without prejudice to the commission decision, which will normally be issued 67 days from adoption of the opinion.



- in the treatment of partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adults, children and infants from 1 month of age with epilepsy.
- in the treatment of myoclonic seizures in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age with Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy.
- in the treatment of primary generalised tonic-clonic seizures in adults and adolescents from 12 years of age with Idiopathic Generalised Epilepsy.”

Detailed recommendations for the use of this product will be described in the summary of product characteristics (SmPC), which will be published in the European public assessment report (EPAR), and will be available in all official European Union languages after the marketing authorisation has been granted by the European Commission.

The CHMP, on the basis of data submitted, considers there to be a favourable benefit to risk balance for Levetiracetam Ratiopharm and therefore recommends the granting of the marketing authorisation.