The European Agency for the Evaluation of Medicinal Products
Veterinary Medicines and Inspections

EMEA/MRL/819/02-FINAL
January 2002

COMMITTEE FOR VETERINARY MEDICINAL PRODUCTS

DIFLOXACIN
(Extension to all food producing species)

SUMMARY REPORT (5)

1. Difloxacin is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic which is currently entered into Annex I of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 in accordance with the following table:

Pharmacologically active substance(s)	Marker residue	Animal species	MRLs	Target tissues	Other provisions
Difloxacin	Difloxacin	Bovine	400 µg/kg 100 µg/kg 1400 µg/kg 800 µg/kg	Muscle Fat Liver Kidney	Not for use in animals from which milk is produced for human consumption
		Porcine	400 µg/kg 100 µg/kg 800 µg/kg 800 µg/kg	Muscle Skin + fat Liver Kidney	
		Chicken, turkey	300 µg/kg 400 µg/kg 1900 µg/kg 600 µg/kg	Muscle Skin +fat Liver Kidney	

2. Following concern that an insufficient number of medicinal products was available to treat diseases occurring in animals, and especially diseases occurring in minor animal species, the CVMP conducted a review of the risk assessment approach for the establishment of MRLs and adopted a Note for Guidance on Risk Analysis Approach for Residues of Veterinary Medicinal Products in Food of Animal Origin (EMEA/CVMP/187/00-FINAL). The Note for Guidance allows for an extrapolation of MRLs to all food producing species, where identical or slightly different MRLs (i.e. MRL values normally in the same order of magnitude) have been set in cattle (or sheep), pigs and chicken (or poultry).

3. The MRLs already established for difloxacin fulfil the above criteria. The existing MRLs are not identical and so it was not possible to recommend modification of the entry in Annex I in such a way that the same MRLs values would apply to all food producing species. It was not considered necessary to reduce the existing MRL values to the lowest values, in order to guarantee consumer safety. Therefore it was considered appropriate to recommend extension of the existing MRLs for bovine species also to ovine and caprine species and extension of the existing MRLs for chicken and turkey tissues to poultry tissues. The existing MRLs for porcine species would be maintained. The lowest existing MRL values would be recommended for all food producing species except bovine, ovine, porcine, caprine and poultry.

4. An analytical method for monitoring residues of difloxacin in the edible tissues of bovine, porcine, chickens and turkeys was available. An assessment of the applicability of this method indicated that extrapolation to the edible tissues of other species should not be problematic.

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Conclusions and recommendation

Having considered that:

- a toxicological ADI of 600 µg/person was previously established for difloxacin,
- MRLs have previously been established in bovine and porcine species and in chickens and turkeys; these MRLs are of the same order of magnitude,
- an analytical method for the monitoring of residues in edible tissues was available;

the Committee for Veterinary Medicinal Products recommends the inclusion of difloxacin in Annex I of Council Regulation (EEC) No. 2377/90 in accordance with the following table:

Pharmacologically active substance(s)	Marker residue	Animal species	MRLs	Target tissues	Other provisions
Difloxacin	Difloxacin	Bovine, ovine, caprine	400 µg/kg 100 µg/kg 1400 µg/kg 800 µg/kg	Muscle Fat Liver Kidney	Not for use in animals from which milk is produced for human consumption
		Porcine	400 µg/kg 100 µg/kg 800 µg/kg 800 µg/kg	Muscle Skin +fat Liver Kidney	
		Poultry	300 µg/kg 400 µg/kg 1900 µg/kg 600 µg/kg	Muscle Skin +fat Liver Kidney	Not for use in animals from which eggs are produced for human consumption
		All food producing species except bovine, ovine, caprine, porcine and poultry	300 µg/kg 100 µg/kg 800 µg/kg 600 µg/kg	Muscle* Fat Liver Kidney	

* For fin fish this MRL relates to "muscle and skin in natural proportions"

It was estimated that extending the MRLs to all food producing species, as proposed above, would result in a consumer intake not exceeding 66% of the ADI.