



EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

19 January 2012
EMA/CHMP/423166/2011 - Rev.1
Committee for medicinal products for human use (CHMP)

Summary of opinion¹ (initial authorisation)

Pioglitazone Krka

pioglitazone

On 19 January 2012 the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) adopted a revised positive opinion, recommending the granting of a marketing authorisation for the medicinal product Pioglitazone Krka, 15 mg, 30 mg, 45 mg, tablets intended for the treatment of diabetes mellitus. The revision amends the wording of the product information to ensure that the terms of the marketing authorization are in line with the outcome of the referral of the reference medicinal products. The applicant for this medicinal product is Krka d.d. Novo mesto.

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 Pioglitazone Krka 15, 30, 45 mg tablet is pioglitazone, a Thiazolidinediones derivative (A10BG03), that acts as a peroxisome proliferator activating receptor (PPAR)- γ agonist with potential benefits on insulin resistance. Pioglitazone has a different mechanism of action compared to other drugs. It does not stimulate insulin secretion (unlike sulphonylureas), and it does not inhibit glucose absorption (unlike α -glucosidase inhibitors). It depends on the presence of insulin for activity.

Pioglitazone Krka 15, 30, 45 mg tablet is a generic of Actos, which has been authorised in the EU since 13 October 2000. Studies have demonstrated the satisfactory quality of Pioglitazone Krka 15, 30, 45 mg tablet and its bioequivalence with the reference product Actos. A question and answer document on generic medicines can be found [here](#).

A pharmacovigilance plan for Pioglitazone Krka 15, 30, 45 mg tablet will be implemented as part of the marketing authorisation.

The approved indication is: "Pioglitazone is indicated as second or third line in the treatment of type 2 diabetes mellitus as described below:

as **monotherapy**

¹ 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 adult patients (particularly overweight patients) inadequately controlled by diet and exercise for whom metformin is inappropriate because of contraindications or intolerance;

as **dual oral therapy** in combination with

- a sulphonylurea, only in adult patients who show intolerance to metformin or for whom metformin is contraindicated, with insufficient glycaemic control despite maximal tolerated dose of monotherapy with a sulphonylurea;

Pioglitazone is also indicated for combination with insulin in type 2 diabetes mellitus in adult patients with insufficient glycaemic control on insulin for whom metformin is inappropriate because of contraindications or intolerance.

After initiation of therapy with pioglitazone, patients should be reviewed after 3 to 6 months to assess adequacy of response to treatment (e.g. reduction in HbA1c). In patients who fail to show an adequate response, pioglitazone should be discontinued. In light of potential risks with prolonged therapy, prescribers should confirm at subsequent routine reviews that the benefit of pioglitazone is maintained.

Pioglitazone is contraindicated in patients with:

- hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients
- cardiac failure or history of cardiac failure (NYHA stages I to IV)
- hepatic impairment
- diabetic ketoacidosis
- current bladder cancer or a history of bladder cancer
- uninvestigated macroscopic haematuria

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 quality, safety and efficacy data submitted, considers there to be a favourable benefit to risk balance for Pioglitazone Krka 15, 30, 45 mg tablet and therefore recommends the granting of the marketing authorisation.