European Medicines Agency
Pre-Authorisation Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

London, 24 July 2008
Doc.Ref. EMEA/CHMP/333730/2008

COMMITTEE FOR MEDICINAL PRODUCTS FOR HUMAN USE
SUMMARY OF POSITIVE OPINION*
for
DULOXETINE BOEHRINGER INGELHEIM

International Nonproprietary Name (INN): ***duloxetine***

On 24 July 2008 the Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) adopted a positive opinion,** recommending to grant a marketing authorisation for the medicinal product Duloxetine Boehringer Ingelheim 20 mg, 30 mg, 40 mg and 60 mg gastro-resistant capsule, hard, intended for the treatment of moderate to severe Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI) for women, and the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain (DPNP) in adults. The applicant for this medicinal product is Boehringer Ingelheim International GmbH.

The active substance of Duloxetine Boehringer Ingelheim is duloxetine hydrochloride. Duloxetine belongs to the pharmacotherapeutic group of other antidepressants. The ATC code is N06AX21. Duloxetine is a combined serotonin (5-HT) and norepinephrine (NE) reuptake inhibitor. It weakly inhibits dopamine reuptake with no significant affinity for histaminergic, dopaminergic, cholinergic and adrenergic receptors. Due to its neuromodulatory action, duloxetine is believed to increase urethral tone and probably bladder capacity and thereby reduces stress urinary incontinence (SUI).
Duloxetine normalised pain thresholds in neuropathic and inflammatory pain and attenuated pain behaviour in persistent pain. The pain inhibitory action of duloxetine is believed to be a result of potentiation of descending inhibitory pain pathways within the central nervous system.

The benefits with Duloxetine Boehringer Ingelheim are its greater decrease in incontinence episode frequency when comparing with a placebo-treated group. Incontinence Quality of Life (I-QOL) questionnaire scores were significantly improved in the duloxetine-treated patient group compared with the placebo-treated group.
The efficacy of duloxetine as a treatment for diabetic neuropathic pain was established in randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, fixed dose studies in adults. The most common side effects are nausea, dry mouth, fatigue, insomnia, and constipation.

A pharmacovigilance plan for Duloxetine Boehringer Ingelheim, as for all medicinal products, will be implemented as part of the marketing authorisation.

The approved indication is: Duloxetine Boehringer Ingelheim is indicated for the treatment of moderate to severe Stress Urinary Incontinence (SUI) in women, and for the treatment of diabetic peripheral neuropathic pain in adults.

Detailed recommendations for the use of this product will be described in the Summary of Product Characteristics (SPC) 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.

---

* Summaries of positive opinion are published without prejudice to the Commission Decision, which will normally be issued within 67 days from adoption of the Opinion.

** Applicants may request a re-examination of any CHMP opinion, provided they notify the EMEA in writing of their intention to request a re-examination within 15 days of receipt of the opinion.

7 Westferry Circus, Canary Wharf, London E14 4HB, UK
Tel. (44-20) 74 18 84 00 Fax (44-20) 74 18 85 45
E-mail: mail@emea.europa.eu http://www.emea.europa.eu

The CHMP, on the basis of quality, safety and efficacy data of the reference product, considers that there is a favourable benefit to risk balance for Duloxetine Boehringer Ingelheim and therefore recommends the granting of the marketing authorisation.