

Public Assessment Report

Scientific discussion

Bilhista
(bilastine)

SE/H/2531/01/DC

This module reflects the scientific discussion for the approval of Bilhista. The procedure was finalised on 2025-03-12. For information on changes after this date please refer to the module ‘Update’.

I. INTRODUCTION

Based on the review of the quality, safety and efficacy data, a marketing authorisation has been granted for Bilhista, 20 mg, Tablet.

The active substance is bilastine. A comprehensive description of the indication and posology is given in the SmPC.

For recommendations to the marketing authorisation not falling under Article 21a/22a/22 of Directive 2001/83/EC and conditions to the marketing authorisation pursuant to Article 21a/22a/ 22 of Directive 2001/83/EC to the marketing authorisation, please see section VI.

The application for Bilhista, 20 mg, tablet, is a Generic Art. 10(1) application submitted according to Directive 2001/83/EC. The applicant applies through the Decentralised Procedure with Sweden acting as reference member state (RMS) and these CMSs:

SE/H/2531/01/DC - IE

The reference medicinal product chosen for the purposes of establishing the expiry of the data protection period is Bilaxten 20 mg tablet authorised in IS since 2010, with Menarini International Operations Luxembourg S.A. as marketing authorisation holder.

Potential similarity with orphan medicinal products

N/A

II. QUALITY ASPECTS

II.1 Drug Substance

The structure of the drug substance has been adequately proven and its physico-chemical properties are sufficiently described.

The manufacture of the drug substance has been adequately described and satisfactory specifications have been provided for starting materials, reagents and solvents.

The drug substance specification includes relevant tests and the limits for impurities and degradation products have been justified. The analytical methods applied are suitably described and validated.

Stability studies confirm the retest period.

II.2 Medicinal Product

The medicinal product is formulated using excipients listed in section 6.1 in the Summary of Product Characteristics.

The manufacturing process has been sufficiently described and critical steps identified.

The tests and limits in the specification are considered appropriate to control the quality of the finished product in relation to its intended purpose.

Stability studies have been performed and data presented support the shelf life and special precautions for storage claimed in the Summary of Product Characteristics, sections 6.3 and 6.4.

III. NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

Pharmacology/Pharmacokinetics/Toxicology

Pharmacodynamic, pharmacokinetic and toxicological properties of bilastine are well known. As bilastine is a widely used, well-known active substance, no further studies are required, nor does the applicant provide any. Overview based on literature review is, thus, appropriate.

Environmental Risk Assessment (ERA)

Since Bilhista is a generic product, it will not lead to an increased exposure to the environment. An environmental risk assessment is therefore not deemed necessary.

There are no objections to approval of Bilhista from a non-clinical point of view.

IV. CLINICAL ASPECTS

Pharmacokinetics

To support the marketing authorisation application the applicant has conducted one bioequivalence study comparing Bilhista with the reference product BITOSEN.

Pharmacokinetic properties of the active substance

Absorption: Bilastine is rapidly absorbed after oral administration with a time to maximum plasma concentration of around 1.3 hours. No accumulation was observed. The mean value of bilastine oral bioavailability is 61%.

The SmPC of the reference product recommends administration one hour before or two hours after intake of food or fruit juice.

Linearity: Bilastine presents linear pharmacokinetics in the dose range studied (5 to 220 mg), with a low interindividual variability.

Elimination: The mean elimination half-life calculated in healthy volunteers was 14.5 h.

Study 0153-18

Methods

This was a single-dose, two-way crossover study conducted in 62 healthy volunteers (60 completed), comparing Bilhista, 20 mg, tablet with BITOSEN, 20 mg, tablet under fasting conditions. Blood samples for concentration analysis were collected pre-dose and up to 72 hours post-dose. Plasma concentrations of bilastine were determined with an LC-MS/MS method. Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was performed on the ln-transformed data for AUC_{0-t} and C_{max}. The study was conducted between 25 July 2019 and 05 August 2019.

Results

The results from the pharmacokinetic and statistical analysis are presented in Table 1 below.

Table 1 Pharmacokinetic parameters (non-transformed values; arithmetic mean $\pm$ SD, $t_{\max}$ median, range) for bilastine, n=60.

Treatment	AUC _{0-t} ng*h/ml	C _{max} ng/ml	t _{max} h
Test	1553.8 $\pm$ 474.2	261.5 $\pm$ 107.8	1.500 (0.500 -6.017)
Reference	1588.0 $\pm$ 499.2	264.7 $\pm$ 113.7	1.333 (0.667 -6.000)
*Ratio (90% CI)	98.6 (93.69 -103.72)	99.9 (91.43 -109.23)	-
AUC _{0-t} area under the plasma concentration-time curve from time zero to t hours C _{max} maximum plasma concentration t _{max} time for maximum plasma concentration			

*calculated based on ln-transformed data

For AUC_{0-t} and C_{max} the 90% confidence interval for the ratio of the test and reference products fell within the conventional acceptance range of 80.00-125.00%.

Discussion and overall conclusion

The bioequivalence study and its statistical evaluation were in accordance with accepted standards for bioequivalence testing, as stated in the Guideline on the investigation of bioequivalence (CPMP/EWP/QWP/1401/98 Rev 1/Corr). The bioanalytical methods were adequately validated.

Based on the submitted bioequivalence study, Bilhista is considered bioequivalent with BITOSEN.

Pharmacodynamics/Clinical efficacy/Clinical safety

No new studies on pharmacodynamics, clinical efficacy or clinical safety have been submitted. Provided that bioequivalence with the originator product is demonstrated, additional data is not necessary.

Risk Management Plan

The MAH has submitted a risk management plan, in accordance with the requirements of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, describing the pharmacovigilance activities and interventions designed to identify, characterise, prevent or minimise risks relating to Bilhista.

Part II Safety specification

Table SVIII.1: Summary of safety concerns

Summary of safety concerns	
Important identified risks	None
Important potential risks	None
Missing information	Use in pregnancy and breastfeeding

Part III Pharmacovigilance Plan

Routine pharmacovigilance is suggested and no additional pharmacovigilance activities are proposed by the applicant, which is endorsed.

Part V Risk minimisation measures

Routine risk minimisation is suggested and no additional risk minimisation activities are proposed by the applicant, which is endorsed.

Part VI Summary of the RMP

The Summary of the RMP is endorsed.

Conclusion RMP assessment

The submitted Risk Management Plan, version 3.0 signed 19.12.2023 is considered acceptable.

The 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 RMS;
- 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.

If the dates for submission of a PSUR and the update of a RMP coincide, they can be submitted at the same time, but via different procedures.

V. USER CONSULTATION

A user consultation with target patient groups on the package information leaflet (PL) has been performed on the basis of a bridging report making reference to:

- Ilaxten 20 mg tablets NAP in the UK, PL 16239/0034 – for bridging of content
- Capecitabin Tiefenbacher 500 mg film-coated tablets, BE/H/0196/01-02/DC (RMS change to FR/H/0589/001-002/DC) – for bridging of design and layout

The bridging report submitted by the applicant has been found acceptable.

VI. OVERALL CONCLUSION, BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

The quality of the generic product, Bilhista, is found adequate. There are no objections to approval of Bilhista from a non-clinical and clinical point of view. Bioequivalence between the test and reference product has been adequately demonstrated. The product information is acceptable. The benefit/risk is considered positive, and the application is therefore recommended for approval.

List of recommendations not falling under Article 21a/22a/22 of Directive 2001/83/EC in case of a positive benefit risk assessment

N/A

List of conditions pursuant to Article 21a/22a or 22 of Directive 2001/83/EC

N/A

VII. APPROVAL

The decentralised procedure for Bilhista, 20 mg, Tablet was positively finalised on 2025-03-12.

Public Assessment Report – Update

Procedure number*	Scope	Product Information affected (Yes/No)	Date of end of procedure	Approval/non approval	Summary/Justification for refuse

*Only procedure qualifier, chronological number and grouping qualifier (when applicable)