LÄKEMEDELSVERKET
MEDICAL PRODUCTS AGENCY

Public Assessment Report
Scientific discussion

Finasterid STADA 5 mg film-coated tablet
Finasteride

SE/H/666/01/MR

This module reflects the scientific discussion for the approval of Finasterid STADA 5 mg film-coated tablet. Please note that the marketing authorisation was first approved with the name "Finasterid Mimer" and therefore this name is used throughout the document. The procedure was finalised on 18 January 2007. For information on changes after this date please refer to the module 'Update'.

Postadress/Postal address: P.O. Box 26, SE-751 03 Uppsala, SWEDEN
Besöksadress/Visiting address: Dag Hammarskjölds väg 42, Uppsala
Telefon/Phone: +46 (0)18 17 46 00 Fax: +46 (0)18 54 85 66
Internet: www.mpa.se E-mail: registrator@mpa.se

I. INTRODUCTION

Mimer Medical, Täby, Sweden has applied for a marketing authorisation for Finasterid Mimer 5 mg film-coated tablet claiming essential similarity to Proscar 5 mg film-coated tablet marketed in Sweden by Merck Sharpe & Dohme. The product contains finasteride as active substance and is indicated for the treatment and control of benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) to

- cause regression of the enlarged prostate, improve urinary flow and symptoms associated with BPH
- reduce the incidence of acute urinary retention and reduce the need for surgery including transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP) and prostatectomy

Finasterid Mimer 5 mg tablets should only be administered in patients with an enlarged prostate (prostate volume above ca. 40 ml).

The reference product used in the bio-equivalence study is Proscar 5 mg film-coated tablet from the German market.

II. QUALITY ASPECTS

II.1 Introduction

Finasterid Mimer 5 mg film-coated tablets contain 5 mg of finasteride. The excipients of the tablet core are lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinised starch, sodium laurilsulfate, sodium starch glycolate and magnesium stearate. The film-coat consists of the exipients hypromellose, microcrystalline cellulose and macrogol stearate. The tablets are packaged in PVC/PVDC/Al blisters or plastic bottles.

II.2 Drug Substance

Finasteride has a monograph in the European Pharmacopoeia. Finasteride is a white or almost white, crystalline powder which is practically soluble in water and freely soluble in ethanol and methylene chloride. The structure of finasteride has been adequately proven and its physico-chemical properties sufficiently described. Relevant information on polymorphism has been presented. The route of synthesis has been adequately described and satisfactory specifications have been provided for starting materials, reagents and solvents. The active substance specification includes relevant tests and the limits for impurities/degradation products have been justified. The analytical methods applied are suitably described and validated. Stability studies under ICH conditions have been conducted and the data provided are sufficient to confirm the retest period.

II.3 Medicinal Product

Finasterid Mimer 5 mg film-coated tablets is formulated using excipients described in the current Ph Eur. For the raw materials used in the product these are of vegetable origin or compliance with Commission Directive 2003/63/EC and the NfG on Minimising the risk of transmitting Animal Spongiform Encephalopathy Agents via human and veterinary medicinal products (EMEA/410/01) has been demonstrated.

The product development has taken into consideration the physico-chemical characteristics of the active substance. The manufacturing process has been sufficiently well described and critical steps identified. Results from the process validation studies confirm that the process is under control and ensure both batch to batch reproducibility and compliance with the product specification.
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 under ICH conditions have been performed and data presented support the shelf life stated in the SPC.

III. NON-CLINICAL ASPECTS

III.1 Discussion on the non-clinical aspects

Since this product has been shown to be essentially similar and refer to a product approved based on a full application with regard to preclinical data, no further such data have been submitted or are considered necessary.

IV. CLINICAL ASPECTS

IV.1 Pharmacokinetics

One single-dose bioequivalence study performed under fasting conditions comparing the test product with a Proscar product present on the German market was submitted. The study was performed at Anapharm Inc, Quebec, Canada.

Bioequivalence was demonstrated regarding C_{max}, AUC_{0-t} and $AUC_{0-\infty}$ using the normal acceptance range, 80-125%, as seen below.

Table 1. **Parameters as mean±SD**

Parameter	Finasteride (Siegfried)	Proscar (Germany)	**Least square mean ratios (90%CI) Test/Proscar Germany**
Cmax (ng/ml)	33.4±7.2	34.6±7.3	96.3 (91.8-101.1)
AUC_{0-t} (ng*h/ml)	234±69	231±63	100.6 (94.4-107.2)
$AUC_{0-\infty}$ (ng*h/ml)	245±76	240±67	101.0 (94.9-107.6)
Tmax	2.0±1.5	2.0±1.1	n.s [a]

[a)] no statistically significant diference between formulations

IV.2 Discussion on the clinical aspects

Since this product has been shown to be essentially similar and refer to a product approved based on a full application with regard to clinical efficacy/safety data, no further such data have been submitted or are considered necessary.

V. OVERALL CONCLUSION, BENEFIT/RISK ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION

User testing of the package leaflet has been performed.

The risk/benefit ratio is considered positive and the application for Finasterid Mimer 5 mg film-coated tablet is recommended for approval.

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Public Assessment Report – Update

Scope	Procedure number	Product Information affected	Date of start of the procedure	Date of end of procedure	Approval/ non approval	Assessment report attached
						Y/N (version)

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