

## SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

### 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Mopetia 25 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe  
Mopetia 50 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe  
Mopetia 75 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe  
Mopetia 100 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe  
Mopetia 150 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe

### 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

25 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains paliperidone palmitate equivalent to 25 mg paliperidone.

50 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains paliperidone palmitate equivalent to 50 mg paliperidone.

75 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains paliperidone palmitate equivalent to 75 mg paliperidone.

100 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains paliperidone palmitate equivalent to 100 mg paliperidone.

150 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains paliperidone palmitate equivalent to 150 mg paliperidone.

Excipient(s) with known effect:

25 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains 3 mg polysorbate.

50 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains 6 mg polysorbate.

75 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains 9 mg polysorbate.

100 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains 12 mg polysorbate.

150 mg prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringes  
Each pre-filled syringe contains 18 mg polysorbate.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

### 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Prolonged-release suspension for injection in pre-filled syringe.  
The suspension is white to off-white. The suspension is pH neutral (approximately 7.0).

Suspension for injection  
Intramuscular (IM)

### 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

#### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

<Product name> is indicated for maintenance treatment of schizophrenia in adult patients stabilised with paliperidone or risperidone.

In selected adult patients with schizophrenia and previous responsiveness to oral paliperidone or risperidone, <Product name> may be used without prior stabilisation with oral treatment if psychotic symptoms are mild to moderate and a long-acting injectable treatment is needed.

## 4.2 Posology and method of administration

### Posology

Recommended initiation of <Product name> is with a dose of 150 mg on treatment day 1 and 100 mg one week later (day 8), both administered in the deltoid muscle in order to attain therapeutic concentrations rapidly (see section 5.2). The third dose should be administered one month after the second initiation dose. The recommended monthly maintenance dose is 75 mg; some patients may benefit from lower or higher doses within the recommended range of 25 to 150 mg based on individual patient tolerability and/or efficacy. Patients who are overweight or obese may require doses in the upper range (see section 5.2). Following the second initiation dose, monthly maintenance doses can be administered in either the deltoid or gluteal muscle.

Adjustment of the maintenance dose may be made monthly. When making dose adjustments, the prolonged-release characteristics of <Product name> should be considered (see section 5.2), as the full effect of maintenance doses may not be evident for several months.

Switching from oral prolonged-release paliperidone or oral risperidone to <Product name>

<Product name> should be initiated as described at the beginning of section 4.2 above. During monthly maintenance treatment with <Product name>, patients previously stabilised on different doses of paliperidone prolonged-release tablets can attain similar paliperidone steady-state exposure by injection. The <Product name> maintenance doses needed to attain similar steady-state exposure are shown as follows:

| <b>Doses of paliperidone prolonged-release tablets and &lt;Product name&gt; needed to attain similar steady-state paliperidone exposure during maintenance treatment</b> |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Previous paliperidone prolonged-release tablet dose</b>                                                                                                               | <b>&lt;Product name&gt; injection</b> |
| 3 mg daily                                                                                                                                                               | 25-50 mg monthly                      |
| 6 mg daily                                                                                                                                                               | 75 mg monthly                         |
| 9 mg daily                                                                                                                                                               | 100 mg monthly                        |
| 12 mg daily                                                                                                                                                              | 150 mg monthly                        |

Previous oral paliperidone or oral risperidone can be discontinued at the time of initiation of treatment with <Product name>. Some patients may benefit from gradual withdrawal. Some patients switching from higher paliperidone oral doses (e.g., 9-12 mg daily) to gluteal injections with <Product name> may have lower plasma exposure during the first 6 months after the switch. Therefore, alternatively, it could be considered to give deltoid injections for the first 6 months.

*Switching from risperidone long acting injection to <Product name>*

When switching patients from risperidone long acting injection, initiate <Product name> therapy in place of the next scheduled injection. <Product name> should then be continued at monthly intervals. The one-week initiation dosing regimen including the intramuscular injections (day 1 and 8, respectively) as described in section 4.2 above is not required. Patients previously stabilised on different doses of risperidone long acting injection can attain similar paliperidone steady-state exposure during maintenance treatment with <Product name> monthly doses according to the following:

|                                                                                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Doses of risperidone long acting injection and &lt;Product name&gt; needed to attain similar paliperidone exposure at steady-state</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| <b>Previous risperidone long acting injection dose</b> | <b>&lt;Product name&gt; injection</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 25 mg every 2 weeks                                    | 50 mg monthly                         |
| 37.5 mg every 2 weeks                                  | 75 mg monthly                         |
| 50 mg every 2 weeks                                    | 100 mg monthly                        |

Discontinuation of antipsychotic medicinal products should be made in accordance with appropriate prescribing information. If <Product name> is discontinued, its prolonged-release characteristics must be considered. The need for continuing existing extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS) medicine should be re-evaluated periodically.

### Missed doses

#### *Avoiding missed doses*

It is recommended that the second initiation dose of <Product name> be given one week after the first dose. To avoid a missed dose, patients may be given the second dose 4 days before or after the one-week (day 8) time point. Similarly, the third and subsequent injections after the initiation regimen are recommended to be given monthly. To avoid a missed monthly dose, patients may be given the injection up to 7 days before or after the monthly time point.

If the target date for the second <Product name> injection (day 8  $\pm$  4 days) is missed, the recommended reinitiation depends on the length of time which has elapsed since the patient's first injection.

#### *Missed second initiation dose (< 4 weeks from first injection)*

If less than 4 weeks have elapsed since the first injection, then the patient should be administered the second injection of 100 mg in the deltoid muscle as soon as possible. A third <Product name> injection of 75 mg in either the deltoid or gluteal muscles should be administered 5 weeks after the first injection (regardless of the timing of the second injection). The normal monthly cycle of injections in either the deltoid or gluteal muscle of 25 mg to 150 mg based on individual patient tolerability and/or efficacy should be followed thereafter.

#### *Missed second initiation dose (4-7 weeks from first injection)*

If 4 to 7 weeks have elapsed since the first injection of <Product name>, resume dosing with two injections of 100 mg in the following manner:

1. a deltoid injection as soon as possible
2. another deltoid injection one week later
3. resumption of the normal monthly cycle of injections in either the deltoid or gluteal muscle of 25 mg to 150 mg based on individual patient tolerability and/or efficacy.

#### *Missed second initiation dose (> 7 weeks from first injection)*

If more than 7 weeks have elapsed since the first injection of <Product name>, initiate dosing as described for the initial recommended initiation of <Product name> above.

#### *Missed monthly maintenance dose (1 month to 6 weeks)*

After initiation, the recommended injection cycle of <Product name> is monthly. If less than 6 weeks have elapsed since the last injection, then the previously stabilised dose should be administered as soon as possible, followed by injections at monthly intervals.

#### *Missed monthly maintenance dose (> 6 weeks to 6 months)*

If more than 6 weeks have elapsed since the last injection of <Product name>, the recommendation is as follows:

#### *For patients stabilised with doses of 25 to 100 mg*

1. a deltoid injection as soon as possible at the same dose the patient was previously stabilised on
2. another deltoid injection (same dose) one week later (day 8)
3. resumption of the normal monthly cycle of injections in either the deltoid or gluteal muscle of 25 mg to 150 mg based on individual patient tolerability and/or efficacy.

*For patients stabilised with 150 mg*

1. a deltoid injection as soon as possible at the 100 mg dose
2. another deltoid injection one week later (day 8) at the 100 mg dose
3. resumption of the normal monthly cycle of injections in either the deltoid or gluteal muscle of 25 mg to 150 mg based on individual patient tolerability and/or efficacy.

*Missed monthly maintenance dose (> 6 months)*

If more than 6 months have elapsed since the last injection of <Product name>, initiate dosing as described for the initial recommended initiation of <Product name> above.

### Special populations

#### *Elderly*

Efficacy and safety in elderly > 65 years have not been established.

In general, recommended dosing of <Product name> for elderly patients with normal renal function is the same as for younger adult patients with normal renal function. However, because elderly patients may have diminished renal function, dose adjustment may be necessary (see *Renal impairment* below for dosing recommendations in patients with renal impairment).

#### *Renal impairment*

<Product name> has not been systematically studied in patients with renal impairment (see section 5.2). For patients with mild renal impairment (creatinine clearance  $\geq 50$  to  $< 80$  mL/min), recommended initiation of <Product name> is with a dose of 100 mg on treatment day 1 and 75 mg one week later, both administered in the deltoid muscle. The recommended monthly maintenance dose is 50 mg with a range of 25 to 100 mg based on patient tolerability and/or efficacy.

<Product name> is not recommended in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance  $< 50$  mL/min) (see section 4.4).

#### *Hepatic impairment*

Based on experience with oral paliperidone, no dose adjustment is required in patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment. As paliperidone has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment, caution is recommended in such patients (see section 5.2).

#### *Paediatric population*

The safety and efficacy of <Product name> in children and adolescents < 18 years of age have not been established. No data are available.

### Method of administration

<Product name> is intended for intramuscular use only. It must not be administered by any other route. It should be injected slowly, deep into the deltoid or gluteal muscle. Each injection should be administered by a healthcare professional. Administration should be in a single injection. The dose should not be given in divided injections.

The day 1 and day 8 initiation doses must each be administered in the deltoid muscle in order to attain therapeutic concentrations rapidly (see section 5.2). Following the second initiation dose, monthly maintenance doses can be administered in either the deltoid or gluteal muscle. A switch from gluteal to deltoid (and *vice versa*) should be considered in the event of injection site pain if the injection site discomfort is not well tolerated (see section 4.8). It is also recommended to alternate between left and right sides (see below).

For instructions for use and handling of <Product name>, see package leaflet (information intended for medical or healthcare professionals).

#### *Deltoid muscle administration*

The recommended needle size for initial and maintenance administration of <Product name> into the deltoid muscle is determined by the patient's weight. For those  $\geq 90$  kg, the 1½ inch, 22 gauge needle

(38.1 mm x 0.72 mm) is recommended. For those < 90 kg, the 1-inch, 23 gauge needle (25.4 mm x 0.64 mm) is recommended. Deltoid injections should be alternated between the two deltoid muscles.

#### *Gluteal muscle administration*

The recommended needle size for maintenance administration of <Product name> into the gluteal muscle is the 1½-inch, 22 gauge needle (38.1 mm x 0.72 mm). Administration should be made into the upper-outer quadrant of the gluteal area. Gluteal injections should be alternated between the two gluteal muscles.

### **4.3 Contraindications**

Hypersensitivity to the active substance, to risperidone or to any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

#### Use in patients who are in an acutely agitated or severely psychotic state

<Product name> should not be used to manage acutely agitated or severely psychotic states when immediate symptom control is warranted.

#### QT interval

Caution should be exercised when paliperidone is prescribed in patients with known cardiovascular disease or family history of QT prolongation, and in concomitant use with other medicinal products thought to prolong the QT interval.

#### Neuroleptic malignant syndrome

Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS), characterised by hyperthermia, muscle rigidity, autonomic instability, altered consciousness, and elevated serum creatine phosphokinase levels has been reported to occur with paliperidone. Additional clinical signs may include myoglobinuria (rhabdomyolysis) and acute renal failure. If a patient develops signs or symptoms indicative of NMS, paliperidone should be discontinued.

#### Tardive dyskinesia/extrapyramidal symptoms

Medicinal products with dopamine receptor antagonistic properties have been associated with the induction of tardive dyskinesia characterised by rhythmical, involuntary movements, predominantly of the tongue and/or face. If signs and symptoms of tardive dyskinesia appear, the discontinuation of all antipsychotics, including paliperidone, should be considered.

Caution is warranted in patients receiving both, psychostimulants (e.g., methylphenidate) and paliperidone concomitantly, as extrapyramidal symptoms could emerge when adjusting one or both medications. Gradual withdrawal of stimulant treatment is recommended (see section 4.5).

#### Leucopenia, neutropenia, and agranulocytosis

Events of leucopenia, neutropenia, and agranulocytosis have been reported with paliperidone. Agranulocytosis has been reported very rarely (< 1/10,000 patients) during post-marketing surveillance. Patients with a history of a clinically significant low white blood cell count (WBC) or a drug-induced leucopenia/neutropenia should be monitored during the first few months of therapy and discontinuation of <Product name> should be considered at the first sign of a clinically significant decline in WBC in the absence of other causative factors. Patients with clinically significant neutropenia should be carefully monitored for fever or other symptoms or signs of infection and treated promptly if such symptoms or signs occur. Patients with severe neutropenia (absolute neutrophil count < 1 x 10<sup>9</sup>/L) should discontinue <Product name> and have their WBC followed until recovery.

#### Hypersensitivity reactions

Anaphylactic reactions in patients who have previously tolerated oral risperidone or oral paliperidone have been rarely reported during post-marketing experience (see sections 4.1 and 4.8).

If hypersensitivity reactions occur, discontinue use of <Product name>; initiate general supportive measures as clinically appropriate and monitor the patient until signs and symptoms resolve (see sections 4.3 and 4.8).

#### Hyperglycaemia and diabetes mellitus

Hyperglycaemia, diabetes mellitus, and exacerbation of pre-existing diabetes including diabetic coma and ketoacidosis, have been reported during treatment with paliperidone. Appropriate clinical monitoring is advisable in accordance with utilised antipsychotic guidelines. Patients treated with <Product name> should be monitored for symptoms of hyperglycaemia (such as polydipsia, polyuria, polyphagia and weakness) and patients with diabetes mellitus should be monitored regularly for worsening of glucose control.

#### Weight gain

Significant weight gain has been reported with paliperidone use. Weight should be monitored regularly.

#### Use in patients with prolactin-dependent tumours

Tissue culture studies suggest that cell growth in human breast tumours may be stimulated by prolactin. Although no clear association with the administration of antipsychotics has so far been demonstrated in clinical and epidemiological studies, caution is recommended in patients with relevant medical history. Paliperidone should be used with caution in patients with a pre-existing tumour that may be prolactin-dependent.

#### Orthostatic hypotension

Paliperidone may induce orthostatic hypotension in some patients based on its alpha-blocking activity. Based on pooled data from the three placebo-controlled, 6-week, fixed-dose trials with oral paliperidone prolonged-release tablets (3, 6, 9, and 12 mg), orthostatic hypotension was reported by 2.5% of subjects treated with oral paliperidone compared with 0.8% of subjects treated with placebo. <Product name> should be used with caution in patients with known cardiovascular disease (e.g., heart failure, myocardial infarction or ischaemia, conduction abnormalities), cerebrovascular disease, or conditions that predispose the patient to hypotension (e.g. dehydration and hypovolaemia).

#### Seizures

<Product name> should be used cautiously in patients with a history of seizures or other conditions that potentially lower the seizure threshold.

#### Renal impairment

The plasma concentrations of paliperidone are increased in patients with renal impairment and therefore, dose adjustment is recommended in patients with mild renal impairment. <Product name> is not recommended in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 50 mL/min) (see sections 4.2 and 5.2).

#### Hepatic impairment

No data are available in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class C). Caution is recommended if paliperidone is used in such patients.

#### Elderly patients with dementia

Paliperidone has not been studied in elderly patients with dementia. <Product name> should be used with caution in elderly patients with dementia with risk factors for stroke.

The experience from risperidone cited below is considered valid also for paliperidone.

#### *Overall mortality*

In a meta-analysis of 17 controlled clinical trials, elderly patients with dementia treated with other atypical antipsychotics, including risperidone, aripiprazole, olanzapine, and quetiapine had an increased risk of mortality compared to placebo. Among those treated with risperidone, the mortality was 4% compared with 3.1% for placebo.

#### *Cerebrovascular adverse reactions*

An approximately 3-fold increased risk of cerebrovascular adverse reactions has been seen in randomised placebo-controlled clinical trials in the dementia population with some atypical antipsychotics, including risperidone, aripiprazole, and olanzapine. The mechanism for this increased risk is not known.

#### Parkinson's disease and dementia with Lewy bodies

Physicians should weigh the risks versus the benefits when prescribing <Product name> to patients with Parkinson's Disease or Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB) since both groups may be at increased risk of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome as well as having an increased sensitivity to antipsychotics.

Manifestation of this increased sensitivity can include confusion, obtundation, postural instability with frequent falls, in addition to extrapyramidal symptoms.

#### Priapism

Antipsychotic medicinal products (including risperidone) with alpha-adrenergic blocking effects have been reported to induce priapism. During post-marketing surveillance, priapism has also been reported with oral paliperidone, which is the active metabolite of risperidone. Patients should be informed to seek urgent medical care in case that priapism has not been resolved within 4 hours.

#### Body temperature regulation

Disruption of the body's ability to reduce core body temperature has been attributed to antipsychotic medicinal products. Appropriate care is advised when prescribing <Product name> to patients who will be experiencing conditions which may contribute to an elevation in core body temperature, e.g., exercising strenuously, exposure to extreme heat, receiving concomitant medicinal products with anticholinergic activity or being subject to dehydration.

#### Venous thromboembolism

Cases of venous thromboembolism (VTE) have been reported with antipsychotic medicinal products. Since patients treated with antipsychotics often present with acquired risk factors for VTE, all possible risk factors for VTE should be identified before and during treatment with <Product name> and preventative measures undertaken.

#### Antiemetic effect

An antiemetic effect was observed in preclinical studies with paliperidone. This effect, if it occurs in humans, may mask the signs and symptoms of overdosage with certain medicinal products or of conditions such as intestinal obstruction, Reye's syndrome and brain tumour.

#### Administration

Care must be taken to avoid inadvertent injection of <Product name> into a blood vessel.

#### Intraoperative Floppy Iris Syndrome

Intraoperative floppy iris syndrome (IFIS) has been observed during cataract surgery in patients

treated with medicinal products with alpha 1a-adrenergic antagonist effect, such as paliperidone (see section 4.8).

IFIS may increase the risk of eye complications during and after the operation. Current or past use of medicinal products with alpha 1a-adrenergic antagonist effect should be made known to the ophthalmic surgeon in advance of surgery. The potential benefit of stopping alpha 1 blocking therapy prior to cataract surgery has not been established and must be weighed against the risk of stopping the antipsychotic therapy.

#### Excipients

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose, i.e., essentially sodium-free.

This medicine contains 12 mg of polysorbate in each ml which is equivalent to 12 mg/ml. Polysorbates may cause allergic reactions. Tell your doctor if you have any known allergies

### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

Caution is advised when prescribing <Product name> with medicinal products known to prolong the QT interval, e.g. class IA antiarrhythmics (e.g., quinidine, disopyramide) and class III antiarrhythmics (e.g. amiodarone, sotalol), some antihistaminics, some other antipsychotics and some antimalarials (e.g. mefloquine). This list is indicative and not exhaustive.

#### Potential for <Product name> to affect other medicines

Paliperidone is not expected to cause clinically important pharmacokinetic interactions with medicinal products that are metabolised by cytochrome P-450 isozymes.

Given the primary central nervous system (CNS) effects of paliperidone (see section 4.8), <Product name> should be used with caution in combination with other centrally acting medicinal products, e.g., anxiolytics, most antipsychotics, hypnotics, opiates, etc. or alcohol.

Paliperidone may antagonise the effect of levodopa and other dopamine agonists. If this combination is deemed necessary, particularly in end-stage Parkinson's disease, the lowest effective dose of each treatment should be prescribed.

Because of its potential for inducing orthostatic hypotension (see section 4.4), an additive effect may be observed when <Product name> is administered with other therapeutic agents that have this potential, e.g., other antipsychotics, tricyclics.

Caution is advised if paliperidone is combined with other medicinal products known to lower the seizure threshold (i.e., phenothiazines or butyrophenones, tricyclics or SSRIs, tramadol, mefloquine, etc.).

Co-administration of oral paliperidone prolonged-release tablets at steady-state (12 mg once daily) with divalproex sodium prolonged-release tablets (500 mg to 2,000 mg once daily) did not affect the steady-state pharmacokinetics of valproate.

No interaction study between paliperidone and lithium has been performed, however, a pharmacokinetic interaction is not likely to occur.

#### Potential for other medicines to affect <Product name>

*In vitro* studies indicate that CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 may be minimally involved in paliperidone metabolism, but there are no indications *in vitro* nor *in vivo* that these isozymes play a significant role in the metabolism of paliperidone. Concomitant administration of oral paliperidone with paroxetine, a

potent CYP2D6 inhibitor, showed no clinically significant effect on the pharmacokinetics of paliperidone.

Co-administration of oral paliperidone prolonged-release once daily with carbamazepine 200 mg twice daily caused a decrease of approximately 37% in the mean steady-state  $C_{max}$  and AUC of paliperidone. This decrease is caused, to a substantial degree, by a 35% increase in renal clearance of paliperidone likely as a result of induction of renal P-gp by carbamazepine. A minor decrease in the amount of active substance excreted unchanged in the urine suggests that there was little effect on the CYP metabolism or bioavailability of paliperidone during carbamazepine co-administration. Larger decreases in plasma concentrations of paliperidone could occur with higher doses of carbamazepine.

On initiation of carbamazepine, the dose of <Product name> should be re-evaluated and increased if necessary.

Conversely, on discontinuation of carbamazepine, the dose of <Product name> should be re-evaluated and decreased if necessary.

Co-administration of a single dose of an oral paliperidone prolonged-release tablet 12 mg with divalproex sodium prolonged-release tablets (two 500 mg tablets once daily) resulted in an increase of approximately 50% in the  $C_{max}$  and AUC of paliperidone, likely as a result of increased oral absorption. Since no effect on the systemic clearance was observed, a clinically significant interaction would not be expected between divalproex sodium prolonged-release tablets and <Product name> intramuscular injection. This interaction has not been studied with paliperidone.

#### Concomitant use of <Product name> with risperidone or with oral paliperidone

Since paliperidone is the major active metabolite of risperidone, caution should be exercised when <Product name> is co-administered with risperidone or with oral paliperidone for extended periods of time. Safety data involving concomitant use of paliperidone with other antipsychotics is limited.

#### Concomitant use of <Product name> with psychostimulants

The combined use of psychostimulants (e.g., methylphenidate) with paliperidone can lead to extrapyramidal symptoms upon change of either or both treatments (see section 4.4).

### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

#### Pregnancy

There are no adequate data from the use of paliperidone during pregnancy. Intramuscularly injected paliperidone palmitate and orally administered paliperidone were not teratogenic in animal studies, but other types of reproductive toxicity were seen (see section 5.3). Neonates exposed to paliperidone during the third trimester of pregnancy are at risk of adverse reactions including extrapyramidal and/or withdrawal symptoms that may vary in severity and duration following delivery. There have been reports of agitation, hypertonia, hypotonia, tremor, somnolence, respiratory distress, or feeding disorder. Consequently, newborns should be monitored carefully. <Product name> should not be used during pregnancy unless clearly necessary.

#### Breast-feeding

Paliperidone is excreted in the breast milk to such an extent that effects on the breast-fed infant are likely if therapeutic doses are administered to breast-feeding women. <Product name> should not be used while breast-feeding.

#### Fertility

There were no relevant effects observed in the non-clinical studies.

#### 4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Paliperidone can have minor or moderate influence on the ability to drive and use machines due to potential nervous system and visual effects, such as sedation, somnolence, syncope, vision blurred (see section 4.8). Therefore, patients should be advised not to drive or operate machines until their individual susceptibility to <Product name> is known.

#### 4.8 Undesirable effects

##### Summary of the safety profile

The adverse reactions most frequently reported in clinical trials were insomnia, headache, anxiety, upper respiratory tract infection, injection site reaction, parkinsonism, weight increased, akathisia, agitation, sedation/somnolence, nausea, constipation, dizziness, musculoskeletal pain, tachycardia, tremor, abdominal pain, vomiting, diarrhoea, fatigue, and dystonia. Of these, akathisia and sedation/somnolence appeared to be dose-related.

##### Tabulated list of adverse reactions

The following are all adverse reactions that were reported with paliperidone by frequency category estimated from paliperidone palmitate clinical trials. The following terms and frequencies are applied: *very common* ( $\geq 1/10$ ); *common* ( $\geq 1/100$  to  $< 1/10$ ); *uncommon* ( $\geq 1/1,000$  to  $< 1/100$ ); *rare* ( $\geq 1/10,000$  to  $< 1/1,000$ ); *very rare* ( $< 1/10,000$ ); and *not known* (cannot be estimated from the available data).

| System Organ Class                          | Adverse Drug Reaction |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                     |                        |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|
|                                             | Frequency             |                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                     |                        |
|                                             | Very common           | Common                                                                       | Uncommon                                                                                                                                                               | Rare                                                                | Not known <sup>a</sup> |
| <b>Infections and infestations</b>          |                       | upper respiratory tract infection<br>urinary tract infection<br>influenza    | pneumonia<br>bronchitis<br>respiratory tract infection<br>sinusitis<br>cystitis<br>ear infection<br>tonsillitis<br>onychomycosis<br>cellulitis<br>subcutaneous abscess | eye infection<br>acarodermatitis                                    |                        |
| <b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b> |                       |                                                                              | white blood cell count decreased<br>anaemia                                                                                                                            | neutropenia<br>thrombocytopenia<br>eosinophil count increased       | agranulocytosis        |
| <b>Immune system disorders</b>              |                       |                                                                              | hypersensitivity                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                     | anaphylactic reaction  |
| <b>Endocrine disorders</b>                  |                       | hyperprolactinaemia <sup>b</sup>                                             |                                                                                                                                                                        | inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion, glucose urine present |                        |
| <b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>   |                       | hyperglycaemia<br>weight increased<br>weight decreased<br>decreased appetite | diabetes mellitus <sup>d</sup><br>hyperinsulinaemia<br>increased appetite<br>anorexia<br>blood triglycerides increased, blood                                          | diabetic ketoacidosis<br>hypoglycaemia<br>polydipsia                | water intoxication     |

| System Organ Class                 | Adverse Drug Reaction |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                       |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                                    | Frequency             |                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                       |
|                                    | Very common           | Common                                                                                                                                                            | Uncommon                                                                                                                                                                                  | Rare                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Not known <sup>a</sup>                |
|                                    |                       |                                                                                                                                                                   | cholesterol increased                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                       |
| <b>Psychiatric disorders</b>       | insomnia <sup>e</sup> | agitation<br>depression<br>anxiety                                                                                                                                | sleep disorder<br>mania<br>libido decreased<br>nervousness<br>nightmare                                                                                                                   | catatonia<br>confusional state<br>somniaambulism<br>blunted affect<br>anorgasmia                                                                                                                                           | sleep-related eating disorder         |
| <b>Nervous system disorders</b>    |                       | parkinsonism <sup>c</sup><br>akathisia <sup>c</sup><br>sedation/somnolence<br>dystonia <sup>c</sup><br>dizziness<br>dyskinesia <sup>c</sup><br>tremor<br>headache | tardive dyskinesia<br>syncope<br>psychomotor hyperactivity<br>dizziness postural disturbance in attention<br>dysarthria<br>dysgeusia<br>hypoesthesia<br>paraesthesia                      | neuroleptic malignant syndrome<br>cerebral ischemia<br>unresponsive to stimuli<br>loss of consciousness<br>depressed level of consciousness<br>convulsions<br>balance disorder<br>coordination abnormal<br>head titubation | diabetic coma                         |
| <b>Eye disorders</b>               |                       |                                                                                                                                                                   | vision blurred<br>conjunctivitis<br>dry eye                                                                                                                                               | glaucoma<br>eye movement disorder<br>eye rolling<br>photophobia<br>lacrimation<br>increased ocular hyperaemia                                                                                                              | floppy iris syndrome (intraoperative) |
| <b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b> |                       |                                                                                                                                                                   | vertigo<br>tinnitus<br>ear pain                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                       |
| <b>Cardiac disorders</b>           |                       | tachycardia                                                                                                                                                       | atrioventricular block<br>conduction disorder<br>electrocardiogram QT prolonged<br>postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome<br>bradycardia<br>electrocardiogram abnormal<br>palpitations | atrial fibrillation<br>sinus arrhythmia                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                       |
| <b>Vascular disorders</b>          |                       | hypertension                                                                                                                                                      | hypotension<br>orthostatic hypotension                                                                                                                                                    | pulmonary embolism<br>venous thrombosis<br>flushing                                                                                                                                                                        | ischaemia                             |

| System Organ Class                                     | Adverse Drug Reaction |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                           |                                                                                          |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                        | Frequency             |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                           |                                                                                          |
|                                                        | Very common           | Common                                                                                      | Uncommon                                                                                                                                               | Rare                                                                                                      | Not known <sup>a</sup>                                                                   |
| <b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b> |                       | cough<br>nasal congestion                                                                   | dyspnoea<br>pharyngolaryngeal pain<br>epistaxis                                                                                                        | sleep apnoea syndrome<br>pulmonary congestion<br>respiratory tract congestion<br>rales<br>wheezing.       | hyperventilation<br>pneumonia<br>aspiration<br>dysphonia                                 |
| <b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>                      |                       | abdominal pain<br>vomiting<br>nausea<br>constipation<br>diarrhoea<br>dyspepsia<br>toothache | abdominal discomfort<br>gastroenteritis<br>dysphagia<br>dry mouth<br>flatulence                                                                        | pancreatitis<br>intestinal obstruction<br>swollen tongue<br>faecal incontinence<br>faecaloma<br>cheilitis | ileus                                                                                    |
| <b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>                         |                       | transaminases increased                                                                     | gamma-glutamyltransferase increased<br>hepatic enzyme increased                                                                                        |                                                                                                           | jaundice                                                                                 |
| <b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>          |                       |                                                                                             | urticaria<br>pruritus<br>rash<br>alopecia<br>eczema<br>dry skin<br>erythema<br>acne                                                                    | drug eruption<br>hyperkeratosis<br>seborrheic dermatitis<br>dandruff                                      | Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis<br>Angioedema<br>skin discolouration |
| <b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b> |                       | musculoskeletal pain<br>back pain<br>arthralgia                                             | blood creatine phosphokinase increased<br>muscle spasms<br>joint stiffness<br>muscular weakness                                                        | rhabdomyolysis<br>joint swelling                                                                          | posture abnormal                                                                         |
| <b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>                     |                       |                                                                                             | urinary incontinence, pollakiuria, dysuria                                                                                                             | urinary retention                                                                                         |                                                                                          |
| <b>Pregnancy, puerperium and perinatal conditions</b>  |                       |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                           | drug withdrawal syndrome<br>neonatal (see section 4.6)                                   |
| <b>Reproductive system and breast disorders</b>        |                       | amenorrhoea                                                                                 | erectile dysfunction<br>ejaculation disorder<br>menstrual disorder <sup>e</sup><br>gynaecomastia<br>galactorrhoea<br>sexual dysfunction<br>breast pain | priapism<br>breast discomfort<br>breast engorgement<br>breast enlargement<br>vaginal discharge            |                                                                                          |

| System Organ Class                                          | Adverse Drug Reaction |                                                           |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                               |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                             | Frequency             |                                                           |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                               |
|                                                             | Very common           | Common                                                    | Uncommon                                                                                                                                     | Rare                                                                                                                                                                  | Not known <sup>a</sup>                                                        |
| <b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b> |                       | pyrexia<br>asthenia<br>fatigue<br>injection site reaction | face oedema<br>oedema <sup>e</sup><br>body temperature increased<br>gait abnormal<br>chest pain<br>chest discomfort<br>malaise<br>induration | hypothermia<br>chills<br>thirst<br>drug withdrawal syndrome<br>injection site abscess<br>injection site cellulitis<br>injection site cyst<br>injection site haematoma | body temperature decreased<br>injection site necrosis<br>injection site ulcer |
| <b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>       |                       |                                                           | fall                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                               |

<sup>a</sup> The frequency of these adverse reactions is qualified as “not known” because they were not observed in paliperidone palmitate clinical trials. They were either derived from spontaneous post-marketing reports and frequency cannot be determined, or they were derived from risperidone (any formulation) or oral paliperidone clinical trials data and/or post-marketing reports.

<sup>b</sup> Refer to ‘Hyperprolactinaemia’ below.

<sup>c</sup> Refer to ‘Extrapyramidal symptoms’ below.

<sup>d</sup> In placebo-controlled trials, diabetes mellitus was reported in 0.32% in paliperidone-treated subjects compared to a rate of 0.39% in placebo group. Overall incidence from all clinical trials was 0.65% in all paliperidone treated subjects.

<sup>e</sup> **Insomnia includes:** initial insomnia, middle insomnia; **Convulsion includes:** grand mal convulsion; Oedema includes: generalised oedema, oedema peripheral, pitting oedema. **Menstrual disorder includes:** menstruation delayed, menstruation irregular, oligomenorrhoea.

#### Undesirable effects noted with risperidone formulations

Paliperidone is the active metabolite of risperidone, therefore, the adverse reaction profiles of these compounds (including both the oral and injectable formulations) are relevant to one another.

#### Description of selected adverse reactions

##### *Anaphylactic reaction*

Rarely, cases of anaphylactic reaction after injection with paliperidone have been reported during post-marketing experience in patients who have previously tolerated oral risperidone or oral paliperidone (see section 4.4).

##### *Injection site reactions*

The most commonly reported injection site related adverse reaction was pain. The majority of these reactions were reported to be of mild to moderate severity. Subject evaluations of injection site pain based on a visual analogue scale tended to lessen in frequency and intensity over time in all Phase 2 and 3 studies with paliperidone. Injections into the deltoid were perceived as slightly more painful than corresponding gluteal injections. Other injection site reactions were mostly mild in intensity and included induration (common), pruritus (uncommon) and nodules (rare).

##### *Extrapyramidal symptoms (EPS)*

EPS included a pooled analysis of the following terms: parkinsonism (includes salivary hypersecretion, musculoskeletal stiffness, parkinsonism, drooling, cogwheel rigidity, bradykinesia, hypokinesia, masked facies, muscle tightness, akinesia, nuchal rigidity, muscle rigidity, parkinsonian gait, glabellar reflex abnormal, and parkinsonian rest tremor), akathisia (includes akathisia,

restlessness, hyperkinesia, and restless leg syndrome), dyskinesia (dyskinesia, muscle twitching, choreoathetosis, athetosis, and myoclonus), dystonia (includes dystonia, hypertonia, torticollis, muscle contractions involuntary, muscle contracture, blepharospasm, oculogyration, tongue paralysis, facial spasm, laryngospasm, myotonia, opisthotonus, oropharyngeal spasm, pleurothotonus, tongue spasm, and trismus), and tremor. It should be noted that a broader spectrum of symptoms are included that do not necessarily have an extrapyramidal origin.

#### *Weight gain*

In the 13-week study involving the 150 mg initiation dosing, the proportion of subjects with an abnormal weight increase  $\geq 7\%$  showed a dose-related trend, with a 5% incidence rate in the placebo group compared with rates of 6%, 8% and 13% in the paliperidone 25 mg, 100 mg, and 150 mg groups, respectively.

During the 33-week open-label transition/maintenance period of the long-term recurrence prevention trial, 12% of paliperidone-treated subjects met this criterion (weight gain of  $\geq 7\%$  from double-blind phase to endpoint); the mean (SD) weight change from open-label baseline was + 0.7 (4.79) kg.

#### *Hyperprolactinaemia*

In clinical trials, median increases in serum prolactin were observed in subjects of both genders who received paliperidone. Adverse reactions that may suggest increase in prolactin levels (e.g., amenorrhoea, galactorrhoea, menstrual disturbances, gynaecomastia) were reported overall in < 1% of subjects.

#### Class effects

QT prolongation, ventricular arrhythmias (ventricular fibrillation, ventricular tachycardia), sudden unexplained death, cardiac arrest, and Torsade de pointes may occur with antipsychotics.

Cases of venous thromboembolism, including cases of pulmonary embolism and cases of deep vein thrombosis, have been reported with antipsychotic medicinal products (frequency unknown).

#### Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medical product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via **the national reporting system listed in Appendix V**.

## **4.9 Overdose**

#### Symptoms

In general, expected signs and symptoms are those resulting from an exaggeration of paliperidone's known pharmacological effects, i.e., drowsiness and sedation, tachycardia and hypotension, QT prolongation, and extrapyramidal symptoms. Torsade de pointes and ventricular fibrillation have been reported in a patient in the setting of overdose with oral paliperidone. In the case of acute overdose, the possibility of multiple drug involvement should be considered.

#### Management

Consideration should be given to the prolonged-release nature of the medicinal product and the long elimination half-life of paliperidone when assessing treatment needs and recovery. There is no specific antidote to paliperidone. General supportive measures should be employed. Establish and maintain a clear airway and ensure adequate oxygenation and ventilation.

Cardiovascular monitoring should commence immediately and should include continuous electrocardiographic monitoring for possible arrhythmias. Hypotension and circulatory collapse should be treated with appropriate measures such as intravenous fluid and/or sympathomimetic agents. In case of severe extrapyramidal symptoms, anticholinergic agents should be administered.

Close supervision and monitoring should continue until the patient recovers.

## 5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Psycholeptics, other antipsychotics. ATC code: N05AX13

<Product name> contains a racemic mixture of (+)- and (-)-paliperidone.

#### Mechanism of action

Paliperidone is a selective blocking agent of monoamine effects, whose pharmacological properties are different from that of traditional neuroleptics. Paliperidone binds strongly to serotonergic 5-HT<sub>2</sub>- and dopaminergic D<sub>2</sub>-receptors. Paliperidone also blocks alpha 1-adrenergic receptors and slightly less, H<sub>1</sub>-histaminergic and alpha 2-adrenergic receptors. The pharmacological activity of the (+)- and (-)-paliperidone enantiomers are qualitatively and quantitatively similar.

Paliperidone is not bound to cholinergic receptors. Even though paliperidone is a strong D<sub>2</sub>-antagonist, which is believed to relieve the positive symptoms of schizophrenia, it causes less catalepsy and decreases motor functions less than traditional neuroleptics. Dominating central serotonin antagonism may reduce the tendency of paliperidone to cause extrapyramidal side effects.

#### Clinical efficacy

##### *Acute treatment of schizophrenia*

The efficacy of paliperidone in the acute treatment of schizophrenia was established in four short-term (one 9-week and three 13-week) double-blind, randomised, placebo-controlled, fixed-dose studies of acutely relapsed adult inpatients who met DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia. The fixed doses of paliperidone in these studies were given on days 1, 8, and 36 in the 9-week study, and additionally on day 64 of the 13-week studies. No additional oral antipsychotic supplementation was needed during the acute treatment of schizophrenia with paliperidone. The primary efficacy endpoint was defined as a

decrease in Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale (PANSS) total scores as shown in the table below. The PANSS is a validated multi-item inventory composed of five factors to evaluate positive symptoms, negative symptoms, disorganised thoughts, uncontrolled hostility/excitement and anxiety/depression. Functioning was evaluated using the Personal and Social Performance (PSP) scale. The PSP is a validated clinician rated scale that measures personal and social functioning in four domains: socially useful activities (work and study), personal and social relationships, self-care and disturbing and aggressive behaviours.

In a 13-week study (n = 636) comparing three fixed doses of paliperidone (initial deltoid injection of 150 mg followed by 3 gluteal or deltoid doses of either 25 mg/4 weeks, 100 mg/4 weeks or 150 mg/4 weeks) to placebo, all three doses of paliperidone were superior to placebo in improving the PANSS total score. In this study, both the 100 mg/4 weeks and 150 mg/4 weeks, but not the 25 mg/4 weeks, treatment groups demonstrated statistical superiority to placebo for the PSP score. These results support efficacy across the entire duration of treatment and improvement in PANSS and was observed as early as day 4 with significant separation from placebo in the 25 mg and 150 mg paliperidone groups by day 8.

The results of the other studies yielded statistically significant results in favour of paliperidone, except for the 50 mg dose in one study (see table below).

| Positive and Negative Syndrome Scale for Schizophrenia (PANSS) Total Score - Change From Baseline to End Point- LOCF for Studies R092670-SCH-201, R092670-PSY-3003, R092670-PSY-3004 and R092670-PSY-3007: Primary Efficacy Analysis Set |              |              |       |              |              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------|--------------|--------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Placebo      | 25 mg        | 50 mg | 100 mg       | 150 mg       |
| <b>R092670-PSY-3007*</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | n = 160      | n = 155      |       | n = 161      | n = 160      |
| Mean baseline (SD)                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | 86.8 (10.31) | 86.9 (11.99) |       | 86.2 (10.77) | 88.4 (11.70) |

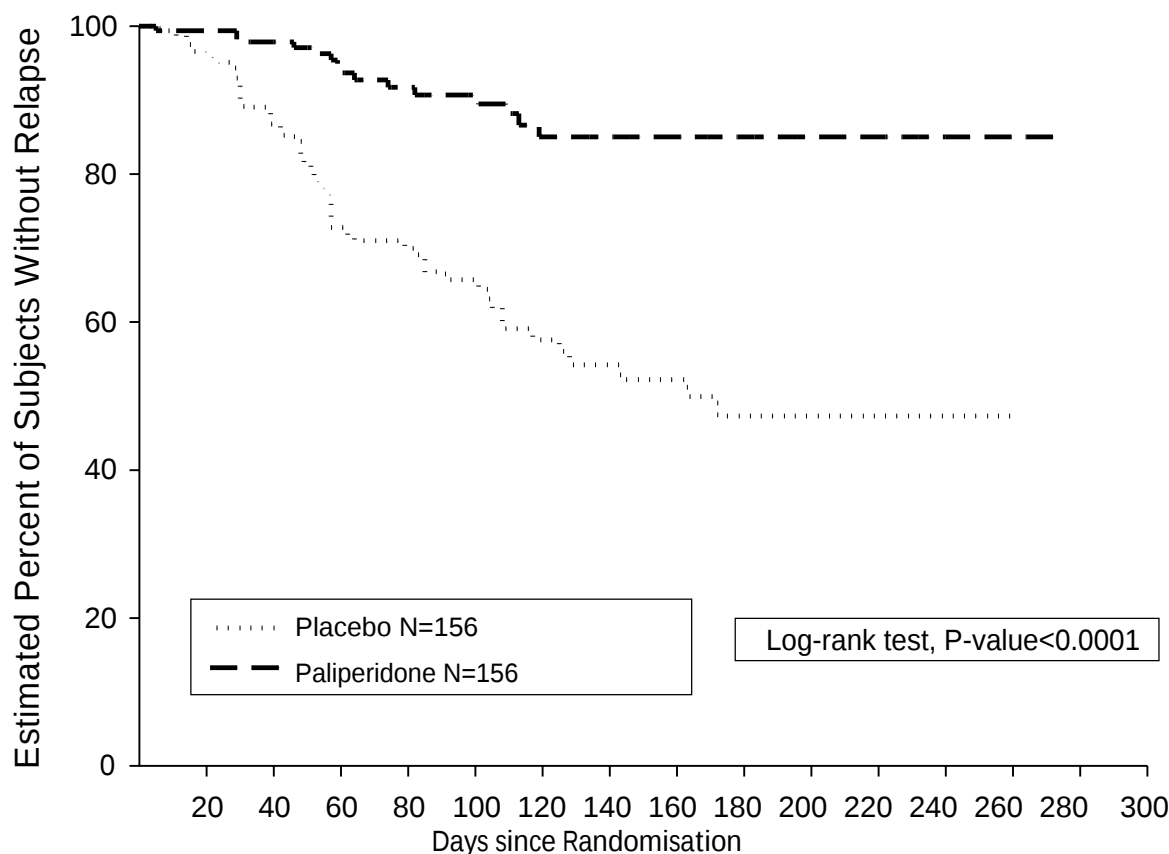
|                                                                                            |                                               |                                                   |                                                   |                                                     |                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Mean change (SD)<br>P-value (vs. Placebo)                                                  | -2.9 (19.26)<br>--                            | -8.0 (19.90)<br>0.034                             | --                                                | -11.6 (17.63)<br>< 0.001                            | -13.2 (18.48)<br>< 0.001                     |
| <b>R092670-PSY-3003</b><br>Mean baseline (SD)<br>Mean change (SD)<br>P-value (vs. Placebo) | n = 132<br>92.4 (12.55)<br>-4.1 (21.01)<br>-- | --                                                | n = 93<br>89.9 (10.78)<br>-7.9 (18.71)<br>0.193   | n = 94<br>90.1 (11.66)<br>-11.0 (19.06)<br>0.019    | n = 30<br>92.2 (11.72)<br>-5.5 (19.78)<br>-- |
| <b>R092670-PSY-3004</b><br>Mean baseline (SD)<br>Mean change (SD)<br>P-value (vs. Placebo) | n = 125<br>90.7 (12.22)<br>-7.0 (20.07)<br>-- | n = 129<br>90.7 (12.25)<br>-13.6 (21.45)<br>0.015 | n = 128<br>91.2 (12.02)<br>-13.2 (20.14)<br>0.017 | n = 131<br>90.8 (11.70)<br>-16.1 (20.36)<br>< 0.001 | --                                           |
| <b>R092670-SCH-201</b><br>Mean baseline (SD)<br>Mean change (SD)<br>P-value (vs. Placebo)  | n = 66<br>87.8 (13.90)<br>6.2 (18.25)<br>--   | --                                                | n = 63<br>88.0 (12.39)<br>-5.2 (21.52)<br>0.001   | n = 68<br>85.2 (11.09)<br>-7.8 (19.40)<br>< 0.0001  | --                                           |

\* For Study R092670-PSY-3007 an initiation dose of 150 mg was given to all subjects in the paliperidone treatment groups on day 1 followed by the assigned dose afterwards.

Note: Negative change in score indicates improvement.

### *Maintaining symptom control and delaying relapse of schizophrenia*

The efficacy of paliperidone in maintaining symptomatic control and delaying relapse of schizophrenia was established in a longer-term double-blind, placebo-controlled, flexible-dose study involving 849 non-elderly adult subjects who met DSM-IV criteria for schizophrenia. This study included a 33-week open-label acute treatment and stabilisation phase, a randomised, double-blind placebo-controlled phase to observe for relapse, and a 52-week open-label extension period. In this study, doses of paliperidone included 25, 50, 75, and 100 mg administered monthly; the 75 mg dose was allowed only in the 52-week open-label extension. Subjects initially received flexible doses (25-100 mg) of paliperidone during a 9-week transition period, followed by a 24-week maintenance period, where subjects were required to have a PANSS score of  $\leq 75$ . Dosing adjustments were only allowed in the first 12 weeks of the maintenance period. A total of 410 stabilised patients were randomised to either paliperidone (median duration 171 days [range 1 day to 407 days]) or to placebo (median duration 105 days [range 8 days to 441 days]) until they experienced a relapse of schizophrenia symptoms in the variable length double-blind phase. The trial was stopped early for efficacy reasons as a significantly longer time to relapse ( $p < 0.0001$ , Figure 1) was seen in patients treated with paliperidone compared to placebo (hazard ratio = 4.32; 95% CI: 2.4-7.7)



**Figure 1:** Kaplan-Meier Plot of Time to Relapse – Interim Analysis (Intent-to-Treat Interim Analysis Set)

#### Paediatric population

The European Medicines Agency has waived the obligation to submit the results of studies with paliperidone in all subsets of the paediatric population in schizophrenia. See section 4.2 for information on paediatric use.

### **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

#### Absorption and distribution

Paliperidone palmitate is the palmitate ester prodrug of paliperidone. Due to its extremely low water solubility, paliperidone palmitate dissolves slowly after intramuscular injection before being hydrolysed to paliperidone and absorbed into the systemic circulation. Following a single intramuscular dose, the plasma concentrations of paliperidone gradually rise to reach maximum plasma concentrations at a median  $T_{max}$  of 13 days. The release of the active substance starts as early as day 1 and lasts for at least 4 months.

Following intramuscular injection of single doses (25-150 mg) in the deltoid muscle, on average, a 28% higher  $C_{max}$  was observed compared with injection in the gluteal muscle. The two initial deltoid intramuscular injections of 150 mg on day 1 and 100 mg on day 8 help attain therapeutic concentrations rapidly. The release profile and dosing regimen of paliperidone results in sustained therapeutic concentrations. The total exposure of paliperidone following paliperidone administration was dose-proportional over a 25-150 mg dose range, and less than dose-proportional for  $C_{max}$  for doses exceeding 50 mg. The mean steady-state peak:trough ratio for a paliperidone dose of 100 mg was 1.8 following gluteal administration and 2.2 following deltoid administration. The median apparent half-life of paliperidone following paliperidone administration over the dose range of 25-150

mg ranged from 25-49 days.

The absolute bioavailability of paliperidone palmitate following paliperidone administration is 100%.

Following administration of paliperidone palmitate the (+) and (-) enantiomers of paliperidone interconvert, reaching an AUC (+) to (-) ratio of approximately 1.6-1.8.

The plasma protein binding of racemic paliperidone is 74%.

#### Biotransformation and elimination

One week following administration of a single oral dose of 1 mg immediate-release <sup>14</sup>C-paliperidone, 59% of the dose was excreted unchanged into urine, indicating that paliperidone is not extensively metabolised in the liver. Approximately 80% of the administered radioactivity was recovered in urine and 11% in the faeces. Four metabolic pathways have been identified *in vivo*, none of which accounted for more than 6.5% of the dose: dealkylation, hydroxylation, dehydrogenation, and benzisoxazole scission. Although *in vitro* studies suggested a role for CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 in the metabolism of paliperidone, there is no evidence *in vivo* that these isozymes play a significant role in the metabolism of paliperidone. Population pharmacokinetics analyses indicated no discernible difference on the apparent clearance of paliperidone after administration of oral paliperidone between extensive metabolisers and poor metabolisers of CYP2D6 substrates. *In vitro* studies in human liver microsomes showed that paliperidone does not substantially inhibit the metabolism of medicinal products metabolised by cytochrome P450 isozymes, including CYP1A2, CYP2A6, CYP2C8/9/10, CYP2D6, CYP2E1, CYP3A4, and CYP3A5.

*In vitro* studies have shown that paliperidone is a P-gp substrate and a weak inhibitor of P-gp at high concentrations. No *in vivo* data are available and the clinical relevance is unknown.

#### Long acting paliperidone palmitate injection versus oral prolonged-release paliperidone

Paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection is designed to deliver paliperidone over a monthly period while prolonged-release oral paliperidone is administered on a daily basis. The initiation regimen for Prolonged-release suspension for injection (150 mg/100 mg in the deltoid muscle on day 1/day 8) was designed to rapidly attain steady-state paliperidone concentrations when initiating therapy without the use of oral supplementation.

In general, overall initiation plasma levels with paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection were within the exposure range observed with 6-12 mg prolonged-release oral paliperidone. The use of the paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection initiation regimen allowed patients to stay in this exposure window of 6-12 mg prolonged-release oral paliperidone even on trough pre-dose days (day 8 and day 36). Because of the difference in median pharmacokinetic profiles between the two medicinal products, caution should be exercised when making a direct comparison of their pharmacokinetic properties.

#### Hepatic impairment

Paliperidone is not extensively metabolised in the liver. Although paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection was not studied on patients with hepatic impairment, no dose adjustment is required in patients with mild or moderate hepatic impairment. In a study with oral paliperidone in subjects with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh class B), the plasma concentrations of free paliperidone were similar to those of healthy subjects. Paliperidone has not been studied in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

#### Renal impairment

The disposition of a single oral dose paliperidone 3 mg prolonged-release tablet was studied in subjects with varying degrees of renal function. Elimination of paliperidone decreased with decreasing estimated creatinine clearance. Total clearance of paliperidone was reduced in subjects with impaired renal function by 32% on average in mild (CrCl = 50 to < 80 mL/min), 64% in moderate (CrCl = 30 to < 50 mL/min), and 71% in severe (CrCl = 10 to < 30 mL/min) renal

impairment, corresponding to an average increase in exposure ( $AUC_{inf}$ ) of 1.5, 2.6, and 4.8 fold, respectively, compared to healthy subjects. Based on a limited number of observations with paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection in subjects with mild renal impairment and pharmacokinetic simulations, a reduced dose is recommended (see section 4.2).

#### Elderly

Population pharmacokinetics analysis showed no evidence of age related pharmacokinetics differences.

#### Body mass index (BMI)/body weight

Pharmacokinetic studies with paliperidone palmitate have shown somewhat lower (10-20%) plasma concentrations of paliperidone in patients who are overweight or obese in comparison with normal weight patients (see section 4.2).

#### Race

Population pharmacokinetics analysis of data from studies with oral paliperidone revealed no evidence of race-related differences in the pharmacokinetics of paliperidone following paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection administration.

#### Gender

No clinically significant differences were observed between men and women.

#### Smoking status

Based on *in vitro* studies utilising human liver enzymes, paliperidone is not a substrate for CYP1A2; smoking should, therefore, not have an effect on the pharmacokinetics of paliperidone. Effect of smoking on the pharmacokinetics of paliperidone was not studied with paliperidone prolonged-release suspension for injection. A population pharmacokinetic analysis based on data with oral paliperidone prolonged-release tablets showed a slightly lower exposure to paliperidone in smokers compared with non-smokers. The difference is unlikely to be of clinical relevance.

### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Repeat-dose toxicity studies of intramuscularly injected paliperidone palmitate (the 1-month formulation) and orally administered paliperidone in rat and dog showed mainly pharmacological effects, such as sedation and prolactin-mediated effects on mammary glands and genitals. In animals treated with paliperidone palmitate an inflammatory reaction was seen at the intramuscular injection site. Occasionally abscess formation occurred.

In rat reproduction studies with oral risperidone, which is extensively converted to paliperidone in rats and humans, adverse effects were seen on the birth weight and survival of the offspring. No embryotoxicity or malformations were observed following intramuscular administration of paliperidone palmitate to pregnant rats up to the highest dose (160 mg/kg/day) corresponding to 4.1 times the exposure level in humans at the maximum recommended dose of 150 mg. Other dopamine antagonists, when administered to pregnant animals, have caused negative effects on learning and motor development in the offspring.

Paliperidone palmitate and paliperidone were not genotoxic. In oral carcinogenicity studies of risperidone in rats and mice, increases in pituitary gland adenomas (mouse), endocrine pancreas adenomas (rat), and mammary gland adenomas (both species) were seen. The carcinogenic potential of intramuscularly injected paliperidone palmitate was assessed in rats. There was a statistically significant increase in mammary gland adenocarcinomas in female rats at 10, 30 and 60 mg/kg/month. Male rats showed a statistically significant increase in mammary gland adenomas and carcinomas at 30 and 60 mg/kg/month which is 1.2 and 2.2 times the exposure level at the maximum recommended human 150 mg dose. These tumours can be related to prolonged dopamine D2

antagonism and hyperprolactinaemia. The relevance of these tumour findings in rodents in terms of human risk is unknown.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Polysorbate 20  
Macrogols  
Citric acid monohydrate  
Disodium phosphate  
Sodium dihydrogen phosphate monohydrate  
Sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment)  
Water for injections

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

This medicinal product must not be mixed with other medicinal products.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

3 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Do not store above 30 °C.  
Do not freeze.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Pre-filled syringe (clear glass, type I) with a plunger stopper, backstop, and tip cap (bromobutyl rubber) with a 22G 1½-inch (38,1 mm x 0,72 mm) safety needle and a 23G 1-inch (25,4 mm x 0,64 mm) safety needle .

Pack sizes:  
Pack contains 1 pre-filled syringe and 2 needles.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

## **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

<To be completed nationally>

## **8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

<To be completed nationally>

## **9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

<To be completed nationally>

**10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

2025-12-19