

SCHEDULING STATUS:**S5****PROPRIETARY NAME AND DOSAGE FORM:**

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 Tablets.

COMPOSITION:

Each tablet contains 200 mg sulpiride.

Other excipients: lactose, magnesium stearate, povidone, pregelatinised maize starch and sodium starch glycolate. Contains sugar (lactose).

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

A 2.6.5 Tranquillisers: Miscellaneous structures

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:**Pharmacodynamic properties**

Sulpiride has antipsychotic actions. It is a substituted benzamide with both anti-depressant and neuroleptic properties. Antipsychotic actions are believed to be due to a selective blockade of central dopamine D₂ receptors.

Pharmacokinetic properties

Sulpiride is absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract; bioavailability (30 – 40 %) is low and is subject to individual variation. Plasma concentrations may be increased in elderly patients due to renal insufficiency (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS for dosage adaption.) Peak sulpiride serum levels are reached 3 – 6 hours after an oral dose. Sulpiride is rapidly distributed to the tissues but passage across the blood-brain barrier is poor. Sulpiride is less than 40 % bound to plasma proteins and is reported to have a plasma half-life of about 6 – 9 hours. 95 % of the parent compound is excreted in the urine and faeces, mainly as unchanged sulpiride. Hepatic metabolism does not appear to be significant, although traces of metabolites can be found in the urine. Sulpiride is distributed into breast milk. As sulpiride is eliminated mainly unchanged in the urine, the pharmacokinetic parameters are altered in patients with impaired renal function. There is a progressive diminution in the rate of elimination and an increase in half-life with decreasing renal function (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS).

INDICATIONS:

Schizophrenia.

The management of acute episodes and the prevention of acute relapses in chronic cases.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to sulpiride or to any of the excipients of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200.
- BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is contraindicated in patients with known or suspected pheochromocytoma.
- Pregnancy and Lactation (see PREGNANCY AND LACTATION).
- BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should be avoided in patients with bone marrow depression.
- BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should not be given with other medicines that may induce leucopenia and blood dyscrasias.
- Porphyria.
- Concomitant prolactin-dependent tumours e.g. pituitary gland prolactinomas and breast cancer.
- Congenital QT prolongation.
- Concomitant use with anti-Parkinson dopaminergic medicines (see INTERACTIONS).

WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:**Neuroleptic malignant syndrome:**

In case of unexplained hyperthermia, it is essential to discontinue BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 since this may be indicative of the malignant syndrome described with neuroleptic medicines such as BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 (pallor, hyperthermia, vegetative disturbances, alteration of consciousness and muscle rigidity). Neuroleptic malignant syndrome may occur more frequently in catatonic schizophrenia. Symptoms of vegetative dysfunction such as sweating and unstable blood pressure can occur prior to the occurrence of hyperthermia and consequently represent early onset warning signs. Even though this neuroleptic-related adverse event can result from an individual idiosyncrasy to BIO-SULPIRIDE 200, certain risk factors appear to predispose to it such as dehydration or organic brain disease.

Prolongation of the QT interval:

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 produces a dose-dependent prolongation of the QT interval. This effect, known to potentiate the risk of serious ventricular dysrhythmias such as Torsades de Pointes, is enhanced by the presence of bradycardia, hypokalaemia, or congenital or acquired long QT interval as in combination with other medicines that increase the QT interval. Refer to INTERACTIONS for combinations of medicines with BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 which could induce "Torsades de Pointes". Before administering BIO-SULPIRIDE 200, the absence of factors which can promote the occurrence of this dysrhythmias should be verified:

- Bradycardia less than 55 bpm
- Hypokalaemia
- Congenital prolongation of the QT interval
- Ongoing treatment with a medication which can cause marked bradycardia (< 55 bpm), hypokalaemia, slowing of intracardiac conduction or prolongation of the QT interval.

It is recommended to perform an ECG in the initial evaluation of patients who are to be treated with BIO-SULPIRIDE 200.

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is not recommended in hypomanic patients, in the manic or pre-manic phase of manic-depressive psychosis, or in patients with acute mania, as BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 may precipitate manic states, which can last up to two days in certain patients prone to these conditions. If this should occur, BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 may either be discontinued or, if the therapeutic effect is required notwithstanding, BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 must be combined with sedative neuroleptics or other psychotropic medicines.

Psychotic suicidal cases:

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200, because of its disinhibitory effect, should be administered with care and combined with psychotherapy.

Parkinson's disease:

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should not be used in patients with Parkinson's disease (see INTERACTIONS). BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 inhibits the action of levodopa and may potentiate the adverse effects of other antimuscarinics, including antimuscarinic anti-parkinsonian medicines.

Renal impairment:

Patients with renal impairment, with creatinine clearance of 30 to 60 ml/minute require a reduction of 70 % of normal dose, 10 to 30 ml/minute require a reduction of 50 % of normal dose and creatinine clearance of less than 10 ml/minute require a reduction of 35 % of normal dose. Alternatively, increase the dosage interval between doses by a factor of 1.5; 2 and 3, respectively. Caution is required in patients with impaired liver, kidney or respiratory function, and in patients receiving other central nervous system depressant medicines, in whom central nervous system depression may be potentiated.

Elderly patients:

Elderly patients are more susceptible to postural hypotension, sedation and extrapyramidal effects.

There is an increased mortality in elderly people with dementia who are treated with BIO-SULPIRIDE 200. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is not indicated for the treatment of dementia-related behavioural disturbances. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should only be administered with caution to patients with hypertension. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should be given with caution to patients in whom a sudden drop in blood pressure would be undesirable, and cardiovascular disorders. Concomitant use with medicines that produce postural hypotension may require dosage adjustments. The antihypertensive action of adrenergic neurone blockers is reduced by BIO-SULPIRIDE 200. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 effects on the vomiting centre may mask the symptoms of overdose of other agents, or of disorders such as gastrointestinal obstruction. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should be given with care in patients with diabetes. Care is required in epileptic patients receiving anticonvulsant therapy as BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 may lower the seizure threshold. Patients receiving BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 therapy should receive regular examinations for abnormal ocular pigmentation or ocular changes. In children, under the age of 18 years, efficacy and safety of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 has not been established. Ingestion of alcohol as well as ingestion of any medication containing alcohol are strongly discouraged throughout duration of treatment with BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 (see INTERACTIONS).

Effects on ability to drive and use machines:

Because of the drowsiness and impaired concentration that may ensue, affected patients should not drive or operate machines where loss of attention might be hazardous. Alteration of vigilance when using alcohol, and enhancement of central nervous system depression, is observed. Alteration of vigilance can occur when driving and using machines. The sedative effect must be fully assessed on the individual before driving or operating heavy machinery is allowed. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 contains lactose and should not be administered to patients with rare hereditary problems, or a history of lactose intolerance, e.g. galactosaemia, Lapp lactose deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption.

INTERACTIONS:

Co-administration of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 and the following combinations are contraindicated (see CONTRAINDICATIONS):

Dopaminergic anti-Parkinson medicines:

Amantadine, bromocriptine, cabergoline, levodopa, lisuride, pergolide, piribedil, ropinirole. Due to the reciprocal antagonism between these anti-Parkinson medicines and neuroleptics such as BIO-SULPIRIDE 200, concomitant use is contraindicated.

- In case of an extrapyramidal syndrome induced by BIO-SULPIRIDE 200, do not administer an anti-Parkinson dopaminergic medicine

(blockade of dopaminergic receptors by neuroleptic medicines) to patients, but rather use an anticholinergic medicine (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS).

The following combination with BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is not recommended:

Alcohol:

The sedative effect of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 can be enhanced by alcohol. Alteration of concentration can be dangerous when driving and/or operating machinery. The intake of alcohol and medications containing alcohol should be avoided.

Careful consideration should be given before administration of the following combinations:

Antihypertensive medicines:

The antihypertensive effect and risk of postural hypotension are enhanced (additive effect).

Other central nervous system depressants:

Morphine-related compounds; barbiturates; benzodiazepines; carbamates, etifoxine; hypnotic agents; sedative antidepressants; sedative H1 histamine antagonists; central antihypertensive medicines; baclofen, thalidomide. Concomitant administration of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 with the following medication could induce Torsades de Pointes or prolong the QT interval:

- Medicines that induce electrolyte imbalance e.g. stimulant laxatives, tetracosactides, hypokalaemic diuretics, glucocorticoids and IV amphotericin B. The electrolyte balance of the patients should be corrected.
 - Class Ia antiarrhythmic agents such as quinidine, disopyramide.
 - Class III antiarrhythmic agents such as amiodarone, sotalol.
 - Bradycardia-inducing medications such as beta-blockers, bradycardia-inducing calcium channel blockers such as diltiazem and verapamil, clonidine, digoxin, guanfacine.
 - Methadone, pimozone, imipramine, haloperidol, antidepressants, pentamidine, halofantrine, lithium, cisapride, thioridazine, IV erythromycin, sultopride, bepridil, IV vincamine, sparfloracin.
- The use of alcoholic beverages and medicines containing alcohol should be avoided as alcohol enhances the sedative effects of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

The safety and/or efficacy of BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 during pregnancy and lactation has not been established.

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is contraindicated during pregnancy and lactation (see CONTRAINDICATIONS).

BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is excreted in breastmilk. Mothers on BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 should not breastfeed their infants.

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:**Initial Treatment:**

200 to 800 mg orally in divided doses 8 or 12 hourly over 24 hours. Duration one to six weeks.

Maintenance treatment:

600 to 800 mg per day (three to four BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 tablets) in divided doses. Duration as long as necessary.

Plasma concentrations may be increased in elderly patients due to renal insufficiency (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS for dosage adaption).

There is a progressive reduction in the rate of elimination and an increase in half-life with decreasing renal function (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS).

Patients with renal impairment or the elderly, with creatinine clearance of 30 to 60 ml/minute require a reduction of 70 % of normal dose, 10 to 30 ml/minute require a reduction of 50 % of normal dose and creatinine clearance of less than 10 ml/minute require a reduction of 35 % of normal dose. Alternatively, increase the dosage interval between doses by a factor of 1.5; 2 and 3, respectively.

SIDE EFFECTS:**Immune system disorders**

Frequency unknown: Allergic reactions that include urticaria, exfoliative dermatitis, and contact sensitivity.

Nervous system disorders

Frequency unknown: Neuroleptic malignant syndrome (see WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS).

Neurological events: BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 may produce a degree of sedation. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 can produce extrapyramidal symptoms. The risk of extrapyramidal symptoms may be reduced by the addition of anticholinergic medication or reduction in dose.

Sleep disturbances, overstimulation and agitation, dry mouth, insomnia, convulsions, depression, sedation and drowsiness.

Extrapyramidal symptoms and related disorders:

- Parkinsonism and related symptoms such as: tremor, hypertonia, hypokinesia and hypersalivation
- acute dyskinesia and dystonia such as spastic torticollis, oculogyric crisis and trismus
- akathisia
- tardive dyskinesia (characterised by rhythmic, involuntary movements primarily of the tongue and/or the face) have been reported. Antiparkinsonian medication is ineffective when this occurs or may induce aggravation of the symptoms.
- akinesia with or without hypertonia, and partially responsive to anticholinergic medicines.
- hyperkinetic-hypertonic syndrome, excitomotor syndrome.

Cardiac disorders

Frequency unknown: QT interval prolongation and ventricular dysrhythmias such as Torsades de Pointes and ventricular tachycardia, which may result in ventricular fibrillation, cardiac arrest and sudden death. Tachycardia, electrocardiographic changes, postural hypotension.

Vascular disorders

Frequency unknown: Hypertension.

Eye disorders

Frequency unknown: Mydriasis, miosis, blurred vision, pigmentary retinopathy, corneal and lens opacities.

Reproductive system and breast disorders

Frequency unknown: Inhibition of ejaculation, impotence or frigidity, priapism, gynaecomastia, amenorrhoea, galactorrhoea, hyperprolactinaemia and related disorders, breast congestion, menstrual irregularities.

Renal and urinary disorders

Frequency unknown: Urinary retention.

Hepato-biliary disorders

Frequency unknown: Abnormalities in liver function tests and jaundice. Increases in hepatic enzymes.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Frequency unknown: Photosensitivity reactions.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

Frequency unknown: Haematological disorders, including haemolytic anaemia, aplastic anaemia, thrombocytopenic purpura, eosinophilia, and a potentially fatal agranulocytosis have been reported. Symptoms of agranulocytosis such as a sore throat or fever should be watched for and monitoring of white cell counts should be instituted should these symptoms appear.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders

Frequency unknown: Weight gain, hyperglycaemia, altered glucose tolerance and increased serum cholesterol concentrations.

General disorders and administrative site conditions

Frequency unknown: Hypo- and hyperthermia, fatigue.

KNOWN SYMPTOMS OF OVERDOSAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT:

In overdose, side effects will be exacerbated and exaggerated (see SIDE EFFECTS). Dyskinetic manifestations with spasmodic torticollis, protrusion of the tongue and trismus may occur.

Manifestations may vary depending on dose, and range from restlessness, clouding of consciousness, agitation, confusion. Some patients may develop life-threatening QT prolongation, Parkinsonian manifestations and coma.

There is no specific antidote to BIO-SULPIRIDE 200.

Administer symptomatic therapy, intensive care, under close and continuous monitoring of respiratory and cardiac functions (risk of prolongation of QT interval), which will be continued until the patient's recovery. In cases of severe extrapyramidal symptoms, anticholinergics should be administered. BIO-SULPIRIDE 200 is partly removed by dialysis.

IDENTIFICATION:

White circular flat bevelled edged tablet with a breakline on one side and plain on the other side.

PRESENTATION:

50 tablets in either a polypropylene securitainer, HDPE container with screw cap and induction sealing wad or a Patient-Ready-Pack (LDPE bag).

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS:

Store at or below 25 °C.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

30/2.6.5/0511

NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION:

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