

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Strepsils Intensive Orange Sugar Free 8.75mg Lozenges

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

One lozenge contains 8.75 mg of flurbiprofen.

Excipients with known effects:

This product contains

Maltitol Liquid 0.51 g/lozenge. Total maximum daily dose (MDD) is 2.55 g.

Isomalt 2.039 g/lozenge. Total maximum daily dose (MDD) is 10.195 g.

Orange flavour containing allergens (citral, citronellol, d-limonene, geraniol and linalool)

For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Lozenge

A round pale lozenge with a characteristic orange taste with an icon intagliated on both sides.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic Indications

For the symptomatic relief of sore throats.

Strepsils Intensive Lozenge is indicated in adults and adolescents over 12 years of age.

4.2 Posology and Method of Administration

Posology

It is recommended that this product should be used for a maximum of three days. The lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest duration necessary to relieve symptoms (see section 4.4).

Adults:

One lozenge sucked/dissolved slowly in the mouth every 3 – 6 hours as required. Maximum 5 lozenges in any 24 hour period

Paediatric population

Adolescents over the age of 12 years: As above for adults

Children: Not indicated for children under 12 years (see section 4.3).

Elderly: No dose modification is required.

The elderly are at increased risk of the serious consequences of adverse reactions to NSAIDs (see section 4.4).

Hepatic impairment:

In patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment, no dose reduction is required. In patients with severe hepatic insufficiency flurbiprofen is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Renal impairment: In patients with mild to moderate renal impairment, no dose reduction is required. In patients with severe renal insufficiency flurbiprofen is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

Method of administration

For oromucosal administration. To be dissolved slowly in the mouth.

As with all lozenges, to avoid local irritation, Strepsils Intensive Lozenges should be moved around the mouth whilst sucking. If mouth irritation occurs, treatment should be withdrawn.

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to flurbiprofen or any of the excipients listed in section 6.1.
- Patients who have previously shown hypersensitivity reactions (e.g. asthma, rhinitis, angioedema, bronchospasm or urticaria) in response to ibuprofen, acetylsalicylic acid (Aspirin) or other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
- History of gastrointestinal bleeding or perforation, severe colitis, haemorrhagic or haematopoietic disorders related to previous NSAIDs therapy.
- Active, or history of recurrent peptic ulcer/haemorrhage (two or more distinct episodes of proven ulceration or bleeding).
- Severe heart failure, severe hepatic impairment or severe renal impairment (see section 4.4).
- Use in children under 12 years of age
- During third trimester of pregnancy.

4.4 Special Warnings and Special Precautions for Use.

Undesirable effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to relieve symptoms.

If the symptoms get worse or if new symptoms occur, the treatment should be re-evaluated by a healthcare professional. If mouth irritation occurs, treatment should be withdrawn.

Other NSAIDs:

The use of Strepsils Intensive Lozenges with concomitant NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors should be avoided (see section 4.5)

Elderly: The elderly have an increased frequency of adverse reactions to NSAIDs especially gastrointestinal bleeding and perforation which may be fatal (see section 4.2)

Gastrointestinal Effects:

Gastrointestinal bleeding, ulceration and perforation: GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation, which can be fatal, has been reported with all NSAIDs at any time during treatment, with or without any warning symptoms or a previous history of serious GI events.

The risk of GI bleeding, ulceration or perforation is higher with increasing NSAID doses, in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation (see section 4.3), and in the elderly. These patients should commence treatment on the lowest dose available. Combination therapy with protective agents (e.g. misoprostol or proton pump inhibitors) should be considered for these patients, and also for patients requiring concomitant low dose aspirin, or other drugs likely to increase gastrointestinal risk (see below and 4.5).

Patients with a history of GI toxicity, particularly when elderly, should report any unusual abdominal symptoms (especially GI bleeding) particularly in the initial stages of treatment.

Caution should be advised in patients receiving concomitant medications which could increase the risk of ulceration or bleeding, such as oral corticosteroids, anticoagulants such as warfarin, selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors or anti-platelet agents such as aspirin (see section 4.5).

When GI bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients receiving Strepsils Intensive Lozenges, the treatment should be withdrawn.

NSAIDs should be given with care to patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease (ulcerative colitis, Crohn's Disease) as their condition may be exacerbated (see section 4.8 – undesirable effects).

Cardiovascular and cerebrovascular effects:

Clinical trial and epidemiological data suggest that use of some NSAIDs (particularly at high doses and in long term treatment) may be associated with a small increased risk of arterial thrombotic events (for example myocardial infarction or stroke). There are insufficient data to exclude such a risk for flurbiprofen when given at a daily dose of 8.75mg to 43.75mg per day.

Caution (discussion with doctor or pharmacist) is required prior to starting treatment in patients with a history of hypertension and/or heart failure as fluid retention and oedema have been reported in association with NSAID therapy.

Nervous System Effects:

Analgesic induced headache. In the event of prolonged use of analgesics or use beyond the product posology, headache may occur, which must be treated with increased doses of the medicinal product.

Renal and Hepatic Impairment:

Caution is required in patients with renal or hepatic impairment. NSAIDs have been reported to cause nephrotoxicity in various forms including interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and renal failure. The administration of an NSAID may cause a dose dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and precipitate renal failure. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with impaired renal function, cardiac impairment, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and the elderly, however, this effect is not usually seen with short term, limited use flurbiprofen products

Dermatological:

Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and toxic epidermal necrolysis, have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs (see 4.8). Patients appear to be at highest risk of these reactions early in the course of therapy, the onset of the reaction occurring in the majority of cases within the first month of treatment. Strepsils Intensive Lozenges should be discontinued at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions, or any other sign of hypersensitivity.

Systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease:

Patients with systemic lupus erythematosus and mixed connective tissue disease may have an increased risk of aseptic meningitis, however this effect is not usually seen with short term and limited use products such as flurbiprofen.

Respiratory:

Bronchospasm maybe precipitated in patients suffering from, or with a previous history of, bronchial asthma or allergic reactions.

Flurbiprofen should be used with caution in these patients.

Infections:

Since in isolated cases an exacerbation of infective inflammations (e.g. development of necrotising fasciitis) has been described in temporal association with the use of systemic NSAIDs as a class, the patient is advised to consult a physician immediately if signs of a bacterial infection occur or worsen during the flurbiprofen therapy.

Masking of symptoms of underlying infections:

Epidemiological studies suggest that systemic non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) can mask symptoms of infection, which may lead to delayed initiation of appropriate treatment and thereby worsening the outcome of the infection. This has been observed in bacterial community acquired pneumonia and bacterial complications to varicella. When Strepsils Intensive Lozenges are administered while the patient suffers from fever or pain in relation to infection, monitoring or infection is advised.

Flurbiprofen can prolong bleeding time and caution is required in patients with potential for abnormal bleeding.

The use of flurbiprofen may impair female fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive. In women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of infertility, withdrawal of flurbiprofen should be considered.

Excipients:

This product contains liquid maltitol (510 mg/lozenge) and Isomalt (2039 mg/lozenge), patients with rare hereditary problems of fructose intolerance should not take this medicine. May have a mild laxative effect. Calorific value 2.3 kcal/g for liquid maltitol and isomalt.

Contains sunset yellow (E110) which may cause allergic reactions.

It also contains fragrances in the orange flavour containing Citral, Citronellol, d-Limonene, Geraniol and Linalool which may cause allergic reactions.

This product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

4.5 Interactions with other Medicaments and other forms of Interactions

Flurbiprofen should be avoided in combination with:	
<i>Other NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors:</i>	Avoid concomitant use of two or more NSAIDs as this may increase the risk of adverse effects (esp. gastrointestinal adverse events such as ulcers and bleeding), (see section 4.4).
<i>Acetylsalicylic acid (low dose)</i>	Unless low-dose aspirin (not above 75mg daily) has been advised by a doctor, as this may increase the risk of adverse reactions (see section 4.4).

Flurbiprofen should be used with caution in combination with:	
<i>Anticoagulants:</i>	NSAIDs may enhance the effects of anti-coagulants, such as warfarin (see section 4.4).
<i>Anti-platelet Agents</i>	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4).
<i>Antihypertensive drugs (Diuretics, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II-antagonists):</i>	NSAIDs may reduce the effect of diuretics and other antihypertensive drugs may enhance nephrotoxicity caused by inhibition of cyclooxygenase, especially in patients with compromised renal function
<i>Alcohol</i>	May increase the risk of adverse reactions, especially of bleeding in the gastrointestinal tract
<i>Cardiac glycosides:</i>	NSAIDs may exacerbate cardiac failure, reduce GFR and increase plasma glycoside levels - adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended
<i>Ciclosporin:</i>	Increased risk of nephrotoxicity.
<i>Corticosteroids:</i>	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4)
<i>Lithium:</i>	May increase serum levels of lithium – adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended
<i>Methotrexate:</i>	The administration of NSAIDs within 24 hours before or after administration of methotrexate may lead to elevated concentrations of methotrexate and an increase in its toxic effect.
<i>Mifepristone:</i>	NSAIDs should not be used for 8 – 12 days after mifepristone administration as NSAIDs can reduce the effect of mifepristone.
<i>Oral antidiabetics</i>	Alteration of blood glucose levels reported (increased check rate recommended)
<i>Phenytoin</i>	May increase serum levels of phenytoin – adequate control and, if necessary, dose adjustment is recommended
<i>Potassium sparing diuretics</i>	Concomitant use may cause hyperkalaemia
<i>Probenecid Sulfapyrazone</i>	Medicinal products that contain probenecid or sulfapyrazone may delay the excretion of flurbiprofen.
<i>Quinolone antibiotics</i>	Animal data indicate that NSAIDs can increase the risk of convulsions associated with quinolone antibiotics. Patients taking NSAIDs and quinolones may have an increased risk of developing convulsions.
<i>Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRI's)</i>	Increased risk of gastrointestinal ulceration or bleeding (see section 4.4).

<i>Tacrolimus:</i>	Possible increased risk of nephrotoxicity when NSAIDs are given with tacrolimus.
<i>Zidovudine:</i>	Increased risk of haematological toxicity when NSAIDs are given with zidovudine.

No studies so far have revealed any interactions between flurbiprofen and tolbutamide or antacids.

Paediatric population: No additional information available.

4.6 Fertility, Pregnancy and Lactation

Pregnancy

There are no clinical data from the use of Strepsils Intensive Lozenge (flurbiprofen) during pregnancy. Even if systemic exposure is lower compared with oral administration, it is not known if the systemic exposure of flurbiprofen reached after topical administration can be harmful to an embryo/fetus. During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, Strepsils Intensive Lozenges should not be used unless clearly necessary. If used, the dose should be kept as low, and duration of treatment as short, as possible.

During the third trimester of pregnancy, systemic use of prostaglandin synthetase inhibitors including flurbiprofen may induce cardiopulmonary and renal toxicity in the fetus. At the end of the pregnancy, prolonged bleeding time in both mother and child may occur, and labour can be delayed. Therefore Strepsils Intensive Lozenge are contraindicated during the last trimester of pregnancy (see section 4.3).

Breast-feeding

In limited studies, Flurbiprofen appears in the breast milk in very low concentrations and is unlikely to affect the breast-fed infant adversely. However, because of possible adverse effects of NSAIDs on breast-fed infants, flurbiprofen is not recommended for use in nursing mothers.

Fertility

There is some evidence that drugs which inhibit cyclo-oxygenase/ prostaglandin synthesis may cause impairment of female fertility by an effect on ovulation. This is reversible on withdrawal of treatment.

4.7 Effects on ability to Drive and Use Machines

No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed. Dizziness, drowsiness and visual disturbances are possible undesirable side effects after taking NSAIDs. If affected, the patient should not drive or operate machinery.

4.8 Undesirable Effects

Hypersensitivity reactions have been reported following treatment with NSAIDs. These may consist of:

- (a) Non-specific allergic reactions and anaphylaxis,
- (b) Respiratory tract reactivity comprising asthma, aggravated asthma, bronchospasm or dyspnoea,
- (c) Assorted skin disorders, including rashes of various types, pruritus, urticaria, purpura, angioedema and more rarely exfoliative and bullous dermatoses (including epidermal necrolysis and erythema multiforme).

The list of following adverse effects relates to those experienced with flurbiprofen at OTC doses, in short-term use.

The frequencies of the adverse drug reactions (ADRs) reported below are based on the reporting of adverse events in all patients receiving flurbiprofen 8.75mg in placebo-controlled, open label and active comparator clinical trials.

They are tabulated by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as Very common ($\geq 1/10$); Common ($\geq 1/100$ and $< 1/10$); Uncommon ($\geq 1/1,000$ and $< 1/100$); Rare ($\geq 1/10,000$ and $< 1/1,000$); Very rare ($< 1/10,000$); Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

System Organ Class	Frequency	Adverse Events
Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders	Not known	Anaemia and thrombocytopenia.
Nervous System Disorders	Common	Dizziness, headache, paraesthesia
	Uncommon	Somnolence
Immune System Disorders	Rare	Anaphylactic reaction
Cardiac disorders	Not known	Cardiac failure, oedema, myocardial infarction
Vascular disorders	Not known	Hypertension
Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders	Common	Throat irritation
	Uncommon	Exacerbation of asthma and bronchospasm, dyspnoea, oropharyngeal blistering, pharyngeal hypoaesthesia
Gastrointestinal Disorders	Common	Diarrhoea, mouth ulceration, nausea, oral pain, paraesthesia oral, oropharyngeal pain, oral discomfort (warm or burning feeling or tingling of the mouth)
	Uncommon	Abdominal distension, abdominal pain, constipation, dry mouth, dyspepsia, flatulence, glossodynia, dysgeusia, oral dysaesthesia, vomiting.
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders	Uncommon	Various skin rashes, pruritus
	Not known	Severe forms of skin reaction such as bullous reactions, including Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis

General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions	Uncommon	Pyrexia, pain
Hepatobiliary Disorders	Not known	Hepatitis
Psychiatric Disorders	Uncommon	Insomnia

Reporting of Suspected Adverse Reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal 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: HPRA Pharmacovigilance. Website: www.hpra.ie.

4.9 Overdose

Symptoms:

Most patients who have ingested clinically important amounts of NSAIDs will develop symptoms of overdose that may include nausea, vomiting, epigastric pain, gastrointestinal irritation or more rarely diarrhoea, drowsiness, blurred vision and dizziness. Tinnitus, headache, and gastrointestinal bleeding are also possible. In more serious poisoning with NSAIDs, toxicity is seen in the central nervous system, manifesting as drowsiness, occasionally excitation, blurred vision and disorientation or coma. Occasionally patients develop convulsions. In serious poisoning with NSAIDs metabolic acidosis may occur and the prothrombin time/INR may be prolonged, probably due to interference with the actions of circulating clotting factors. Acute renal failure and liver damage may occur. Exacerbation of asthma is possible in asthmatics.

Management:

Management should be symptomatic and supportive and include the maintenance of a clear airway and monitoring of cardiac and vital signs until stable. Consider oral administration of activated charcoal and if necessary correction of serum electrolytes if the patient presents within one hour of ingestion or a potentially toxic amount. If frequent or prolonged, convulsions should be treated with intravenous diazepam or lorazepam. Give bronchodilators for asthma. There is no specific antidote to flurbiprofen.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Respiratory System; Throat preparations; Other throat preparations.
ATC Code: R02AX01

Flurbiprofen is a propionic acid derivative NSAID which acts through inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis. In humans flurbiprofen has potent analgesic, antipyretic and anti-inflammatory properties and the 8.75mg dose dissolved in artificial saliva has been shown to reduce prostaglandin synthesis in cultured human and respiratory cells.

According to studies using the whole body assay, flurbiprofen is a mixed COX-1/COX-2 inhibitor with some selectivity towards COX-1. Pre-clinical studies suggest that the R (-) enantiomer of flurbiprofen and related NSAIDs may relieve pain by acting on the central nervous system. Reduction in throat soreness was observed after 15 minutes while onset of pain relief and reduction of throat swelling was observed 30 minutes after taking a lozenge. Duration of action extended up to 3 hours.

A single dose of flurbiprofen 8.75mg delivered locally to the throat in a lozenge has been demonstrated to relieve sore throat, including swollen and inflamed sore throats through a significant reduction (LS Mean Difference) in sore throat pain intensity from 22 minutes (-5.5mm), reaching a maximum at 70 minutes (-13.7mm) and remaining significant for up to 240 minutes (-3.5mm) including patients with streptococcal and non-streptococcal infections, reduction in difficulty swallowing from 20 minutes (-6.7mm), reaching a maximum at 110 minutes (-13.9mm) and for up to 240 minutes (-3.5mm) and reduction in the feeling of a swollen throat at 60 minutes (-9.9mm), reaching a maximum at 120 minutes (-11.4mm) and for up to 210 minutes (-5.1mm).

Multiple dose efficacy measured using Sum of Pain Intensity Differences (SPID) over 24 hours has demonstrated significant reduction in sore throat pain intensity (-473.7mm*h to -529.1mm*h), difficulty swallowing (-458.4mm*h to -575.0mm*h) and swollen throat (-482.4mm*h to -549.9mm*h) with statistically significant greater summed reduction in pain at each hourly interval over 23 hours for all three measures and statistically significantly greater sore throat relief each hour over the 6 hour assessment time. Efficacy of multiple doses after 24 hours and over 3 days has also been demonstrated.

For those patients taking antibiotics for streptococcal infection, there was statistically significant greater relief of sore throat pain intensity for flurbiprofen 8.75mg from 7 hours and onwards after antibiotics were taken. The analgesic effect of flurbiprofen 8.75 mg was not reduced by the administration of antibiotics to treat patients with streptococcal sore throat.

At 2 hours post first dose, flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges provided significant resolution of some of the associated symptoms of sore throat present at baseline including coughing (50% vs 4%), loss of appetite (84% vs 57%) and feverishness (68% vs 29%). The lozenge format dissolves in the mouth over 5 - 12 minutes and provides a measurable soothing and coating effect at 2 minutes.

Paediatric population

No specific studies in children have been undertaken. Efficacy and safety studies on flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges have included children aged 12-17 years, although small sample size means that no statistical conclusions can be drawn.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic Properties

Absorption:

Flurbiprofen 8.75mg lozenges dissolve over 5-12 minutes and the flurbiprofen is readily absorbed, with detection in the blood at 5 minutes and plasma concentrations peaking at 40-45 minutes after administration but remaining at a mean low level of 1.4µg/mL which is approximately 4.4 times lower than a 50mg tablet dose. Absorption of flurbiprofen can occur from the buccal cavity by passive diffusion. Rate of absorption is dependent on pharmaceutical form with peak concentrations achieved more rapidly than, but of similar magnitude to, those achieved after an equivalent swallowed dose.

Distribution:

Flurbiprofen is rapidly distributed throughout the body and is extensively bound to plasma proteins.

Metabolism / Excretion:

Flurbiprofen is mainly metabolised by hydroxylation and conjugation in the liver and excreted via the kidneys. It has an elimination half-life of 3 to 6 hours. Flurbiprofen is excreted in very small amounts in human milk (less than 0.05 µg/ml). Approximately 20-25% of a flurbiprofen oral dose is excreted unchanged.

Special Groups

No difference in pharmacokinetic parameters between elderly and young adult volunteers has been reported following oral administration of flurbiprofen tablets. No pharmacokinetic data have been generated in children below 12 years of age following administration of Flurbiprofen 8.75 mg however administration of both flurbiprofen syrup and suppository formulations indicate no significant differences in pharmacokinetic parameters compared with adults.

5.3 Preclinical Safety Data

There are no preclinical data of relevance additional to information already included in other relevant sections.

6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**6.1 List of Excipients**

Macrogol 300

Potassium Hydroxide

Orange Flavour PHL-010300 (citral, citronellol, d-Limonene, geraniol and linalool)

Levomenthol

Acesulfame Potassium

Liquid Maltitol Isomalt (E953)

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable

6.3 Shelf Life

2 years

6.4 Special Precautions for Storage

Do not store above 25°C. Store in the Original package in order to protect from moisture.

6.5 Nature and Contents of Containers

A push through strip consisting of 250 microns opaque PVC/PVdC (polyvinylchloride/polyvinyl dichloride) blister, heat sealed to hard tempered 20 micron aluminium foil, containing 16 lozenges.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal of a used medicinal product or waste materials derived from such medicinal product and other handling of the product

No special requirements.

7 MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Reckitt Benckiser Ireland Ltd.,
7 Riverwalk,
Citywest Business Campus,
Dublin 24

8 MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

979/41/4

9 DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 04th July 2014
Date of last renewal: 3rd July 2019

10 DATE OF (PARTIAL) REVISION OF THE TEXT

January 2024