

Flam-N Ampoule For IM injection only or IV infusion

COMPOSITION AND PHARMACEUTICAL FORM: Each ampoule (3 ml) contains 75 mg diclofenac sodium.

EXCIPIENTS:

Mannitol, propylene glycol, benzyl alcohol, sodium metabisulphite, sodium hydroxide, water for injection.

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

Flam-N Ampoule is a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) that exhibits anti-inflammatory, analgesic, and antipyretic activities. Its mode of action, like that of other NSAIDs, is not completely understood but may be related to prostaglandin synthetase inhibition.

PHARMACOKINETICS:

Absorption:

Following IM injection of 75 mg diclofenac, mean peak plasma concentrations of 2.5 µg/ml are attained after approx. 20 minutes. Following IV infusion over 2 hours, mean peak plasma concentrations are approx. 1.9 µg/ml. More rapid infusion results in higher peak plasma concentrations, while longer infusions give plateau concentrations proportional to the rate of infusions after 3 – 4 hours.

Distribution:

Diclofenac is 99.7 % bound to serum proteins, mainly albumin (99.4%). Its apparent volume of distribution has been calculated as 0.12 – 0.17 litres/kg.

Elimination:

Total body clearance of diclofenac from plasma is 263 ± 56 ml/minute. The terminal half-life is 1 – 2 hours.

INDICATIONS:

Intramuscular injection: Initial treatment of:

- Exacerbation of inflammatory or degenerative forms of rheumatism: rheumatoid arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, arthrosis, spondylarthritis, painful syndromes of the vertebral column, non-articular rheumatism.
- Acute attacks of gout.
- Renal and biliary colic.
- Post-traumatic and postoperative pain, inflammation and swelling.
- Severe migraine attacks.

Intravenous infusion: Treatment or prevention of postoperative pain in hospitalized patients.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Adults:

Intramuscular injection: The usual dosage is one 75 mg ampoule daily, given by deep intragluteal injection into the upper outer quadrant. In severe cases the daily dose may exceptionally be increased to two 75 mg ampoules separated by an interval of a few hours.

Intravenous infusion: Flam-N Ampoule must not be given by IV bolus injection. Immediately prior to intravenous infusion, the contents of the Flam-N Ampoule ampoule must be diluted in a 0.9% saline or 5% glucose solution, buffered in either case with sodium bicarbonate.

Two alternative dosage regimens are recommended:

- For the treatment of moderate to severe post-operative pain, 75 mg should be infused continuously over a period of 30 minutes to 2 hours. If necessary, this may be repeated after an interval of a few hours. No more than 150 mg may be given within a 24 hour period.
- For the prevention of post-operative pain, a loading dose of 25 – 50 mg should be infused after surgery over a period of 15 minutes to 1 hour followed by a continuous infusion of about 5 mg/hour up to a maximum daily dosage of 150 mg.

Children and Adolescents:

Due to their dosage strength, Flam-N Ampoule ampoules are not suitable for children and adolescents.

Instructions for use:

Flam-N Ampoule for injection may be administered either IM by deep intragluteal injection in the upper outer quadrant or IV by slow infusion following dilution in accordance with the following instructions: Each ampoule is for single use only. The solution should be used immediately after opening the ampoule. Any unused contents should be discarded.

Depending on the intended duration of infusion, use either 100 – 500 ml of isotonic saline (0.9%) or 5% glucose solution. In either case, mix the solution with sodium bicarbonate solution for injection (0.5 ml of an 8.4% solution, 1 ml of a 4.2% solution or a corresponding volume of solution in a different concentration) taken from a freshly opened container. Add the contents of one Flam-N ampoule to this solution. Only clear solutions may be used. Do not use the solution if crystals or precipitates are visible.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.
- A history of bronchospasm, urticaria, acute rhinitis, nasal polyps or allergy-like symptoms after taking acetylsalicylic acid or other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.
- Third trimester of pregnancy.
- Active gastric and/or duodenal ulcers, gastrointestinal bleeding or perforation.
- Inflammatory bowel disease (such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis).
- Severe hepatic dysfunction.
- Moderate and severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance < 30 ml/minute).
- Severe heart failure.
- Patients at high risk for postoperative bleeding, anti-coagulation, incomplete haemostasis, haemopoietic disturbances or cerebrovascular bleeding.
- Treatment of postoperative pain after coronary bypass surgery (or use of a heart-lung machine).
- Children under 14 years of age.

WARNINGS:

Gastrointestinal ulceration, bleeding or perforation may occur at any time during treatment with NSAIDs. The consequences are generally more serious in the elderly. If gastrointestinal bleeding or ulceration occurs in patients undergoing treatment with Flam-N Ampoule, the medicinal product should be withdrawn.

A careful risk-benefit assessment must be carried out prior to using diclofenac in patients with clinically confirmed coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disorders, peripheral arterial occlusive disease or considerable risk factors (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidaemia, diabetes mellitus, smoking). Due to this risk, the lowest effective dose should be given for the shortest possible duration of treatment.

The renal effects of NSAIDs include fluid retention with oedema and/or arterial hypertension. For this reason, diclofenac should be used with caution in patients with cardiac dysfunction and other conditions that predispose to fluid retention. Caution is also indicated in patients who take concomitant diuretics or ACE inhibitors, or who are at increased risk of hypovolemia.

As with other NSAIDs, allergic reactions – including anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions- may occur in rare cases, even without prior exposure to diclofenac. Like other NSAIDs, diclofenac may mask the signs and symptoms of infection.

PRECAUTIONS:

General:

Concomitant use of Flam-N Ampoule with systemic NSAIDs should be avoided due to the absence of any evidence of synergistic benefits, and due to the potential for additive adverse effects. Caution is required in elderly patients. In particular, it is recommended that the lowest effective dosage be used in frail elderly patients or those with a low body weight. The sodium metabisulphite contained in the ampoule solution may cause hypersensitivity reactions in isolated cases.

Pre-existing asthma:

In patients with asthma, seasonal allergic rhinitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases or chronic infections of the respiratory tract, reactions to NSAIDs such as asthma exacerbations, Quinck's oedema or urticarial are more frequent than in other patients. Therefore, particular caution is required in such patients.

Gastrointestinal effects:

As with all NSAIDs, particular caution should be exercised when prescribing Flam-N Ampoule in patients with symptoms indicative of gastrointestinal (GI) disorders or with a history suggestive of gastric or intestinal ulceration, bleeding or perforation.

Hepatic effects:

As with other NSAIDs, levels of one or more liver enzymes may rise during treatment with Flam-N Ampoule. This has been observed very frequently with Diclofenac in clinical studies (in approx. 15% of patients), but is very rarely accompanied by clinical symptoms. Elevated enzyme levels were generally reversible after discontinuation of the drug. Close medical surveillance is required when giving Flam-N Ampoule to patients with hepatic impairment, as their condition might be exacerbated. Caution is required when using Flam-N Ampoule in patients with hepatic porphyria, since it may trigger an attack.

Renal effects:

Prolonged treatment with high doses of NSAIDs frequently (1-10%) results in oedema and hypertension.

Haematological effects:

As with other NSAIDs, complete blood counts are recommended during long-term treatment with Diclofenac. Flam-N Ampoule may temporarily inhibit platelet aggregation. Patients with coagulation disorders should be closely monitored.

INTERACTIONS:

Lithium: Diclofenac may increase plasma concentrations of concomitantly administered lithium. Monitoring of serum lithium levels is recommended.

Digoxin: Diclofenac may increase plasma concentrations of concomitantly administered digoxin. Monitoring of serum digoxin levels is recommended.

Diuretics and antihypertensive agents: As with other NSAIDs, concomitant use of diclofenac may reduce the antihypertensive effects of diuretics or antihypertensive agents. Concomitant treatment with potassium sparing drugs may increase serum potassium levels, which should therefore be monitored frequently.

Other NSAIDs and corticosteroids: Concomitant administration of diclofenac with other systemic NSAIDs or corticosteroids may increase the frequency of gastrointestinal adverse effects.

Anticoagulants and antiplatelet agents: Caution is required since concomitant administration could increase the risk of bleeding.

Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs): Concomitant administration of systemic NSAIDs, and SSRIs may increase the risk of gastrointestinal bleeding.

Anti-diabetic agents: Diclofenac can be given together with oral anti-diabetic agents without influencing their clinical effects.

Methotrexate: Caution is required when NSAIDs are administered less than 24 hours before or after treatment with methotrexate because blood levels of methotrexate may rise, and methotrexate toxicity may increase.

Ciclosporin: Diclofenac may increase the nephrotoxicity of ciclosporin due to its effects on renal prostaglandins. It should therefore be given at doses lower than those that would be used in patients not receiving ciclosporin.

Quinolone antibiotics: There have been isolated reports of convulsions that may have been due to concomitant use of quinolones and NSAIDs.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

Pregnancy: The use of diclofenac has not been studied in pregnant women.

First and second trimesters: Flam-N ampoules may only be given if absolutely essential and only at the lowest effective dose.

Third trimester: Like other NSAIDs, diclofenac is contraindicated during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Lactation: Like other NSAIDs, small amounts of diclofenac pass into the breast milk. Therefore, in order to avoid adverse effects in the infant, Flam-N Ampoule should not be used by breastfeeding women. If treatment is essential the infant should be switched to bottle feeding.

Fertility: Like other NSAIDs, Flam-N ampoules may impair female fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive.

EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES:

Patients experiencing visual disturbances, light-headedness, dizziness, drowsiness or other central nervous system disturbances while taking Flam-N Ampoule should refrain from driving or using machines.

ADVERSE REACTIONS:

The following adverse effects include those reported with Flam-N for injection and/or other dosage forms of diclofenac during either short-term or long-term use.

Nervous system disorders:

Common: Headache, light-headedness.

Ear and labyrinth disorders:

Common: Vertigo.

Gastrointestinal disorders:

Common: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, dyspepsia, flatulence, loss of appetite.

Hepatobiliary disorders:

Common: Elevated transaminases.

Skin disorders:

Common: Rash.

Renal and urinary disorders:

Common: Fluid retention, edema, hypertension.

Administration site reactions:

Common: Injection site reaction, injection site pain, injection site induration.

Clinical studies and epidemiological data suggest that diclofenac, particularly at high doses (150 mg daily) and with prolonged use, may be associated with and elevated risk of arterial thromboembolic events (e.g. myocardial infarction or stroke).

OVERDOSE:

Signs and symptoms:

There is no typical clinical picture following diclofenac overdosage. Overdosage may cause symptoms such as vomiting, gastrointestinal bleeding, diarrhea, light-headedness, tinnitus or convulsions. Acute renal failure and liver damage are possible in the event of severe intoxication.

Therapeutic Management:

Management of acute intoxication with NSAIDs, including diclofenac, essentially consists of supportive measures and symptomatic treatment. Supportive measures and symptomatic treatment should be given for complications such as hypotension, renal failure, convulsions, gastrointestinal disorders and respiratory depression.

Specific measures such as forced diuresis, dialysis or hemoperfusion are unlikely to be helpful in accelerating the elimination of NSAIDs, including diclofenac, because of their high protein-binding and extensive metabolism.

STORAGE:

Do not store above 30°C.

Keep the ampoules in the original outer carton to protect from light.

PACKAGE:

5 ampoules × (3 ml) in carton package.

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instruction is dangerous for you.- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament. The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed by you.- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.
KEEP THE MEDICAMENT OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN

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