

Effects on mental state. Acute psychoses occurred in 2 patients receiving clarithromycin as part of prophylactic treatment for *Helicobacter pylori* infection and were similar to 3 previous-

ly reported cases in either AIDS patients or elderly subjects.¹ Delirium² has also been associated with clarithromycin monotherapy in an elderly patient, and visual hallucinations have occurred in a 37-year-old woman being treated with ceftriaxone and clarithromycin for suspected pneumonia.³ A review⁴ of published and spontaneous reports found an association between adverse manic reactions and the use of certain antibacterials; clarithromycin was found to be the antibacterial most frequently implicated.

1. Gómez-Gil E, et al. Clarithromycin-induced acute psychoses in peptic ulcer disease. *Eur J Clin Microbiol Infect Dis* 1999; **18**: 70–1.
2. Özsoylar G, et al. Clarithromycin monotherapy-induced delirium. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 2007; **59**: 331.
3. Fernández Arenas O, et al. Alucinaciones por administración de una pauta estándar de claritromicina. *Farm Hosp* 2007; **31**: 315–16.
4. Abouesh A, et al. Antimicrobial-induced mania (antibiomania): a review of spontaneous reports. *J Clin Psychopharmacol* 2002; **22**: 71–81.

Effects on the pancreas. Pancreatitis has been reported in patients receiving clarithromycin.^{1–3}

1. Liviu L, et al. Pancreatitis induced by clarithromycin. *Ann Intern Med* 1996; **125**: 701.
2. Schouwenberg BJW, Deinum J. Acute pancreatitis after a course of clarithromycin. *Neth J Med* 2003; **61**: 266–7.
3. González Carro P, et al. Acute pancreatitis and modified-release clarithromycin. *Ann Pharmacother* 2004; **38**: 508–509.

Hypersensitivity. In addition to skin rashes and other hypersensitivity reactions which occasionally occur in patients receiving macrolides, leukocytoclastic vasculitis,¹ Henoch-Schönlein purpura,² and toxic epidermal necrolysis³ have been reported in patients receiving clarithromycin.

1. Gavura SR, Nusinowitz S. Leukocytoclastic vasculitis associated with clarithromycin. *Ann Pharmacother* 1998; **32**: 543–5.
2. Borrás-Blasco J, et al. Henoch-Schönlein purpura associated with clarithromycin: case report and review of literature. *Int J Clin Pharmacol Ther* 2003; **41**: 213–16. Correction. *ibid.*; 420.
3. Khaldi N, et al. Toxic epidermal necrolysis and clarithromycin. *Can J Clin Pharmacol* 2005; **12**: e264–e268.

Interactions

For a discussion of drug interactions of macrolide antibacterials, see Erythromycin, p.271.

Antidiabetics. For reference to hypoglycaemia resulting from the addition of clarithromycin to *glibenclamide* or *glipizide*, see Antibacterials, p.462.

Antiretroviral drugs. In studies in healthy subjects,^{1,2} the HIV-protease inhibitor *ritonavir* inhibited the metabolism of clarithromycin, increasing plasma concentrations and prolonging half-life. The metabolism of *ritonavir* was not affected significantly. The two drugs may be given together in usual doses to those with normal renal function but licensed product information for clarithromycin recommends that its dose should be reduced in patients with renal impairment receiving *ritonavir* and it should be noted that this is an extra reduction over and above that which may be needed for the renal impairment alone. Doses of clarithromycin should be reduced by 50% in patients with a creatinine clearance (CC) of 30 to 60 mL/minute and reduced by 75% in those with a CC below 30 mL/minute; the daily dose should not exceed 1 g. It has been suggested that other HIV-protease inhibitors (see also Table of Interactions of Drugs Used in the Treatment of HIV, p.917) and the NNRTI *delavirdine* may have a similar effect on clarithromycin. Use of *efavirenz* with clarithromycin has decreased plasma concentration of clarithromycin and increased its hydroxy metabolite. The combination has been associated with a high incidence of skin rashes. Decreases in the plasma concentration of clarithromycin have also been noted with *nevirapine*.

Decreased concentrations of *zidovudine* (p.915) have been reported in patients also taking clarithromycin and clarithromycin product information recommends that doses of the two drugs should be separated by 1 to 2 hours.

1. Ouellet D, et al. Assessment of the pharmacokinetic interaction between *ritonavir* and clarithromycin. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 1996; **59**: 143.
2. Ouellet D, et al. Pharmacokinetic interaction between *ritonavir* and clarithromycin. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 1998; **64**: 355–62.

Colchicine. For mention of fatal colchicine toxicity associated with concomitant use of clarithromycin, see Macrolides, p.557.

Disulfiram. For a report of an interaction between clarithromycin and disulfiram, see Macrolides, p.2297.

Fluoxetine. For a report of delirium following use of clarithromycin with fluoxetine, see Antibacterials, p.396.

Gastrointestinal drugs. In a study¹ in healthy subjects, concentrations of clarithromycin and its active metabolite were increased in gastric tissue and mucus and, to a lesser extent, in plasma during use of *omeprazole*. In addition, use of clarithromycin with *omeprazole* resulted in higher and more prolonged plasma concentrations of *omeprazole*. The investigators suggest that this interaction could account for the synergistic action observed with this combination when used for eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*. However, licensed product information for clarithromycin states that no dosage adjustment to either drug is necessary.

Although a study² in healthy subjects suggested that some pharmacokinetic parameters of clarithromycin are altered by *cimetidine*, the clinical significance of such changes are unknown.

1. Gustavson LE, et al. Effect of *omeprazole* on concentrations of clarithromycin in plasma and gastric tissue at steady state. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1995; **39**: 2078–83.
2. Amsden GW, et al. Oral *cimetidine* prolongs clarithromycin absorption. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1998; **42**: 1578–80.

Antimicrobial Action

As for Erythromycin, p.271.

Clarithromycin is reported to be more active than erythromycin against susceptible streptococci and staphylococci *in vitro*, as well as against some other species including *Moraxella catarrhalis* (*Branhamella catarrhalis*), *Legionella* spp., *Chlamydia trachomatis*, and *Ureaplasma urealyticum*. Clarithromycin is reported to be more active than erythromycin or azithromycin against some mycobacteria, including *Mycobacterium avium* complex and *M. leprae*. It is reported to have some *in-vitro* activity against the protozoan *Toxoplasma gondii*. The major metabolite, 14-hydroxyclearithromycin, is also active, and may enhance the activity of clarithromycin *in vivo*, notably against *Haemophilus influenzae*. The MICs of this metabolite are equal or twofold higher than those of the parent drug; the former is twofold more active than the latter against *H. influenzae*.

Activity with other antimicrobials. Clarithromycin has been reported to enhance the activity of a number of antimicrobials including ethambutol, isoniazid, pyrazinamide, and rifampicin against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.^{1,2}

1. Cavalieri SJ, et al. Synergistic activities of clarithromycin and antituberculous drugs against multi drug-resistant *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1995; **39**: 1542–5.
2. Mor N, Esfandiari A. Synergistic activities of clarithromycin and pyrazinamide against *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in human macrophages. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1997; **41**: 2035–6.

Resistance. Erythromycin-resistant isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* are commonly cross-resistant to clarithromycin.¹ The incidence of resistance to clarithromycin and other macrolides is higher among penicillin-resistant strains than among penicillin-sensitive strains.² Clarithromycin-resistant isolates of *Helicobacter pylori* have also emerged.^{3–6} Genetic mutations responsible for clarithromycin resistance have been identified in *H. pylori*⁷ and in *Mycobacterium* spp.^{8,9} Since resistance develops rapidly in *M. avium* during clarithromycin monotherapy, combination therapy is usually recommended. However, resistance to clarithromycin in an AIDS patient with systemic *M. avium* complex infection, despite combined treatment with clofazimine, has been described.¹⁰

1. Lonks JR, Medeiros AA. High rate of erythromycin and clarithromycin resistance among *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolates from blood cultures from Providence, RI. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1993; **37**: 1742–5.
2. Barry AL, et al. Macrolide resistance among *Streptococcus pneumoniae* and *Streptococcus pyogenes* isolates from outpatients in the USA. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1997; **40**: 139–40.
3. López-Brea M, et al. Evolution of resistance to metronidazole and clarithromycin in *Helicobacter pylori* clinical isolates from Spain. *J Antimicrob Chemother* 1997; **40**: 279–81.
4. Hultén K, et al. Macrolide resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*: mechanism and stability in strains from clarithromycin-treated patients. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1997; **41**: 2550–3.
5. Kalach N, et al. High levels of resistance to metronidazole and clarithromycin in *Helicobacter pylori* strains in children. *J Clin Microbiol* 2001; **39**: 394–7.
6. Grove DI, Koutsouridis G. Increasing resistance of *Helicobacter pylori* to clarithromycin: is the horse bolting? *Pathology* 2002; **34**: 71–3.
7. Versalovic J, et al. Mutations in 23S rRNA are associated with clarithromycin resistance in *Helicobacter pylori*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1996; **40**: 477–80.
8. Nash KA, Inderlied CB. Genetic basis of macrolide resistance in *Mycobacterium avium* isolated from patients with disseminated disease. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1995; **39**: 2625–30.
9. Wallace RJ, et al. Genetic basis for clarithromycin resistance among isolates of *Mycobacterium chelonae* and *Mycobacterium abscessus*. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 1996; **40**: 1676–81.
10. De Wit S, et al. Acquired resistance to clarithromycin as combined therapy in *Mycobacterium avium* intracellular infection. *Lancet* 1993; **341**: 53–4.

Pharmacokinetics

Clarithromycin is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, and undergoes first-pass metabolism; the bioavailability of the parent drug is about 55%. The extent of absorption is relatively unaffected by the presence of food. Peak plasma concentrations occur 2 to 3 hours after an oral dose. At steady state, peak plasma concentrations of clarithromycin and its principal active metabolite, 14-hydroxyclearithromycin, are about 1 and 0.6 micrograms/mL, respectively, after 250 mg

orally every 12 hours as tablets. The same dose given as a suspension to fasting subjects produces steady-state plasma concentrations of about 2 micrograms/mL of clarithromycin and about 0.7 micrograms/mL of 14-hydroxyclearithromycin. Steady-state concentrations are reached within 3 to 4 days.

The pharmacokinetics of clarithromycin are non-linear and dose dependent; high doses may produce disproportionate increases in peak concentrations of the parent drug, due to saturation of the metabolic pathways. However, the non-linearity is slight at the recommended doses of 250 to 500 mg every 8 to 12 hours.

Clarithromycin and 14-hydroxyclearithromycin are widely distributed, and tissue concentrations exceed those in serum, in part because of intracellular uptake. Plasma protein binding has been reported to be about 80%. Clarithromycin has been detected in breast milk. It is extensively metabolised in the liver, and excreted in faeces via the bile; 5 to 10% of the parent drug is recovered from the faeces. At steady state, about 20% and 30% of a 250-mg or 500-mg dose as tablets, respectively, and about 40% of a 250-mg dose as suspension, is excreted in the urine as unchanged drug. 14-Hydroxyclearithromycin as well as other metabolites are also excreted in the urine, accounting for 10 to 15% of the dose. The elimination half-lives of clarithromycin and 14-hydroxyclearithromycin are about 3 to 4 and 5 to 6 hours, respectively in patients receiving 250 mg every 12 hours, and about 5 to 7 and 7 to 9 hours, respectively, in those receiving 500 mg every 8 to 12 hours. The half-life is prolonged in renal impairment.

◊ Reviews.

1. Rodvold KA. Clinical pharmacokinetics of clarithromycin. *Clin Pharmacokinet* 1999; **37**: 385–98.

Uses and Administration

Clarithromycin is a macrolide derived from erythromycin with similar actions and uses (p.272). It is given in the treatment of respiratory-tract infections (including otitis media) and in skin and soft-tissue infections. Clarithromycin is also used for the prophylaxis and treatment of nontuberculous mycobacterial infections and has been used as a second-line drug in the treatment of leprosy. It is used in some countries as an alternative to penicillins for prophylaxis of endocarditis.

For details of all these infections and their treatment, see under Choice of Antibacterial, p.162.

Clarithromycin may be given to eradicate *Helicobacter pylori* in treatment regimens for peptic ulcer disease (p.1702). It is used with pyrimethamine as an alternative regimen in the treatment of toxoplasmosis (p.826).

Clarithromycin is given orally or by intravenous infusion. Some clarithromycin preparations are prepared with the aid of lactobionic acid and may be stated to contain clarithromycin lactobionate. Doses are expressed in terms of the equivalent amount of clarithromycin.

Usual oral doses in adults are 250 mg twice daily, increased to 500 mg twice daily if necessary in severe infection. Modified-release tablets allowing once-daily use are available in some countries.

The usual intravenous dose is 500 mg twice daily, given as an infusion over 60 minutes using a solution containing about 0.2% of clarithromycin. Intravenous treatment may continue for 2 to 5 days, but should be changed to oral clarithromycin when possible.

For treatment and prophylaxis of disseminated infection due to *Mycobacterium avium* complex, clarithromycin may be given in an oral dose of 500 mg twice daily; for treatment, it should be given with other antimicrobials. For leprosy, oral clarithromycin 500 mg daily has been given as part of an alternative multidrug therapy regimen.

For the eradication of *H. pylori* associated with peptic ulcer disease, clarithromycin, usually in an oral dose of 500 mg twice daily, is given with another antibacterial

and either a proton pump inhibitor or a histamine H₂-receptor antagonist, for 7 to 14 days.

For details of doses in infants and children, see below.

Doses may need to be reduced in patients with severe renal impairment (see below).

Reviews.

1. Peters DH, Clissold SP. Clarithromycin: a review of its antimicrobial activity, pharmacokinetic properties and therapeutic potential. *Drugs* 1992; **44**: 117–64.
2. Barradell LB, et al. Clarithromycin: a review of its pharmacological properties and therapeutic use in Mycobacterium avium-intracellulare complex infection in patients with acquired immune deficiency syndrome. *Drugs* 1993; **46**: 289–312.
3. Markham A, McTavish D. Clarithromycin and omeprazole: as Helicobacter pylori eradication therapy in patients with H. pylori-associated gastric disorders. *Drugs* 1996; **51**: 161–78.
4. Alvarez-Elcors S,ENZLER MJ. The macrolides: erythromycin, clarithromycin, and azithromycin. *Mayo Clin Proc* 1999; **74**: 613–34.
5. Zuckerman JM. Macrolides and ketolides: azithromycin, clarithromycin, telithromycin. *Infect Dis Clin North Am* 2004; **18**: 621–49.

Administration in children. The usual oral dose of clarithromycin for infants and children is 7.5 mg/kg twice daily; those over 12 years of age may be given the usual adult dose (see above).

Although intravenous use is not licensed for children in the UK the BNFC suggests a dose of 7.5 mg/kg twice daily for those aged from 1 month to 12 years; older children may be given the adult dose (see above).

For prophylaxis of disseminated infection due to *Mycobacterium avium* complex, clarithromycin may be given in an oral dose of 7.5 mg/kg twice daily; when used for treatment, it should be given with other antimycobacterials and the dose may be increased to 15 mg/kg (to a maximum of 500 mg) twice daily.

For the eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* associated with peptic ulcer disease, the BNFC suggests that 7.5 mg/kg twice daily may also be given orally with another antibacterial and a proton pump inhibitor for 7 days to children aged 1 year and over.

Administration in renal impairment. Licensed product information states that in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance of less than 30 mL/minute) dosage of clarithromycin may need to be halved or the dosing interval doubled.

Ischaemic heart disease. For mention of studies investigating clarithromycin in the prevention of ischaemic heart disease, see under Azithromycin, p.208.

Multiple myeloma. Clarithromycin 500 mg orally twice daily has been added¹ to a regimen of lenalidomide and dexamethasone in treatment-naïve patients with multiple myeloma (p.658). The regimen (BiRD) was considered effective and well tolerated, with a higher response rate at lower dexamethasone doses than had been previously reported with lenalidomide and dexamethasone alone. A regimen of clarithromycin, low-dose thalidomide, and dexamethasone (BLT-D) has also been evaluated.²

1. Niesvizky R, et al. BiRD (Biaxin [clarithromycin]/Revlimid [lenalidomide]/dexamethasone) combination therapy results in high complete- and overall-response rates in treatment-naïve symptomatic multiple myeloma. *Blood* 2008; **111**: 1101–9.
2. Coleman M, et al. BLT-D (clarithromycin [Biaxin], low-dose thalidomide, and dexamethasone) for the treatment of myeloma and Waldenström's macroglobulinemia. *Leuk Lymphoma* 2002; **43**: 1777–82.

Respiratory disorders. For reference to the use of clarithromycin in the management of respiratory disorders, see under Erythromycin, p.273.

Preparations

USP 31: Clarithromycin Extended-Release Tablets; Clarithromycin for Oral Suspension; Clarithromycin Tablets.

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Arg.: Aeroxina; Centromiclin; Claribiotic; Clarinac; Clarimax; Clarimid; Clarovit; Clatromicin; Conix; Finasept; Ira; Iset; Kallasa; Klaricid; Klonacid; Macromicina; Orabiot UD†; **Austral.:** Clarac; Clarithro; Kalixocin; Klaricid; **Austria:** Claracana; Klaricid; Maclar; Monocid; **Belg.:** Biclax; Helidar; Madar; Monaxint; **Braz.:** Clamcin; Clarinac†; Clarineo; Claritromax; Claritron†; Clatorin†; Klaricid; Klaritrit†; **Canada:** Biaxin; **Chile:** Clarimax; Clarospir; Clatic; Eucromina; Inflex; Klaricid; Must†; Pre-Clar†; **Cz.:** Clarexid; Clarospir; Fromilid; Klaxab; Klaricid; Lekoklar; Zeclart†; **Denm.:** Klaricid; **Fin.:** Klaricid; Zeclar; **Fr.:** Monoxony; Monozedac; Naxy; Zeclar; **Ger.:** Biaxin; Clarithrobeta; Cylind; Klaricid; Mavid; **Gr.:** Arecid; Chlamydidin; Claribactron; Clarimex; Claripen; Claromycin; Derizic; Egelf; Eliben; Ezumycin; Geromycin; Glartin; Klaretop; Klaricet; Klarifar; Klarifect; Klarithrin; Klaroxin; Klarzide; Larithro; Laromlin; Lyodlar; Macladin; Maxilin; Odydin; Oklaricid†; Pharmedron; Primocid; Ridelmed; Rithoprol; Ritran; Zeclaren; **Hong Kong:** Binoclar; Clacin; Cleron; Klaricid; Klarimed; Synclar; **Hung.:** Cidoclar; Fromilid; Klaxab; Klaricid; Klariran†; Klarit; Klarigen; Lekoklar; **India:** Biclax; Klaribact; Klaribid; Claripic; Clarinac; Maclar; Synclar; **Indon.:** Abbotic; Bicolrid; Binoklar; Clacine; Clapharma; Combro; Hecobac; Klaricid; Klarospir; Clonocid; Clorom; Klaricid; **Israel:** Karin; Klaricid; Klaridex; **Ital.:** Klaricid; Macladin; Veclar; **Jpn:** Clarith; **Malaysia:** Binoclar; Crixan; Klaricid; Klarimed; Maclar; **Mex.:** Adel; Arleyon-K; Clatrocin; Crolisil; Doycur; Gervaken; Klabet; Klaricid; Klaric; Klarmin; Klarpharma; Krobiclin; Klaripin; Klarit; Neo-Claroquin; Quedo; Rolicytin; Torvic; Trimbea; Vikrol; Xudamin; **Neth.:** Claroipic; Klaricid; Klaricid; **Norw.:** Klaricid; **NZ:** Clarac; Klaricid; **Philipp.:** Bysclax; Claranta; Clariget; Klaricid; Klarmin; Klarz; Larizin; Maxulid; **Pol.:** Fromilid; Klaxab; Klabin; Klaricid; Klarmin; Lekoklar; Taclar; **Port.:** Cidlini; Clacina; Claraciot; Claroipic; Klaricid; Zeclar; **Rus.:** Clarbact (Klarbact); Fromilid (Fromilid); Klaxab (Klaxab); Klaricid (Klaricid); Klaromlin (Klaromlin); Klarimed (Klarimed); **S.Afr.:** Clacine; Clarin-Hexal; Klaricid; Klarithran; **Singapore:** Clari; Claripen; Cleron; Crixan; Klaricid; Klarimed; **Spain:** Bremor;

Claritur†; Klaricid; Kofron; Talicid; **Swed.:** Klaricid; **Switz.:** Claromycine; Klaricid; Klacipid; **Thai.:** Clarith; Claron; Crixan; Fascar; Klaricid; **Turk.:** Klaricid; Klaricid; Klarolid; Klaromlin; Klar; Laricid; Macrol; Megacid; Uniklar; **UAE:** Claromycin; **UK:** Clarospir; Klaricid; **USA:** Biaxin; **Venez.:** Binoclar; Claranta; Clantic; Claritron; Clarinax; Klaricid.

Multi-ingredient: **Arg.:** Heliklar†; **Austral.:** Klaricid HP 7; Losec HP 7; Nexium Hp; Pylorid-KA; **Austria:** Helipac; **Braz.:** Anzopac†; Erradic; H-Bacter; Helicoid; Triplicet; Helicopac; Heliklar; Omepramix; Pylonit; Pyloripac; Pyloritrat; **Canada:** Hp-Pac; Losec 1-2-3 A; Losec 1-2-3 M; **Fin.:** Helipak K; **Ger.:** ZacPac; **India:** OTC HP Kit; Pylolit; **Malaysia:** Klaricid HP 7; Pylolact Combi; **Mex.:** Pylolac; Rezipen; **Neth.:** PantoPAC; **NZ:** Klaricid HP 7; Losec Hp 7; **Philipp.:** OAC Hp7; **Rus.:** Pylolact (Тилобакт); **S.Afr.:** Losec 20 Triple†; **Swed.:** Nexium Hp; **Turk.:** Helipak; **UK:** Heliclar†; Helimet†; **USA:** Prepac.

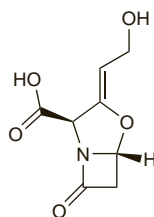
Clavulanic Acid (BAN, rINN)

Acide Clavulannique; Ácido clavulánico; Acidum Clavulanicum; BRL-14151; Klavulanik Asit; MM-14151. (Z)-(2R,5R)-3-(2-Hydroxyethylidene)-7-oxo-4-oxa-1-azabicyclo[3.2.0]heptane-2-carboxylic acid.

Клавулановая Кислота

C₈H₉NO₅ = 199.2.

CAS — 58001-44-8 (clavulanic acid); 57943-81-4 (sodium clavulanate).



Potassium Clavulanate (BANM, rNNM)

BRL-14151K; Clavulanate de Potassium; Clavulanate Potassium (USAN); Clavulanato potásico; Kali clavulanatas; Kalio klavulanatas; Kaliumklavulanat; Kaliumklavulanat; Kálium-klavulanát; Kalium-klavulanát; Potassium, clavulanate de; Potasu klavulanian.

Калия Клавуланат

C₈H₈KNO₅ = 237.3.

CAS — 61177-45-5.

NOTE. Compounded preparations of potassium clavulanate may be represented by the following names:

- Co-amoxiclav *x/y* (BAN)—amoxicillin (as the trihydrate or the sodium salt) and potassium clavulanate; *x* and *y* are the strengths in milligrams of amoxicillin and clavulanic acid respectively
- Co-amoxiclav (PEN)—amoxicillin trihydrate and potassium clavulanate.

Pharmacopoeias. In *Chin.*, *Eur.* (see p.vii), *Jpn.* and *US*.

Eur. also includes Diluted Potassium Clavulanate.

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Potassium Clavulanate). The potassium salt of a substance produced by the growth of certain strains of *Streptomyces clavuligerus* or by any other means. A white or almost white, hygroscopic, crystalline powder. Freely soluble in water; slightly soluble in alcohol; very slightly soluble in acetone. A 1% solution in water has a pH of 5.5 to 8.0. Store in airtight containers at a temperature of 2° to 8°.

Ph. Eur. 6.2 (Potassium Clavulanate, Diluted; Kali Clavulanatas Dilutus). A dry mixture of potassium clavulanate and microcrystalline cellulose or anhydrous or hydrated colloidal silicon dioxide. A white or almost white, hygroscopic, powder. A suspension corresponding to 1% of potassium clavulanate in water has a pH of 4.8 to 8.0. Store in airtight containers.

USP 31 (Clavulanate Potassium). A white to off-white powder. Freely soluble in water; soluble in methyl alcohol with decomposition. Stability in aqueous solutions is not good, optimum stability at a pH of 6.0 to 6.3. pH of a 1% solution in water is between 5.5 and 8.0. Store in airtight containers.

Profile

Clavulanic acid is produced by cultures of *Streptomyces clavuligerus*. It has a beta-lactam structure resembling that of the penicillin nucleus, except that the fused thiazolidine ring of the penicillins is replaced by an oxazolidine ring. In general, clavulanic acid has only weak antibacterial activity. It is a potent progressive inhibitor of plasmid-mediated and some chromosomal beta-lactamases produced by Gram-negative bacteria including *Haemophilus ducreyi*, *H. influenzae*, *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis* (*Branhamella catarrhalis*), *Bacteroides fragilis*, and some Enterobacteriaceae. It is also an inhibitor of the beta-lactamases produced by *Staphylococcus aureus*. Clavulanic acid can permeate bacterial cell walls and can therefore inactivate both extracellular enzymes and those that are bound to the cell. Its mode of action depends on the particular enzyme inhibited, but it generally acts as a competitive, and often irreversible, inhibitor. Clavulanic acid consequently enhances the activity

of penicillin and cephalosporin antibacterials against many resistant strains of bacteria. However, it is generally less effective against chromosomally mediated type 1 beta-lactamases; therefore, many *Citrobacter*, *Enterobacter*, *Morganella*, and *Serratia* spp., and *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* remain resistant. Some plasmid-mediated extended-spectrum beta-lactamases in *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, some other Enterobacteriaceae, and *P. aeruginosa* are also not inhibited by beta-lactamase inhibitors.

Clavulanic acid is given as potassium clavulanate orally and by injection with amoxicillin (co-amoxiclav) (p.202), and by injection with ticarcillin (p.352).

Use of clavulanate with penicillins has been associated with the development of cholestatic jaundice and hepatitis (see under Adverse Effects of Amoxicillin, p.202) and therefore the use of co-amoxiclav has declined (see below).

Because of the risk of cholestatic jaundice co-amoxiclav is not a treatment of choice for common bacterial infections. The UK CSM¹ recommended that it should be reserved for bacterial infections likely to be caused by amoxicillin-resistant beta-lactamase-producing strains and that treatment should not usually exceed 14 days. It may be considered for the following main indications:

- sinusitis, otitis media, recurrent tonsillitis
- acute exacerbations of chronic bronchitis
- bronchopneumonia
- urinary-tract infections, especially when recurrent or complicated, but not prostatitis
- septic abortion, pelvic or puerperal sepsis, and intra-abdominal sepsis
- cellulitis, animal bites, and severe dental abscess with spreading cellulitis.

1. Committee on Safety of Medicines/Medicines Control Agency. Revised indications for co-amoxiclav (Augmentin). *Current Problems* 1997; **23**: 8. Also available at: http://www.mhra.gov.uk/home/idcplg?IdcService=GET_FILE&dDocName=CON2023230&RevisionSelectionMethod=LatestReleased (accessed 11/07/06)

Preparations

BP 2008: Co-amoxiclav Injection; Co-amoxiclav Tablets;

USP 31: Amoxicillin and Clavulanate Potassium for Oral Suspension; Amoxicillin and Clavulanate Potassium Tablets; Ticarcillin and Clavulanic Acid for Injection; Ticarcillin and Clavulanic Acid Injection.

Proprietary Preparations (details are given in Part 3)

Arg.: Optamox; **Indon.:** Aclam; **Turk.:** Amoksilav.

Multi-ingredient: **Arg.:** Aclav; Amixen Clavulinico; Amoclav; Amoxi Plus; Amoxigrand Compueto; Amoxiten Plus; Bi Moxal; Bi Moxal Duo; Bioclad; Bioxilla Plus; Clavulox; Clavulox Duo; Cloximar Duo; Darzitol Plus; Dibionat; Fullinella Plus†; Grinsil Clavulinico; Klonalmo; **Austral.:** Augmentin; Ausclav†; Clamohexal; Clamoxyl†; Clavulin; Curam; Timentin; **Austria:** Amoclar; Amoxicillin comp; AmoxiClavulan; Amoxicomp; Amoxipilus; Amoxistad plus; Augmentin; Benclav; Benomox; Betamoclav; Clavamox; Clavex; Clavolex; Clavopilus; Clavulax; CombAmox; Curam; Lanocid; Lekamoxiclav; Oxyclav; Xiclav; **Belg.:** Amoclave; Augmentin; Clavucid; Co-Amoxi; Co-Amoxilan†; Docamocid†; Timocin; **Braz.:** Augmentin; Betaclav; Clav-Air†; Clavoxil†; Clavulin; Novamox; Policlavumoxil; Sigma Clav; Timentin; **Canada:** Apo-Amoxi Clav; Clavulin; Novo-Clavumoxin; ratio-Aclavulanate; Timentin; **Chile:** Ambian; Amblian Bid; Amolex; Augmentin; Augmentin Bid; Clavexin; Clavexin Duo; Clavoxilina Bid; **Cz.:** Amoksilav; Augmentin; Augmentin-Duo; Betaclav; Curam; Enhancin; Forcid; Klamoxin†; Megamox; Timentin; **Denm.:** Bioclad; Spektramox; **Fin.:** Amoxin Comp; Augmentin; Bioclad; Clapharin Comp; Clavulin; Clavulax; Forcid; Spektramox†; **Fr.:** Augmentin; Ciblor; Claventin; **Ger.:** Abiclav; Amoclav; Amox-clav; Amoxi-Clavulan; Amoxi-saar plus; Amoxicillin comp; Amoxiclav; Amoxidura Plus; Amoxilact-Clav†; Amucilan†; Augmentan; **Gr.:** Augmentin; Bioclad; Forcid; Frolicin; Fugentin; Moxiclav; Tenevran; Timentin; **Hong Kong:** Amoksilav; Augmentin; Clamovid; Curam; Fleming Moxiclav; Qualimint; Timentin; **Hung.:** Akti; Amoclan†; Amoclav; Augmentin; Augmentin-Duo; Augmentin-Extra; Clavamox†; Co-Amoxi; Curam; Enhancin; Forcid; **India:** Augmentin; Boostin; Novoclav; Nuclav; Rapiclav†; Timentin; **Indon.:** Amocomb; Ancla; Augmentin; Auspicil; Bellamox; Betaclav; Biditin; Capsinat; Clabat; Clanecki; Clavamox; Comsida; Danoclad; Daxet; Deyxclav; Improvex; Lansclav; Nufaclav; Nuovodac; Prafamox; Protamox; Surpas; Syneclav; Vaclav; Vulamox; Zumafen; **Ir.:** Augmentin; Clavamel; Germintin; Pinaclav; Timentin†; **Israel:** Amoxiclav; Augmentin; Clavamox; Timentin; **Ital.:** Abba; Anival; Augmentin; Clavucav†; Clavulin; Neoduplaxom; Timentin; Xinamod; **Malaysia:** Augmentin; Cavumox; Clamovid; Curam; Enhancin; Moxiclav; Vestaclav†; **Mex.:** Acarbin; Acimox AC; Alvi-Tec; Ambobay CL; Amoxiclav; Amoxiclide; Apoclavox; Augmentin; Avuxilan; Clambusil; Clamoxin; Clavant; Clavucid; Clavulin; Clavuser; Enhancin; Gramoxin; Maxint†; Moxlin CLV; Riclasip; Servamox CLV; Sinufin; Timentin; Valclan; **Neth.:** Amoclan; Amucilan; Augmentin; Bioclad; Forcid; Timentin; **Norw.:** Bremidex†; **NZ:** Alpha-Amoxyclav; Augmentin; Synermox; Timentin; **Philipp.:** Amoclav; Augmentin; Augmox; Augurcin; Bactix; Bactoclav; Bioclad; Clamovid; Clanecki; Claventin; Clavoxel; Clovimax; Enhancin; Exten; Klavic; Natravox; Proxclav; Sullivan; Suplentini; Timentin; Valmoel; Xilanic; **Pol.:** Amoksilav; Augmentin; Curam; Forcid; Ramoclav; Taromentin; Timentin; **Port.:** Amoclavvan; Amplamox Plus; Augmentin; Betamox; Clavamox; Clavepen; Forcid; Noprilam; Penilam; **Rus.:** Amoclan (Амоклан); Amoksilav (Амоксиклав); Augmentin (Аугментин); Flemoclav (Флемоклав); Medoclav (Медоклав); Panklav (Панклав); Rapiclav (Рациклав); Timentin (Тиментин); **S.Afr.:** Adco-Amoclav; Augmaxil; Augmentin; Bio-Amoksilav; Clamentin; Clavamox; Co-Amoxyclav; Curam; Forcid; Moxyclav†; Randlav; Rolab-Amoclav; **Singapore:** Amocla; Augmentin; Augmex†; Clamoxen; Clamovid; Curam; Enhancin; Fugentin; Moxiclav; **Spain:** Amoclave; Amoxypilus; Ardineclav; Augmentine; Bigpen†; Burmicin; Clavepen; Clavucid; Clavumox; Duonasa; Eupedanic†; Imupen†; Kelsopen; **Swed.:** Bioclad; Spektramox; **Switz.:** Amicosol; Augmentin; Aziclav; Clavamox; clavu-basan†; Co-Amoxi; Co-Amoxicilline; Timentin†; **Thai.:** Amocla; Amoksilav; Augclav; Augmentin; Augpen; Cavumox; Curam; Klamoks; Moxiclav; Moxicle; Penda; Randlav; **Turk.:** Amoklav; Augmentin; Biomet; Crixlex; Klamoks; Klavunat; Klavupen; **UAE:** Julmentin; **UK:** Amiclav†; Augmentin; Augmentin-Duo; Timentin; **USA:** Amoclan; Augmentin; Timentin; **Venez.:** Augmentin; Augmentin Bid†; Clavumox; Curam; Fulgram.