

In light of the concern over the toxicity of ketorolac it has been recommended that it should not be used during pregnancy or labour and some recommend that it should not be given to mothers who are breast feeding (but see below).

Ketorolac is contra-indicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to aspirin or other NSAIDs, a history of asthma, nasal polyps, bronchospasm, or angioedema, a history of peptic ulceration or gastrointestinal bleeding, in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment, and in those with hypovolaemia or dehydration. Ketorolac should not be given to patients with coagulation or haemorrhagic disorders or those with confirmed or suspected cerebrovascular bleeding. It is contra-indicated as a prophylactic analgesic before surgery and for intraoperative use because of its inhibitory effects on platelets; it should also not be given postoperatively to those who have undergone procedures with a high risk of haemorrhage.

The total daily dose of ketorolac should be reduced in the elderly and in patients weighing less than 50 kg. It is recommended that patients with mild renal impairment should receive a reduced dose of ketorolac and undergo close monitoring of renal function. Ketorolac should be used with caution in heart failure, hepatic impairment and conditions leading to reduction in blood volume or in renal blood flow. Ketorolac should be withdrawn if clinical symptoms of hepatotoxicity develop.

Drowsiness and dizziness may affect the performance of skilled tasks such as driving.

**Breast feeding.** The concentration of ketorolac distributed into breast milk is very low and a study<sup>1</sup> considered that the amount ingested by the infant would probably be too small to be harmful. The American Academy of Pediatrics<sup>2</sup> also states that there have been no reports of any clinical effect on the infant associated with the use of ketorolac by breast-feeding mothers, and that therefore it may be considered to be usually compatible with breast feeding. However, the BNF and both UK and US licensed product information recommend that ketorolac should be avoided in mothers who are breast feeding.

1. Wischnik A, *et al.* The excretion of ketorolac tromethamine into breast milk after multiple oral dosing. *Eur J Clin Pharmacol* 1989; **36**: 521–4.
2. American Academy of Pediatrics. The transfer of drugs and other chemicals into human milk. *Pediatrics* 2001; **108**: 776–89. Correction. *ibid.*; 1029. Also available at: <http://aappolicy.aappublications.org/cgi/content/full/pediatrics%3b108/3/776> (accessed 07/11/07)

## Interactions

For interactions associated with NSAIDs, see p.99.

Ketorolac should not be given to patients already receiving anticoagulants or to those who will require prophylactic anticoagulant therapy, including low-dose heparin. The risk of ketorolac-associated bleeding is also increased by other NSAIDs or aspirin and by pentoxifylline and use together should be avoided. Probenecid increases the half-life and plasma concentrations of ketorolac and the two drugs should not be given together.

**Parasympathomimetics.** Licensed product information for acetylcholine chloride ophthalmic preparations states that there have been reports that *acetylcholine* and *carbachol* have been ineffective when used in patients treated with topical (ophthalmic) NSAIDs.

## Pharmacokinetics

Ketorolac trometamol is absorbed after intramuscular or oral doses. At physiological pH ketorolac trometamol dissociates to form an anionic ketorolac molecule which is less hydrophilic than the trometamol salt. The peak plasma concentration of ketorolac is reached within about 30 to 60 minutes; absorption after intramuscular injection may be slower than that after oral doses in some individuals. Ketorolac is over 99% bound to plasma proteins. It does not readily penetrate the blood-brain barrier. Ketorolac crosses the placenta and small amounts of drug are distributed into breast milk. The terminal plasma half-life is about 4 to 6 hours, but is about 6 to 7 hours in the elderly and 9 to 10 hours in patients with renal dysfunction. The major metabolic pathway is glucuronic acid conjugation; there is some *para*-hydroxylation. About 90% of a

dose is excreted in urine as unchanged drug and conjugated and hydroxylated metabolites, the remainder is excreted in the faeces.

### References

1. Kauffman RE, *et al.* Enantiomer-selective pharmacokinetics and metabolism of ketorolac in children. *Clin Pharmacol Ther* 1999; **65**: 382–8.
2. Hamunen K, *et al.* Stereoselective pharmacokinetics of ketorolac in children, adolescents and adults. *Acta Anaesthesiol Scand* 1999; **43**: 1041–6.
3. Dsida RM, *et al.* Age-stratified pharmacokinetics of ketorolac tromethamine in pediatric surgical patients. *Anesth Analg* 2002; **94**: 266–70.
4. McAleer SD, *et al.* Pharmacokinetics and safety of ketorolac following single intranasal and intramuscular administration in healthy volunteers. *J Clin Pharmacol* 2007; **47**: 13–18.

## Uses and Administration

Ketorolac, a pyrrolizine carboxylic acid derivative structurally related to indometacin (p.66), is an NSAID (p.99). It is used principally as an analgesic.

Ketorolac is used intramuscularly, intravenously, or orally as the trometamol salt in the short-term management of moderate to severe postoperative pain. However, it should be noted that because of concerns over the high incidence of reported adverse effects with ketorolac its dosage and maximum duration of use are restricted. The recommended maximum duration for parenteral therapy is 2 days in the UK, and patients should be transferred to oral therapy as soon as possible; oral use is limited to 7 days. In the USA it is recommended that the maximum combined duration of use of parenteral and oral ketorolac should not exceed 5 days.

- In the UK the recommended initial dose by the *parenteral* route is 10 mg of ketorolac trometamol followed by 10 to 30 mg every 4 to 6 hours as required, although ketorolac may be given as often as every 2 hours in the initial postoperative period if required. The total maximum daily dose is 90 mg (60 mg in the elderly, patients with mild renal impairment, and in those weighing less than 50 kg). Intravenous injections should be given over at least 15 seconds. During transfer from parenteral to oral therapy the combined daily dose for all forms of ketorolac trometamol should not exceed 90 mg (60 mg in the elderly, patients with mild renal impairment, and in those weighing less than 50 kg) of which no more than 40 mg should be given orally.
- Regimens in use in the USA include a single intramuscular dose of 60 mg or a single intravenous dose of 30 mg, or a multiple-dose regimen comprising 30 mg every 6 hours intramuscularly or intravenously, up to a maximum of 120 mg daily. These doses should be halved in the elderly, those with renal impairment, and those weighing less than 50 kg.
- The recommended *oral* dose in the UK is 10 mg every 4 to 6 hours (every 6 to 8 hours in the elderly) to a maximum of 40 mg daily for a maximum duration of 7 days.
- In the USA the recommended oral dose is 20 mg (10 mg in the elderly, the renally impaired, and those weighing under 50 kg), followed by 10 mg every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum of 40 mg daily.

For doses in children see Administration in Children, below.

Ketorolac trometamol is used as 0.5% eye drops to relieve **ocular itching** associated with seasonal allergic conjunctivitis. Ketorolac trometamol eye drops 0.5% have also been used for the topical treatment of **cystoid macular oedema** and for the prevention and reduction of **inflammation** associated with ocular surgery. In the USA, a 0.4% eye drop is also available for postoperative ocular inflammation.

### Reviews

1. Gillis JC, Brogren RN. Ketorolac: a reappraisal of its pharmacodynamic and pharmacokinetic properties and therapeutic use in pain management. *Drugs* 1997; **53**: 139–88.

**Administration in children.** In the USA, children aged between 2 to 16 years may be given a single intramuscular dose of 1 mg/kg of ketorolac trometamol up to a maximum of 30 mg or a single intravenous dose of 0.5 mg/kg up to a maximum of

15 mg. In the UK, parenteral ketorolac is only recommended for those aged 16 and over; doses are as for adults (see above).

Oral ketorolac is not licensed for use in children.

**Administration in renal impairment.** Ketorolac is contra-indicated in patients with moderate to severe renal impairment; for suggested doses in less advanced renal impairment, see Uses and Administration, above.

## Preparations

**USP 31:** Ketorolac Tromethamine Injection; Ketorolac Tromethamine Tablets.

**Proprietary Preparations** (details are given in Part 3)

**Arg.:** Acular; Dolten; Kelac; Kemanat; Kerarer; Ketopharm; Klenac; Nolarac; Poenkerat; Sinalgic; Teledol; Tenkdo; Unicalm; **Austral.:** Acular; Toradol; **Austria:** Acular; **Belg.:** Acular; Taradyt; **Braz.:** Acular; Cetrolac; Deocit; Toradol; Toragesic; **Canada:** Acular; Toradol; **Chile:** Acular; Brodifac; Burten; Dilox; Dolgenal; Findodol; Netaf; Poenkerat; Syndol; **Denm.:** Acular; Toradol; **Fin.:** Acular; Toradol; **Fr.:** Acular; **Ger.:** Acular; **Gr.:** Acular; **Hong Kong:** Acular; Keto; Toradol; **India:** Cadolac; Ketanov; Ketlur; Ketodrops; Ketonic; Torolac; **Indon.:** Dolac; Ketopain; Lantipain; Remopain; Rolac; Sclito; Toradol; Toramine; Torasic; Torpain; Trolac; Xevolac; **Irl.:** Acular; **Israel:** Topadol; **Ital.:** Acular; Lixidol; Tora-Dol; **Malaysia:** Acular; Ketanov; Keto; Toradol; **Mex.:** Acular; Ainelac; Aitommet; Alidol; Apotok; Brunacol; Celfax; Doket; Dolac; Dolcoplaz; Dolikan; Dolotor; Drometac; Efimerol; Estopein; Exorol; Findol; Finlac; Geldako; Glicima; Godek; Italker; Kendolit; Koprak; Laddol; Lacomim; Lenaken; Lorotec; Mavidol; Onemer; Plusindol; Rapix; Rolen; Rolodiquim; Rometran-K; Sebapain; Supradol; Toloran; Toral; Torkol; Trodrolol; Tromedal; Utlipal; Zafidol; **Neth.:** Acular; **Norw.:** Toradol; **NZ:** Acular; **Philipp.:** Acular; Ketanov; Ketomed; Kortezor; Toradol; **Port.:** Acular; Elipa; Toradol; **Rus.:** Adolor (Адолор); Dolac (Доллак); Ketalgin (Кеталгин); Ketanov (Кетанов); Ketorol (Кеторол); **S.Afr.:** Acular; Tora-Dol; **Singapore:** Acular; Keto; Toradol; **Spain:** Acular; Algkey; Droal; Tonum; Toradol; **Swed.:** Toradol; **Switz.:** Acular; Tora-Dol; **Thai.:** Acular; **Turk.:** Acular; **UK:** Acular; Toradol; **USA:** Acular; Toradol; **Venez.:** Acular; Dolac; Kelac; Ketoret; Ketorol; Notalac; Ocudol; Poenkerat.

**Multi-ingredient:** **Mex.:** Gammadol; Sinergix.

## Leflunomide (BAN, USAN, rINN)

HWA-486; Leflunomide; Leflunomida; Léflunomide; Leflunomidi; Leflunomidum; RS-34821; SU-101.  $\alpha, \alpha$ -Trifluoro-5-methyl-4-isoxazolecarboxy-p-toluidide.

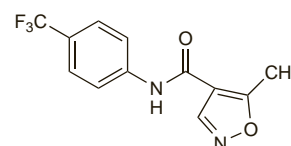
Лефлуномида

$C_{12}H_9F_3N_2O_2 = 270.2$

CAS — 75706-12-6.

ATC — L04AA13.

ATC Vet — QL04AA13.



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

**Ph. Eur. 6.2** (Leflunomide). A white or almost white powder. It exhibits polymorphism. Practically insoluble in water; freely soluble in methyl alcohol; sparingly soluble in dichloromethane. Protect from light.

**USP 31** (Leflunomide). White to almost white powder. Practically insoluble in water; freely soluble in acetone, in acetonitrile, in alcohol, in chloroform, in ethyl acetate, in isopropyl alcohol, and in methyl alcohol. Store at a temperature not exceeding 30°.

## Adverse Effects, Treatment and Precautions

Common adverse effects seen with leflunomide are hypertension, gastrointestinal disturbances (particularly diarrhoea), weight loss, headache, dizziness, leucopenia, asthenia, paraesthesia, joint disorders and synovitis, upper respiratory-tract infections, alopecia, eczema, and dry skin. Hypersensitivity reactions may occur and a few cases of Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme, toxic epidermal necrolysis, or vasculitis have been reported. Hepatotoxicity has occurred. It is usually mild and reversible but rare cases of severe, sometimes fatal, liver disease, including acute hepatic necrosis, have been seen particularly in the first 6 months of therapy. Other adverse effects that have been reported include anxiety, peripheral neuropathy, hypokalaemia, and mild hyperlipidaemia. There have been rare reports of pancytopenia, agranulocytosis, and thrombocytopenia; these effects are more common when leflunomide is given with other myelosuppressive drugs (see Interactions, below). There have been occasional reports of pancreatitis, interstitial lung disease, and severe infections, including fatal sepsis. Renal failure has also been reported.