Piroxicam-β-Cyclodextrin
A Review of its Pharmacodynamic and Pharmacokinetic Properties, and Therapeutic Potential in Rheumatic Diseases and Pain States

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Contents

Summary ................................................................. 908
1. Pharmacodynamic Properties ..................................... 910
   1.1 Anti-Inflammatory and Analgesic Effects ..................... 910
   1.2 Gastrointestinal Toxicity ...................................... 912
      1.2.1 Effects on Gastrointestinal Mucosa in Humans .......... 912
   1.3 Mechanism of Action ........................................... 914
2. Pharmacokinetic Properties ....................................... 914
   2.1 Absorption and Plasma Concentrations ....................... 914
      2.1.1 Absorption After Single-Dose Administration to Fasting Healthy Volunteers 915
      2.1.2 Effect of Food and Multiple-Dose Administration ....... 916
   2.2 Distribution, Metabolism and Elimination ................. 917
3. Therapeutic Potential ............................................. 917
   3.1 Arthritis and Other Rheumatic Diseases ..................... 918
      3.1.1 Comparisons with Piroxicam ............................ 918
      3.1.2 Comparisons with Other NSAIDs ......................... 919
   3.2 Other Pain States ............................................ 921
      3.2.1 Postoperative Pain and Pain Arising from Acute Musculoskeletal Disorders .... 921
      3.2.2 Primary Dysmenorrhoea, Dental Extraction Pain and Headache ................. 923
4. Tolerability ....................................................... 923
   4.1 Gastrointestinal Tolerability ................................ 923
   4.2 Other Adverse Effects ....................................... 924
5. Dosage and Administration ...................................... 925
6. Place of Piroxicam-β-Cyclodextrin in Therapy ................ 925
Summary

Piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin is a complex of the established nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) piroxicam and an inert cyclic macromolecule, β-cyclodextrin. In clinical trials in patients with rheumatic diseases or pain arising from other conditions, it was as effective an analgesic as standard piroxicam, and showed a faster onset of action on the first day of treatment.

In short term pharmacodynamic studies in healthy volunteers, piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin was equivalent to or tended to show less gastrointestinal mucosal toxicity than standard piroxicam, as assessed by endoscopy and faecal blood loss. However, no data are available on its comparative gastrointestinal mucosal effects from long term clinical trials using similar measures. Preliminary findings from a clinical study suggest piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin caused fewer gastroduodenal lesions than tenoxicam. As with other NSAIDs, the majority of adverse events associated with piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin in clinical trials were gastrointestinal in origin, with epigastric pain, heartburn and nausea the most common.

Thus, piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin is an effective agent in patients with rheumatic diseases or other pain states. When rapid analgesia is required in the initial treatment of acute pain, the faster onset of action of piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin may be an advantage over the parent compound; however, this is unlikely to be important during long term therapy. The results of further long term trials are awaited before firm conclusions can be reached regarding the gastrointestinal tolerability of piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin compared with that of standard piroxicam and other NSAIDs.

Pharmacokinetic Properties

Administration of piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin as a single dose in fasting volunteers resulted in mean plasma piroxicam concentrations 0.25 and 0.5 hours after administration that were, respectively, 3 to 10 and 1.3 to 3 times higher than after standard piroxicam administration in 2 comparative studies.

Although food slowed the absorption from both products, plasma concentrations of piroxicam were still 2 to 4 and 1.3 to 1.4 times higher 0.5 and 2 hours after administration of piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin than after standard piroxicam. However, after multiple-dose administration the only difference was at 0.25 hours after administration, when the plasma concentration of piroxicam was 1.3 times higher after piroxicam-β-cyclodextrin than piroxicam. The area under the plasma...