

## **PRODUCT MONOGRAPH**

**Pr**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC  
**Pr**TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR  
**Pr**TEVA-DICLOFENAC  
(diclofenac sodium)

25 mg and 50 mg Enteric Coated Tablets, USP  
75 mg and 100 mg Slow Release Tablets, Teva Standard  
50 mg and 100 mg Suppositories, Teva Standard

Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID)

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**Pr**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC  
**Pr**TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR  
**Pr**TEVA-DICLOFENAC  
 (diclofenac sodium)

**PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION**

<b>Route of Administration</b>	<b>Dosage Form Strength</b>	<b>Clinically Relevant Non-medicinal Ingredients</b>
Oral	Enteric Coated Tablets, 25 mg and 50 mg	<p>magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, pregelatinized starch, silicon dioxide, sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium starch glycolate.</p> <p>The film coating contains (25mg): D&amp;C Yellow # 10, hypromellose, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, maltodextrin, methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, triethyl citrate</p> <p>The film coating contains (50mg): hypromellose, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, maltodextrin, methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, triethyl citrate</p> <p>Printing ink contains: black iron oxide, lecithin, shellac glaze, simethicone</p>
	Slow-release Tablets, 75 mg, 100 mg	<p>colloidal silicon dioxide, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, and povidone.</p> <p>The film coating contains: aquacoat ECD-30, dibutyl sebacate, FD&amp;C Blue #2, FD&amp;C Red #40, FD&amp;C Yellow #6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, polysorbate and titanium dioxide.</p> <p>Printing ink contains: black iron oxide, lecithin, shellac glaze, simethicone</p>
Rectal	Suppositories, 50 mg and 100 mg	diglyceride, monoglyceridem free glycerin, free fatty acids, and triglycerides

## INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) , TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) and TEVA-DICLOFENAC are indicated for:

- the symptomatic treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, including degenerative joint disease of the hip.

*Throughout this document, the term Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAIDs) refers to both non-selective NSAIDs and selective COX-2 inhibitor NSAIDs, unless otherwise indicated.*

**Diclofenac, particularly at higher doses, is associated with an increased risk of serious cardiovascular related adverse events that is comparable to COX-2 inhibitors. For patients with pre-existing risk factors for cardiovascular disease (including ischemic heart disease, cerebrovascular disease and/or congestive heart failure NYHA II-IV) other management strategies that do not include NSAIDs, particularly COX-2 inhibitors and diclofenac, should be considered first (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).**

**For patients with increased risk of developing GI adverse events other management strategies that do not include NSAIDs should be considered first (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).**

**Use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be limited to the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration of treatment in order to minimize the potential risk for cardiovascular or gastrointestinal adverse events (see CONTRAINDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, as NSAIDs, do NOT treat clinical disease or prevent its progression.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, as NSAIDs, only relieve symptoms and decrease inflammation for as long as the patient continues to take them.

### Patients Subsets

#### *Geriatrics*

Evidence from clinical studies and post-market experience suggests that use in the geriatric population is associated with differences in safety (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**).

#### *Pediatrics ( 16 years of age)*

Safety and efficacy have not been established in the pediatric population.

## CONTRAINDICATIONS

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC are contraindicated in:

- the peri-operative setting of coronary artery bypass graft surgery (CABG). Although diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets, diclofenac sodium slow release tablets and diclofenac sodium suppositories have NOT been studied in this patient population, a selective COX-2 inhibitor NSAID studied in such a setting has led to an increased incidence of cardiovascular/thromboembolic events, deep surgical infections and sternal wound complications.
- the third trimester of pregnancy, because of risk of premature closure of the ductus arteriosus, fetal renal impairment with subsequent oligohydramnios and prolonged parturition.
- women who are breastfeeding, because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants.
- severe uncontrolled heart failure.
- known hypersensitivity to TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC or to any of the components/excipients.
- history of asthma, urticaria, or allergic-type reactions after taking ASA or other NSAIDs (i.e. complete or partial syndrome of ASA-intolerance - rhinosinusitis, urticaria/ angioedema, nasal polyps, asthma). Fatal anaphylactoid reactions have occurred in such individuals. Individuals with the above medical problems are at risk of a severe reaction even if they have taken NSAIDs in the past without any adverse reaction. The potential for cross-reactivity between different NSAIDs must be kept in mind (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Hypersensitivity Reactions - *Anaphylactoid Reactions***).
- active gastric / duodenal / peptic ulcer, active GI bleeding or perforation, regional ulcer, gastritis or ulcerative colitis (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** and **ADVERSE DRUG REACTIONS**).
- cerebrovascular bleeding or other bleeding disorders.
- inflammatory bowel disease.
- severe hepatic impairment or active liver disease.
- severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min or 0.5 mL/sec) or deteriorating renal disease (individuals with lesser degrees of renal impairment are at risk of deterioration of their renal function when prescribed NSAIDs and must be monitored) (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Renal**).
- known hyperkalemia (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Renal - *Fluid and Electrolyte Balance***).
- children and adolescents less than 16 years of age.
- suppositories are contraindicated in patients with inflammatory lesions of the rectum or anus and in patients with a recent history of rectal or anal bleeding.

## WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

**Risk of Cardiovascular (CV) Adverse Events: Cardiovascular Disease (including ischemic heart disease, Cerebrovascular Disease, Congestive Heart Failure (NYHA II-IV))**  
(See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - **Cardiovascular**).

Diclofenac is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events (such as myocardial infarction, stroke or thrombotic events, which can be fatal) that is comparable to COX-2 inhibitors. Meta-analyses of randomized clinical trials comparing several different NSAIDs suggest that diclofenac, particularly at higher doses, is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events that is comparable to COX-2 inhibitors. Large population-based observational studies conducted in the general population also support these findings. The risk may increase with the dose and duration of use. Patients with cardiovascular disease or risk factors for cardiovascular disease may be at greater risk.

For patients with a high risk of developing an adverse CV event, other management strategies that do NOT include NSAIDs, particularly COX-2 inhibitors and diclofenac, should be considered first. **To minimize the potential risk for an adverse CV event, the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest possible duration.**

Treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC is not recommended in patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease (congestive heart failure NYHA II-IV, ischemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease) cerebrovascular disease, uncontrolled hypertension or patients with risk factors for cardiovascular disease (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus and smoking). These patients should be treated with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC only after careful consideration.

Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, can promote sodium retention in a dose-dependent manner, through a renal mechanism, which can result in increased blood pressure and/or exacerbation of congestive heart failure (see also WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - **Renal - Fluid and Electrolyte Balance**).

**Risk of Gastrointestinal (GI) Adverse Events (See WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Gastrointestinal).**

Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, is associated with an increased incidence of gastrointestinal adverse events (such as peptic/duodenal ulceration, perforation, obstruction and gastrointestinal bleeding).

## **General**

Frail or debilitated patients may tolerate side effects less well and therefore special care should be taken in treating this population. **To minimize the potential risk for an adverse event, the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest possible duration.** As with other NSAIDs, caution should be used in the treatment of elderly patients who are more likely to be suffering from impaired renal, hepatic or cardiac function. For high risk patients, alternate therapies that do not involve NSAIDs should be considered.

Diclofenac is NOT recommended for use with other NSAIDs, with the exception of low-dose ASA for cardiovascular prophylaxis, because of the absence of any evidence demonstrating synergistic benefits and the potential for additive adverse reactions. (See **DRUG INTERACTIONS - Drug/Drug Interactions - *Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) or other NSAIDs***).

**Diclofenac sodium should not be used concomitantly with diclofenac potassium (<sup>Pr</sup>TEVA-DICLOFENAC-K) since both exist in plasma as the same active organic ion.**

## **Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis**

(See TOXICOLOGY)

## **Cardiovascular**

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC are NSAIDs.**

**Diclofenac is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular adverse events (such as myocardial infarction, stroke or thrombotic events, which can be fatal) that is comparable to COX-2 inhibitors. Patients with cardiovascular disease or risk factors for cardiovascular disease may be at greater risk.**

As the cardiovascular risks of diclofenac may increase with dose and duration of exposure, the lowest effective daily dose should be used for the shortest duration possible. The patient's need for symptomatic relief and response to therapy should be re-evaluated periodically.

Patients should remain alert for the signs and symptoms of serious arteriothrombotic events (e.g. chest pain, shortness of breath, weakness, slurring of speech), which can occur without warnings. Patients should be instructed to see a physician immediately in case of such an event.

Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, can lead to new hypertension or can worsen pre-existing hypertension, either of which may increase the risk of cardiovascular events as described below. Thus blood pressure should be monitored regularly. Consideration should be given to discontinuing TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC should hypertension either develop or worsen with its use.

Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-

DICLOFENAC, can induce fluid retention and edema, and may exacerbate congestive heart failure, through a renally-mediated mechanism. (See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Renal - Fluid and Electrolyte Balance**).

**Caution should be exercised in prescribing TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC to patients with risk factors for cardiovascular disease, cerebrovascular disease or renal disease, such as any of the following (NOT an exhaustive list):**

- **Hypertension**
- **Dyslipidemia / Hyperlipidemia**
- **Diabetes Mellitus**
- **Congestive Heart Failure (NYHA II-IV)**
- **Ischemic heart disease**
- **Peripheral Arterial Disease**
- **Smoking**
- **Creatinine Clearance < 60 mL/min or 1 mL/sec**
- **Acute myocardial infarction, history of myocardial infarction and/or angina**
- **Stroke, cerebrovascular accident, transient ischemic attacks, and/or amaurosis fugax**

If needed, these patients should be treated only after careful consideration (See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** box).

### **Endocrine and Metabolism**

**Corticosteroids:** TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC are NOT a substitute for corticosteroids. They do NOT treat corticosteroid insufficiency. Abrupt discontinuation of corticosteroids may lead to exacerbation of corticosteroid-responsive illness. Patients on prolonged corticosteroid therapy should have their therapy tapered slowly if a decision is made to discontinue corticosteroids (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS - Drug-Drug Interactions -Glucocorticoids**).

### **Gastrointestinal (GI)**

Serious GI toxicity (sometimes fatal), such as peptic/duodenal ulceration, inflammation, perforation, peritonitis, obstruction and gastrointestinal bleeding, gastrointestinal stenosis and ischemic colitis can occur at any time, with or without warning symptoms, in patients treated with NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC. Minor upper GI problems, such as dyspepsia, commonly occur at any time. Health care providers should remain alert for ulceration and bleeding in patients treated with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, even in the absence of previous GI tract symptoms. Most spontaneous reports of fatal GI events are in elderly or debilitated patients and therefore special care should be taken in treating this population. **To minimize the potential risk for an adverse GI event, the lowest effective dose should be used for the shortest possible duration.** For high risk patients, alternate therapies that do not involve NSAIDs should be considered (see **WARNINGS AND**



## **PRECAUTIONS – Special Populations – *Geriatrics*).**

Patients should be informed about the signs and/or symptoms of serious GI toxicity and instructed to discontinue using TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC and seek emergency medical attention if they experience any such symptoms. The utility of periodic laboratory monitoring has NOT been demonstrated, nor has it been adequately assessed. Most patients who develop a serious upper GI adverse event on NSAID therapy have no symptoms. Upper GI ulcers, gross bleeding or perforation, caused by NSAIDs, appear to occur in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3-6 months, and in about 2-4% of patients treated for one year. These trends continue, thus increasing the likelihood of developing a serious GI event at some time during the course of therapy. Even a short-term therapy has its risks.

Caution should be taken if prescribing TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC to patients with a prior history of peptic / duodenal ulcer disease or gastrointestinal bleeding as these individuals have a greater than 10-fold higher risk for developing a GI bleed when taking a NSAID than patients with neither of these risk factors. Other risk factors for GI ulceration and bleeding include the following: *Helicobacter pylori* infection, increased age, prolonged use of NSAID therapy, excess alcohol intake, smoking, poor general health status or concomitant therapy with any of the following:

- Anti-coagulants (e.g. warfarin)
- Anti-platelet agents (e.g. ASA, clopidogrel)
- Oral corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone)
- Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) (e.g. citalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline)

There is no definitive evidence that the concomitant administration of histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists and/or antacids will either prevent or reduce the occurrence of gastrointestinal adverse events associated with the use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or the enteric-coated or suppository formulation of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC . Concurrent administration of histamine H<sub>2</sub>-receptor antagonists and/or antacids with the enteric-coated version of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC might result in altered absorption.

## **Genitourinary**

Some NSAIDs are associated with persistent urinary symptoms (bladder pain, dysuria, urinary frequency), hematuria or cystitis. The onset of these symptoms may occur at any time after the initiation of therapy with an NSAID. Should urinary symptoms occur, in the absence of an alternate explanation, treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be stopped to ascertain if symptoms disappear. This should be done before urological investigations or treatments are carried out.

## **Hematologic**

NSAIDs inhibiting prostaglandin biosynthesis interfere with platelet function to varying degrees; patients who may be adversely affected by such an action, such as those on anti-coagulants or suffering from hemophilia or platelet disorders should be carefully observed when TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC is

administered.

**Anti-coagulants:** Numerous studies have shown that the concomitant use of NSAIDs and anti-coagulants increases the risk of bleeding. Concurrent therapy of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC with warfarin requires close monitoring of the international normalized ratio (INR).

Even with therapeutic INR monitoring, increased bleeding may occur.

**Anti-platelet Effects:** NSAIDs inhibit platelet aggregation and have been shown to prolong bleeding time in some patients. Unlike acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), their effect on platelet function is quantitatively less, or of shorter duration, and is reversible.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC , TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR, TEVA-DICLOFENAC and other NSAIDs have no proven efficacy as anti-platelet agents and should NOT be used as a substitute for ASA or other anti-platelet agents for prophylaxis of cardiovascular thromboembolic diseases. Anti-platelet therapies (e.g. ASA) should NOT be discontinued. There is some evidence that use of NSAIDs with ASA can markedly attenuate the cardioprotective effects of ASA (see **DRUG INTERACTIONS - Drug- Drug Interactions - Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) or other NSAIDs**).

Concomitant administration of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC with low dose ASA increases the risk of GI ulceration and associated complications.

**Blood dyscrasias:** Blood dyscrasias (such as neutropenia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, aplastic anemia and agranulocytosis) associated with the use of NSAIDs are rare, but could occur with severe consequences.

Anemia is sometimes seen in patients receiving NSAIDs, including diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets, suppositories and diclofenac sodium slow release tablets . This may be due to fluid retention, GI blood loss, or an incompletely described effect upon erythropoiesis. Patients on long-term treatment with NSAIDs, including TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, should have their hemoglobin or hematocrit checked if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of anemia or blood loss.

### **Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic**

As with other NSAIDs, including TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, borderline elevations of one or more liver enzyme tests (AST, ALT, alkaline phosphatase) may occur in up to 15% of patients. These abnormalities may progress, may remain essentially unchanged, or may be transient with continued therapy.

In post-marketing reports, cases of drug-induced hepatotoxicity have been reported in the first month, and in some cases, the first 2 months of therapy, but can occur at any time during treatment with diclofenac. Post-marketing surveillance has reported cases of severe hepatic reactions, including liver necrosis, jaundice, fulminant hepatitis with and without jaundice, and liver failure. Some of these reported cases resulted in fatalities or liver transplantation.

Physicians should regularly monitor hepatic function in patients receiving TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC. If abnormal liver function tests persist or worsen, if clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver disease develop (e.g. nausea, fatigue, lethargy, diarrhea, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and «flu-like» symptoms), or if other manifestations occur (e.g. eosinophilia, associated with rash etc.), this drug should be discontinued. Hepatotoxic effects may occur with use of diclofenac without prodromal symptoms.

To minimize the possibility that hepatic injury will become severe between transaminase measurements, physicians should inform patients of the warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity and the appropriate action patients should take if these signs and symptoms appear.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC are contraindicated in severe liver impairment or active liver disease. If there is a need to prescribe this drug to other patients with liver impairment, it must be done under strict observation.

Caution is advised when using TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC in patients with hepatic porphyria, since diclofenac sodium may trigger an attack.

### **Hypersensitivity reactions**

***Anaphylactoid reactions:*** As with NSAIDs in general, anaphylactoid reactions have occurred in patients without known prior exposure to diclofenac sodium. In post-marketing experience, rare cases of anaphylactic/ anaphylactoid reactions and angioedema have been reported in patients receiving diclofenac sodium. TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should NOT be given to patients with the ASA-triad. This symptom complex typically occurs in asthmatic patients who experience rhinitis with or without nasal polyps, or who exhibit severe, potentially fatal bronchospasm after taking ASA or other NSAIDs (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

***ASA-intolerance:*** TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should NOT be given to patients with complete or partial syndrome of ASA-intolerance (rhinosinusitis, urticaria/angioedema, nasal polyps, asthma) in whom asthma, anaphylaxis, urticaria/angioedema, rhinitis or other allergic manifestations are precipitated by ASA or other NSAIDs. Fatal anaphylactoid reactions have occurred in such individuals. As well, individuals with the above medical problems are at risk of a severe reaction even if they have taken NSAIDs in the past without any adverse reaction (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

***Cross-sensitivity:*** Patients sensitive to any one of the NSAIDs may be sensitive to any of the other NSAIDs as well.

***Serious Skin Reactions:*** (See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Skin**)

### **Immune**

(See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Infection- *Aseptic Meningitis***)

## **Infection**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, in common with other NSAIDs, may mask signs and symptoms of an underlying infectious disease.

*Aseptic Meningitis:* Rarely, with some NSAIDs, the symptoms of aseptic meningitis (stiff neck, severe headaches, nausea and vomiting, fever or clouding of consciousness) have been observed. Patients with autoimmune disorders (systemic lupus erythematosus, mixed connective tissue diseases, etc.) seem to be pre-disposed. Therefore, in such patients, the health care provider must be vigilant to the development of this complication.

## **Neurologic**

Some patients may experience drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision, vertigo, insomnia, depression, tinnitus or hearing loss with the use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC. If patients experience such adverse reaction(s) they should exercise caution in carrying out activities that require alertness.

## **Ophthalmologic**

Blurred and/or diminished vision has been reported with the use of NSAIDs, which may be reversible with discontinuation. If such symptoms develop, TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be discontinued and an ophthalmologic examination performed. Ophthalmologic examination should be carried out at periodic intervals in any patient receiving TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC for an extended period of time.

Sun exposure in patients using TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC might cause photosensitivity and vision changes. Patients should be advised to contact their physician for assessment and advice if this occurs.

## **Peri-Operative Considerations**

(See **CONTRAINDICATIONS** - Coronary Artery Bypass Graft Surgery)

## **Psychiatric**

(See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** – **Neurologic**)

## **Renal**

Long term administration of NSAIDs to animals has resulted in renal papillary necrosis and other abnormal renal pathology. In humans, there have been reports of acute interstitial nephritis, hematuria, low grade proteinuria and occasionally nephrotic syndrome.

During long-term therapy, kidney function should be monitored periodically (see **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY-Special Populations and Conditions-Renal Impairment**).

Renal insufficiency due to NSAID use is seen in patients with pre-renal conditions leading to reduction in renal blood flow or blood volume. Under these circumstances, renal prostaglandins help maintain renal perfusion and glomerular filtration rate (GFR). In these patients, administration of a NSAID may cause a reduction in prostaglandin synthesis leading to impaired renal function. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with pre-existing renal insufficiency (GFR < 60 mL/min or 1 mL/s), dehydrated patients, patients on salt restricted diets, those with congestive heart failure, cirrhosis, liver dysfunction, taking angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor blockers, cyclosporin, diuretics, and those who are elderly. Serious or life-threatening renal failure has been reported in patients with normal or impaired renal function after short term therapy with NSAIDs. Even patients at risk who demonstrate the ability to tolerate a NSAID under stable conditions may decompensate during periods of added stress (e.g. dehydration due to gastroenteritis). Discontinuation of NSAIDs is usually followed by recovery to the pre-treatment state.

Caution should be used when initiating treatment with NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, in patients with considerable dehydration. Such patients should be rehydrated prior to initiation of therapy. Caution is also recommended in patients with pre-existing kidney disease.

(See **WARNING AND PRECAUTIONS - Monitoring and Laboratory Tests - Renal**)

**Advanced Renal Disease:** (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**)

**Fluid and Electrolyte Balance:** Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, can promote sodium retention in a dose-dependant manner, which can lead to fluid retention and edema, and consequences of increased blood pressure and exacerbation of congestive heart failure. Thus, caution should be exercised in prescribing TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC in patients with a history of congestive heart failure, compromised cardiac function, hypertension, increased age or other conditions predisposing to fluid retention (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Cardiovascular**).

Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, can increase the risk of hyperkalemia, especially in patients with diabetes mellitus, renal failure, increased age, or those receiving concomitant therapy with adrenergic blockers, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor antagonists, cyclosporin, tacrolimus, trimethoprim or some diuretics. Electrolytes should be monitored periodically (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS-Drug-Drug Interactions**).

### **Respiratory**

ASA-induced asthma is an uncommon but very important indication of ASA and NSAIDs sensitivity. It occurs more frequently in patients with asthma who have nasal polyps.

***Pre-existing asthma:*** In patients with asthma, seasonal allergic rhinitis, swelling of the nasal mucosa (i.e. nasal polyps), chronic obstructive pulmonary diseases or chronic infections of the respiratory tract (especially if linked to allergic rhinitis-like symptoms), reactions on NSAIDs like asthma exacerbations (so-called intolerance to analgesics / analgesics-asthma), Quincke's oedema or urticaria are more frequent than in other patients. Therefore, special precaution is recommended in such patients (readiness for emergency). This is applicable as well for patients who are allergic to other substances, e.g. with skin reactions, pruritus or urticaria.

### **Sexual Function / Reproduction**

The use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, as with any drug known to inhibit cyclooxygenase/prostaglandin synthesis, may impair fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive. Therefore, in women who have difficulties conceiving, or who are undergoing investigation of infertility, withdrawal of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be considered.

### **Skin**

In rare cases, serious skin reactions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, exfoliative dermatitis and erythema multiforme have been associated with the use of some NSAIDs. Because the rate of these reactions is low, they have usually been noted during post-marketing surveillance in patients taking other medications also associated with the potential development of these serious skin reactions. Thus, causality is NOT clear. These reactions are potentially life threatening but may be reversible if the causative agent is discontinued and appropriate treatment instituted. Patients should be advised that if they experience a skin rash they should discontinue their NSAID and contact their physician for assessment and advice, including which additional therapies to discontinue.

Use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC may cause photosensitivity upon exposure to sunlight or UV light causing symptoms such as sunburn, skin rash, skin blisters, pruritus, erythema and discolouration.

### **Special Populations**

***Pregnant Women:*** TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC are **CONTRAINDICATED** for use during the third trimester of pregnancy because of risk of premature closure of the ductus arteriosus, fetal renal impairment with subsequent oligohydramnios and the potential to prolong parturition (see TOXICOLOGY).

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should not be used during the first two trimesters of pregnancy unless the expected benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to the fetus.**

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may adversely affect pregnancy and/or the embryofoetal development. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of miscarriage and of cardiac malformation after use of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor in early pregnancy.

In animals, administration of a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss and embryo-foetal lethality. In addition, increased incidences of various malformations, including cardiovascular, have been reported in animals given a prostaglandin synthesis inhibitor during the organogenetic period. Diclofenac sodium readily crosses the placental barrier.

***Nursing Women:*** (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**)

***Pediatrics:*** (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**)

***Geriatrics:*** Patients older than 65 years (referred to in this document as older or elderly) and frail or debilitated patients are more susceptible to a variety of adverse reactions from NSAIDs; the incidence of these adverse reactions increases with dose and duration of treatment. In addition, these patients are less tolerant to ulceration and bleeding. Most reports of fatal GI events are in this population. Older patients are also at risk of lower esophageal injury including ulceration and bleeding.

For such patients, consideration should be given to a starting dose lower than the one usually recommended, with individual adjustment when necessary and under close supervision, especially in frail elderly patients or those with a low body weight.

### **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**

***Cardiovascular (Hypertension):*** Blood pressure should be monitored regularly during therapy with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC.

***Hematologic:*** Patients on long-term treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should have their hemoglobin, hematocrit, red blood cells (RBC), white blood cells (WBC), and platelets checked if they exhibit any signs or symptoms of anemia or blood loss or blood dyscrasia.

Concurrent therapy of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC with warfarin requires close monitoring of the international normalized ratio (INR).

***Hepatic:*** Hepatic function (e.g. serum transaminases, bilirubine) should be monitored regularly during therapy with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC.

***Ophthalmologic:*** Patients on long-term treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should have an ophthalmologic examination performed periodically, and if they experience blurred and/or diminished vision.

***Renal:*** Patients with pre-existing renal insufficiency (GFR < 60 mL/min or 1 mL/s), dehydrated patients, patients on salt restricted diets, those with congestive heart failure, cirrhosis, liver dysfunction, taking angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor blockers, cyclosporin, diuretics, and the elderly should have their renal function monitored (e.g. urine output, serum creatinine, creatinine clearance and serum urea) during therapy with

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC.

Electrolytes, including serum potassium, should be monitored periodically, especially in patients with diabetes mellitus, renal failure, increased age, or those receiving concomitant therapy with adrenergic blockers, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor antagonists, cyclosporin, tacrolimus, trimethoprim or some diuretics.

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

### Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

Although not all adverse drug reactions have been reported with diclofenac sodium, the types of adverse drug reactions are expected to be similar to those of diclofenac potassium since both formulations exist in the plasma as the same active organic anion.

Gastrointestinal, dermatological, CNS and hepatic adverse reactions are the most commonly seen with diclofenac. The most severe gastrointestinal adverse reactions observed were ulceration and bleeding, while the most severe dermatological albeit rare reactions observed with diclofenac were erythema multiforme (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome and Lyell Syndrome). Fatalities have occurred on occasion, particularly in the elderly.

This section summarizes adverse drug reaction data pooled from clinical trials, published investigations and post-marketing experience with diclofenac potassium and diclofenac sodium.

Frequency estimate:

Very common:  $\geq 10\%$

Common:  $\geq 1\%$  and  $< 10\%$

Uncommon:  $\geq 0.01\%$  and  $< 1\%$

Very rare  $< 0.01\%$ , including isolated reports.

**Table 1 Most Common Adverse Drug Reactions ( $\geq 1\%$ )**

<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	Very common	nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, flatulence, decreased appetite
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	Common	dizziness, headache
<b>Hepatic</b>	Common	elevations ( $\geq 3$ times the upper normal limit) of serum aminotransferase enzymes (SGOT or AST, SGPT or ALT).
<b>Skin and subcutaneous disorders</b>	Common	rash, pruritus
<b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b>	Common	vertigo

**Table 2 Less Common Adverse Drug Reactions ( $< 1\%$ )**



<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	Uncommon	gastritis, gastrointestinal hemorrhage, hemorrhagic diarrhea, melena, hematemesis gastric and intestinal ulcerations (with or without bleeding or perforation)
	Very rare	lower gut disorders (including hemorrhagic colitis and exacerbation of ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease), intestinal diaphragm disease, hyperacidity, stomatitis, glossitis, coated tongue, esophageal lesions, constipation, pancreatitis
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	Uncommon	somnolence, malaise, impaired concentration, tiredness
	Very rare	Sensory disturbances including paresthesia, memory impairment, convulsions, anxiety, tremor, aseptic meningitis, cerebrovascular accident (including transient ischemic attack, cerebral hemorrhage), dysgeusia
<b>Eye disorders</b>	Very rare	visual impairment (blurred vision, diplopia)
<b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b>	Very rare	impaired hearing, tinnitus
<b>Cardiac disorders</b>	Uncommon	myocardial infarction, cardiac failure, palpitations, angina, arrhythmias, chest pain
<b>Vascular disorders</b>	Very rare	hypertension, vasculitis
<b>Skin and subcutaneous disorders</b>	Uncommon	urticarial
	Very rare	bullous dermatitis, erythema, eczema, erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Lyell Syndrome (toxic epidermal necrolysis), erythroderma (exfoliative dermatitis), alopecia, photosensitivity reactions, purpura, Henoch-Schonlein purpura
<b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>	Uncommon	edema (facial, general, peripheral)
	Very rare	acute kidney injury (acute renal failure), nephrotic syndrome, urinary abnormalities (e.g., hematuria and proteinuria), tubulointerstitial nephritis, renal papillary necrosis
<b>Hematologic</b>	Very rare	thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, agranulocytosis, hemolytic anemia, aplastic anemia, anemia secondary to gastrointestinal bleeding
<b>Hepatic</b>	Uncommon	liver function disorders including hepatitis, hepatic necrosis, hepatic failure, jaundice
	Very rare	hepatitis fulminant
<b>Immune system disorders</b>	Uncommon	hypersensitivity anaphylactic / anaphylactoid systemic reactions (including hypotension and shock)
	Very rare	angioedema (including face edema)
<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>	Very rare	disorientation, depression, insomnia, nightmare, irritability, psychotic disorder
<b>Respiratory</b>	Uncommon	asthma (including dyspnea)

<b>disorders</b>	Very rare	Pneumonitis
<b>Other</b>		administration of the suppositories may occasionally give rise to local irritation, proctitis, rarely local bleeding and exacerbation of hemorrhoids.

### **Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions**

**Hepatic:** Severe hepatic reactions including liver necrosis, fulminant hepatitis with and without jaundice, and liver failure, some of them with fatal outcome or requiring liver transplantation (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic**).

**Cardiovascular:** Serious reactions including myocardial infarction, cardiac failure, palpitations, angina, arrhythmias, chest pain.

Meta-analysis and pharmacoepidemiological data point towards an increased risk of arteriothrombotic events associated with the use of diclofenac, particularly at a high dose (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS** box).

**Gastrointestinal Disorders:** gastrointestinal stenosis, perforation which may lead to peritonitis, and ischemic colitis (which are sometimes fatal) (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Gastrointestinal (GI)**).

## **DRUG INTERACTIONS**

### **Drug-Drug Interactions**

#### **Overview**

**Effect of Other Drugs on the Metabolism of diclofenac:** Co-prescribing diclofenac with CYP2C9 inhibitors could result in a significant increase in peak plasma concentrations and exposure to diclofenac. Although there are no clinical data available on the drug interaction between diclofenac sodium SR and CYP2C9 inducers, the possibility of decreased efficacy of diclofenac resulting from concomitant administration with a CYP2C9 inducer cannot be excluded. Dosage adjustment may be required.

**Drugs known to cause hyperkalemia:** Concomitant treatment with potassium-sparing diuretics, cyclosporin, tacrolimus, trimethoprim, ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II receptor antagonists or adrenergic blockers may be associated with increased serum potassium levels, which should therefore be monitored frequently (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Renal - Fluid and Electrolyte Balance**).

**Table 3      Established Potential Drug-Drug Interactions**

<b>Diclofenac Sodium enteric coated tablets, suppositories or slow release tablets</b>	<b>Clinical comment</b>
<b>Acetaminophen</b>	There may be an increased risk of adverse renal effects when administered concomitantly with NSAIDs.
<b>Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA) or other NSAIDs</b>	<p>The use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC in addition to any other NSAID, including over the counter ones (such as ASA and ibuprofen) for analgesic and/or anti-inflammatory effects is NOT recommended because of the absence of any evidence demonstrating synergistic benefits and the potential for additive adverse reactions.</p> <p>The exception is the use of low dose ASA for cardiovascular protection when another NSAID is being used for its analgesic/anti-inflammatory effect, keeping in mind that combination NSAID therapy is associated with additive adverse reactions.</p> <p>Some NSAIDs (e.g. ibuprofen) may interfere with the anti-platelet effects of low dose ASA, possibly by competing with ASA for access to the active site of cyclooxygenase-1.</p> <p><b>Diclofenac sodium should not be used concomitantly with diclofenac potassium since both exist in plasma as the same active organic ion.</b></p> <p>Concomitant administration of diclofenac and other systemic NSAIDs or corticosteroids may increase the frequency of gastrointestinal undesirable effects.</p>
<b>Alcohol</b>	There may be an increased risk of gastrointestinal side effects, including ulceration or hemorrhage, when administered concomitantly with NSAIDs.
<b>Antacids</b>	Concomitant administration of antacids with NSAIDs may affect the rate, but generally not the extent of the absorption of the NSAID.
<b>Anticoagulants</b>	(See <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Hematologic - Anti-coagulants</b> )
<b>Anti-hypertensives</b>	<p>NSAIDs may diminish the anti-hypertensive effect of Angiotensin Converting Enzyme (ACE) inhibitors.</p> <p>Combinations of ACE inhibitors, angiotensin-II antagonists, or diuretics with NSAIDs might have an increased risk for acute renal failure and hyperkalemia. Blood pressure and renal function (including electrolytes) should be monitored more closely in this situation, as occasionally there can be a substantial increase in blood pressure (see <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Renal</b>).</p>

	Therefore the combination should be administered with caution and patients, especially the elderly (see <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - <u>Monitoring and Laboratory Tests</u></b> ).
<b>Anti-platelet agents (including ASA)</b>	There is an increased risk of bleeding, via inhibition of platelet function, when anti-platelet agents are combined with NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC (see <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Hematologic - <i>Anti-platelet Effects</i></b> ).
<b>Cyclosporin</b>	Nephrotoxicity of cyclosporin may be increased because of the effect of NSAIDs on renal prostaglandins. Therefore, it should be given at doses lower than those that would be used in patients not receiving cyclosporin.
<b>CYP2C9 inducers</b>	Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with CYP2C9 inducers (such as rifampin), which could result in a significant decrease in plasma concentration and exposure to diclofenac. Dosage adjustment may be required.
<b>CYP2C9 inhibitors</b>	Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with CYP2C9 inhibitors (such as voriconazole or sulfinpyrazone), which could result in a significant increase in peak plasma concentrations and exposure to diclofenac. Dosage adjustment may be required.
<b>Digoxin</b>	Diclofenac may increase the plasma concentration of digoxin. Dosage adjustment may be required. Monitoring of serum digoxin level is recommended
<b>Diuretics</b>	Clinical studies as well as post-marketing observations have shown that NSAIDs can reduce the effect of diuretics. (see <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – <u>Renal</u></b> ).  <i>Class Statement</i> Concomitant treatment with potassium-sparing diuretics may be associated with increased serum potassium, thus making it necessary to monitor levels. (see <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – <u>Monitoring and Laboratory Tests – Renal</u></b> )
<b>Glucocorticoids</b>	Some studies have shown that concomitant use of NSAIDs and oral glucocorticoids increases the risk of GI adverse events such as ulceration and bleeding. This is especially the case in older (>65 years of age) individuals.
<b>Lithium</b>	Monitoring of plasma lithium concentrations is advised when stopping or starting a NSAID, as increased lithium concentrations can occur in patients taking lithium. Dosage adjustment of lithium may be required.
<b>Methotrexate</b>	Caution should be exercised when NSAIDs, including TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, are administered less than 24 hours before or after treatment with methotrexate. Elevated blood concentrations of methotrexate may occur, increasing toxicity.
<b>Oral Contraceptives</b>	No drug interaction data are available for diclofenac sodium co-administered with oral contraceptives.

<b>Oral Hypoglycemics</b>	<p>Pharmacodynamic studies have shown no potentiation of effect with concurrent administration with diclofenac; however, there are isolated reports of both hypoglycemic and hyperglycemic effects in the presence of diclofenac, which necessitated changes in the dosage of hypoglycemic agents. For this reason, monitoring of the blood glucose level is recommended as a precautionary measure during concomitant therapy.</p> <p>There have also been reports of metabolic acidosis when diclofenac was co-administered with metformin, particularly in the context of renal impairment. Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with metformin.</p>
<b>Phenytoin</b>	When using phenytoin concomitantly with diclofenac, monitoring of phenytoin plasma concentrations is recommended due to an expected increase in exposure to phenytoin.
<b>Probenecid</b>	May decrease the excretion and increase serum concentrations of NSAIDs possibly enhancing effectiveness and/or increasing potential for toxicity. Concurrent therapy of NSAIDs with probenecid requires close monitoring to be certain that no change in dosage is necessary.
<b>Quinolone antibacterials</b>	There have been isolated reports of convulsions which may have been due to concomitant use of quinolones and NSAIDs.
<b>Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)</b>	Concomitant administration of NSAIDs, including TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, and SSRIs may increase the risk of gastrointestinal ulceration and bleeding. (see <b>WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – <u>Gastrointestinal(GI)</u></b> )
<b>Sulfinpyrazone</b>	Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with CYP2C9 inhibitors (such as sulfinpyrazone, which could result in a significant increase in peak plasma concentrations and exposure to diclofenac. Dosage adjustment may be required.
<b>Tacrolimus</b>	Nephrotoxicity of tacrolimus may be increased because of the effect of NSAIDs on renal prostaglandins. Therefore, it should be given at doses lower than those that would be used in patients not receiving tacrolimus.
<b>Voriconazole</b>	Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with CYP2C9 inhibitors (such as voriconazole), which could result in a significant increase in peak plasma concentrations and exposure to diclofenac. Dosage adjustment may be required.

### **Drug-Food Interactions**

Interactions with food have not been established.

### **Drug-Herb Interactions**

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

### **Drug Laboratory Tests Interactions:**

Diclofenac increases platelet aggregation time but does not affect bleeding time, plasma thrombin clotting time, plasma fibrinogen, or factors V and VII to XII. Statistically significant changes in prothrombin and partial thromboplastin times have been reported in normal volunteers. The mean changes were observed to be less than 1 second in both instances, and are unlikely to be clinically important.

Persistently abnormal or worsening renal, hepatic or hematological test values should be followed up carefully since they may be related to therapy.

### **Drug-Lifestyle Interactions**

Patients experiencing visual disturbances, dizziness, vertigo, somnolence or other central nervous system disturbances while taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should refrain from driving or using machines.

## **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Dosing Considerations**

***Geriatrics:*** For such patients, consideration should be given to a starting dose lower than the one usually recommended, with individual adjustment when necessary and under close supervision. Caution is indicated especially for frail elderly patients or those with a low body weight (See **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Special Populations - Geriatrics**).

***Cardiovascular disease or cardiovascular risk factors:*** Treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC is not recommended in patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease (congestive heart failure NYHA II-IV, ischemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease), cerebrovascular disease, uncontrolled hypertension, or patients with risk factors for cardiovascular disease (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus and smoking). These patients should be treated with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC only after careful consideration (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – box**).

### ***Renal Impairment:***

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment or deteriorating renal disease (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). Lower doses of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be considered in patients with impaired renal function (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Renal**).

### ***Hepatic Impairment:***

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC is contraindicated in patients with severe hepatic impairment or active liver disease (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**). Lower doses of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be considered in patients with impaired hepatic function (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS – Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic**).

## **Recommended Dose and Dose Adjustment**

As a general recommendation, the dose should be individually adjusted. Adverse effects may be minimized by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms.

### **TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC Tablets 25 mg (enteric-coated)**

- In the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, the recommended starting dose of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) is 25 mg three times daily depending on the severity of the condition.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 50 mg Tablets, TEVA-DICLOFENAC 50 mg or 100 mg suppositories and TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR are to be used for maintenance therapy only.

### **TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC Tablets 50 mg (enteric-coated)**

Rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis patients may use TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 50 mg enteric-coated tablets if:

- They were previously initiated at the lowest dose of 75 mg (enteric-coated) per day in 3 divided doses and required up-titration because they did not respond to that dose.
- The maximum recommended daily dose is 100 mg.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC should be taken with food and the tablets should be swallowed whole.

### **TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 75 mg and 100 mg (slow-release tablets)**

- Patients with rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis on a maintenance dose of 75 mg diclofenac sodium per day may be changed to a once daily dose of TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 75 mg administered morning or evening.
- Patients on a maintenance dose of 100 mg diclofenac sodium per day may be changed to a once daily dose of TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 100 mg, administered morning or evening.
- The maximum recommended daily dose is 100 mg.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR tablets should be swallowed whole with liquid, preferably at mealtime.

### **TEVA-DICLOFENAC Suppositories**

- TEVA-DICLOFENAC suppositories, 50 or 100 mg, may be given as substitute for the last oral daily doses.
- The maximum recommended daily dose is 100 mg.

### **Missed Dose**

Patients who miss one or more doses of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 25 mg or 50 mg tablets or TEVA-DICLOFENAC 50 mg or 100 mg suppositories or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 75 and 100 mg tablets should not increase the dose of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC to compensate for the missed dose or doses, but should continue with their therapy as soon as possible.

## **OVERDOSAGE**

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Center immediately.
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### **Symptoms**

There is no typical clinical picture resulting from diclofenac overdose. Overdosage can cause symptoms such as vomiting, gastrointestinal haemorrhage, diarrhoea, dizziness, tinnitus or convulsions. In the event of significant poisoning, acute renal failure and liver damage are possible.

### **Therapeutic measures**

Management of acute poisoning with NSAIDs, including TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-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 disorder, and respiratory depression. Special measures such as forced diuresis, dialysis or haemoperfusion are probably of no help in eliminating NSAIDs, including TEVA-DICLOFENAC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, due to the high protein binding and extensive metabolism. Activated charcoal may be considered after ingestion of a potentially toxic overdose, and gastric decontamination (e.g. vomiting, gastric lavage) after ingestion of a potentially life threatening overdose.

## **ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

### **Mechanism of Action**

Diclofenac sodium is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). The mode of action is



not fully known but it does not act through the pituitary-adrenal axis. Diclofenac sodium inhibits prostaglandin synthesis by interfering with the action of prostaglandin synthetase. This inhibitory effect may partially explain its actions.

### **Pharmacodynamics**

The effects of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC are largely mediated by inhibition of cyclooxygenases (COXs, COX-1, COX-2). These enzymes are found throughout the body and produce prostaglandins, which are important mediators of pain, fever, and adaptive and protective reactions in many organs and (inflamed) tissues.

### **Pharmacokinetics**

**Absorption:** In humans, orally-administered diclofenac sodium is rapidly and almost completely absorbed and distributed to blood, liver, and kidneys. The plasma concentrations show a linear relationship to the amount of drug administered. No accumulation occurs provided the recommended dosage intervals are observed.

Enteric coating may delay the onset of absorption from 50 mg tablets. Absorption occurs more rapidly when the drug is administered on an empty stomach ( $T_{max}$  2.5 hours), than with meals ( $T_{max}$  6 hours). The bioavailability remains the same under both conditions. The mean peak plasma concentration of 1.5  $\mu\text{g/mL}$  (5  $\mu\text{mol/L}$ ) is attained, on average, 2 hours after ingestion of one 50 mg enteric-coated tablet.

Following administration of slow-release (SR) diclofenac sodium,  $C_{max}$  is reached at approximately 4 hours or later. Significant drug plasma concentrations persist when levels would have dropped almost to baseline values following enteric-coated tablet administration. Mean plasma concentrations of 13 ng/mL (40 nmol/L) were produced 24 hours after diclofenac sodium 100 mg slow release tablets, or 16 hours after diclofenac sodium 75 mg slow release tablets (single dose). Trough levels are approximately 22-25 ng/mL (70-80 nmol/L) during treatment with diclofenac sodium 100 mg slow release tablets once daily or diclofenac sodium 75 mg slow release tablets twice daily. In pharmacokinetic studies no accumulation of diclofenac sodium was found following repeated once daily administration of diclofenac sodium 100 mg slow release tablets or repeated twice daily administration of diclofenac sodium 75 mg slow release tablets.

Suppositories have a more rapid onset, but slower rate of absorption than oral enteric-coated tablets.  $C_{max}$  is approximately 2/3 of that produced by an equivalent 50 mg enteric-coated tablet oral dose.  $T_{max}$  occurs within 1 hour. The unchanged diclofenac plasma AUC values for rectal administration are within the range of values produced by equivalent oral enteric-coated tablet doses. Since about half the active substance is metabolised during its first passage through the liver ("first pass" effect), the area under the concentration curve (AUC) following oral or rectal administration is about half as large as it is following a parenteral dose of equal size.

**Distribution:** Diclofenac sodium is extensively bound (99%) to serum albumin. The apparent volume of distribution is 0.12 to 0.17 L/kg. Single-dose (P.O. or I.M) studies in rheumatoid patients with joint effusions have shown that diclofenac is distributed to the synovial fluid, where  $T_{max}$  occurs 2 to 4 hours after plasma  $T_{max}$ . Synovial fluid concentrations exceed plasma levels within 4 to 6 hours of administration. This elevation above plasma concentrations can be

maintained for up to 12 hours. The synovial fluid elimination half-life is at least 3 times greater than that for plasma.

Diclofenac was detected in a low concentration (100 ng/mL) in breast milk in one nursing mother. The estimated amount ingested by an infant consuming breast milk is equivalent to a 0.03 mg/kg/day dose (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

**Metabolism:** Diclofenac undergoes single and multiple hydroxylation and methoxylation, producing 3'-, 4'-, 5-hydroxy, 4'- 5-hydroxy and 3'-hydroxy-4'-methoxy derivatives of diclofenac. These phenolic metabolites are largely inactive, and (along with the parent compound) are mostly converted to glucuronide conjugates.

**Excretion:** Plasma clearance of diclofenac is  $263 \pm 56$  mL/min. The mean terminal drug half-life in plasma is 1.8 hours after oral doses. In humans about 60% of the drug and its metabolites are eliminated in the urine and the balance through bile in the feces. More than 90% of an oral dose is accounted for in elimination products within 72 hours. About 1% of an oral dose is excreted unchanged in urine.

### **Special Populations and Conditions**

**Renal Impairment:** In patients suffering from renal impairment, no accumulation of the unchanged active substance can be inferred from the single-dose kinetics when applying the usual dosage schedule. At a creatinine clearance of  $<10$  mL/min, the calculated steady-state plasma levels of the hydroxy metabolites are about 4 times higher than in normal subjects. However, the metabolites are ultimately cleared through the bile. Although no accumulation of pharmacologically active substance seem to occur, caution is advised while administering diclofenac sodium to patients with impaired kidney function (ie GFR  $<60$  mL/min or 1 mL/sec) (see **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Renal**). TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC are contraindicated in patients with severely impaired or deteriorating renal function (creatinine clearance  $< 30$  mL/min (0.5 mL/s) (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

**Hepatic impairment:** In a study of ten patients with impaired hepatic function (chronic hepatitis and non-decompensated cirrhosis) receiving a single oral dose of 100 mg diclofenac sodium, the kinetics and metabolism of diclofenac, were the same as in patients without liver disease.

**Pediatrics:** TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC are contraindicated in children and adolescents less than 16 years of age (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS**).

**Geriatrics:** The ability of elderly subjects to absorb, metabolize and excrete TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC does not appear to differ significantly from those of younger subjects.

### **STORAGE AND STABILITY**

Store between 15°-30°C. Unit dose strips should be stored between 15°-25°C and protected from high humidity.

## **DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING**

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) 25 mg:** Yellowish, tan coloured, round, bi-convex, enteric film coated tablets, printed with black ink modified **N/25** on one side and plain on the reverse. Supplied in bottles of 100.

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) 50 mg:** Tan coloured, round, bi-convex, enteric film coated tablets, printed with black ink modified **N/50** on one side and plain on the reverse. Supplied in bottles of 100 and 500.

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) 75 mg:** Light pink triangular standard bi-convex bevel-edged film coated slow release tablets. Printed with black ink **N** on one side and **SR /75** on the reverse. Supplied in bottles of 100.

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) 100mg:** Pink round bi-convex bevel-edged film coated slow release tablets. Printed **N** on one side and **SR/100** on the reverse. Supplied in bottles of 100.

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC (diclofenac sodium) 50mg and 100mg:** Yellowish-white coloured, smooth, torpedo-shaped suppositories. They are wrapped in foil and available in boxes of 30.

### **Composition:**

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) 25 mg and 50 mg enteric coated tablets:**  
Each tablet contains the medicinal ingredient diclofenac sodium and non-medicinal ingredients: magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, pregelatinized starch, silicon dioxide, sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium starch glycolate.

The film coating contains (25mg): D&C Yellow # 10, hypromellose, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, maltodextrin, methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, triethyl citrate

The film coating contains (50mg): hypromellose, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, maltodextrin, methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, triethyl citrate

Printing ink contains: black iron oxide, lecithin, shellac glaze, simethicone

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) 75 mg and 100 mg slow release tablets:**  
Each tablet contains the medicinal ingredient diclofenac sodium and non-medicinal ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, and povidone.

The film coating contains: aquacoat ECD-30, dibutyl sebacate, FD&C Blue #2, FD&C Red #40, FD&C Yellow #6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, polysorbate and titanium dioxide.

Printing ink contains: black iron oxide, lecithin, shellac glaze, simethicone

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC (diclofenac sodium) 50 mg and 100 mg suppositories:**

Each suppository contains the medicinal ingredient diclofenac sodium and non-medicinal ingredients: diglyceride, monoglyceridem free glycerin, free fatty acids, and triglycerides.

**PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION**

**PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION**

**Drug Substance:**

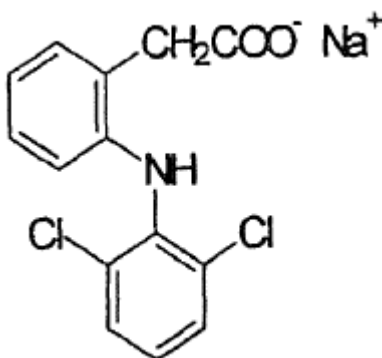
Proper name: Diclofenac sodium

Chemical Name: Sodium-[o-[2,6-dichloroanilino)phenyl]acetate.

Molecular formula:  $C_{14}H_{10}Cl_2NNaO_2$

Molecular mass: 318.13 g/mol

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Diclofenac Sodium is white to off-white powder with a salty bitter taste. At 25 °C, diclofenac sodium is 2% soluble in water (pH 7.7). It is practically insoluble in aqueous acidic solutions

## CLINICAL TRIALS

### **ENTERIC-COATED TABLETS:**

A comparative bioavailability study was performed on three diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablet products, TEVA–DICLOFENAC EC 25 mg tablets, TEVA–DICLOFENAC EC 50 mg tablets and Voltaren<sup>®</sup> 50 mg tablets. Diclofenac sodium tablets were administered as a single dose (2 x 25 mg and 1 x 50 mg TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC versus 1 x 50 mg Voltaren<sup>®</sup>) under fasting conditions. Eighteen volunteers completed the randomized, three–way crossover study. The pharmacokinetic plasma data (mean ± standard deviation) calculated for the TEVA–DICLOFENAC EC and Voltaren<sup>®</sup> Tablet formulations is tabulated below:

<b>Diclofenac Sodium (enteric-coated)</b> <b>(2 x 25 mg) and (1 x 50 mg)</b> <b>From measured data</b>  <b>Arithmetic Mean (± standard deviation)</b>				
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Parameter	TEVA- DICLOFENAC EC*  25 mg  (A): 2 x 25 mg	TEVA- DICLOFENAC EC**  50 mg  (B): 1x 50 mg	VOLTAREN <sup>®†</sup>  50 mg  (C): 1 x 50 mg	% Ratio of Geometric Means
AUC <sub>(0-24)</sub> (ng • hours/mL)	1277.45 ± 316.70	1251.16 ± 287.46	1348.41 ± 327.13	96.02 ± 18.44 (A) 94.68 ± 18.32 (B)
C <sub>MAX</sub> (ng/mL)	1151.88 ± 362.55	1185.77 ± 328.32	1308.69 ± 394.63	91.48 ± 28.54 (A) 101.14 ± 57.98 (B)
T <sub>MAX</sub> (h)	2.03 ± 0.83	1.78 ± 0.75	2.64 ± 1.29	
T <sub>½</sub> (h)	0.70 ± 0.20	0.66 ± 0.16	0.69 ± 0.21	

\* Test: TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 25 mg (enteric-coated tablets)

\*\* Test: TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 50 mg (enteric-coated tablets)

† Reference: VOLTERAN<sup>®</sup> 50 mg tablets, Ciba Geigy Canada, Streetsville, Ontario

Statistical evaluation by analysis of variance (ANOVA) of 0-24 hour AUC, C<sub>max</sub> and T<sub>1/2</sub> showed no significant differences among the three formulations. The T<sub>max</sub> values for both TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC formulations were significantly shorter than the T<sub>max</sub> for Voltaren<sup>®</sup>. Therefore, the maximum plasma diclofenac concentration occurred sooner for both TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC formulations relative to Voltaren<sup>®</sup>.

**SLOW RELEASE TABLETS:**

A comparative bioavailability study was performed on two 100 mg diclofenac sodium slow release products under fed conditions in normal, healthy, male volunteers. The pharmacokinetic plasma data calculated for the TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> SR tablet formulations is tabulated below:

<p><b>Diclofenac Sodium SR</b>  <b>( 1 x 100 mg)</b>  <b>From measured data</b></p> <p><b>Geometric Mean</b>  <b>Arithmetic Mean (CV %)</b></p>				
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<b>Parameter</b>	<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR* (1 x 100 mg)</b>	<b>VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> † (1 x 100 mg)</b>	<b>% Ratio of Geometric Means</b>	<b>90% Confidence Interval</b>
AUC <sub>(0-t)</sub> (ng•h/mL)	2416 2531 (35)	2566 2924 (75)	94.18%	83.44% – 106.31%
AUC <sub>(0-∞)</sub> (ng•h/mL)	2322 2362 (19)	2465 2523 (24)	92.32%	84.36% – 101.03%
C <sub>MAX</sub> (ng/mL)	692 763 (42)	614 761 (64)	112.92%	85.78% – 148.65%
T <sub>MAX</sub> § (h)	7.56 (4.93)	8.37 (6.18)		
T <sub>1/2</sub> § (h)	2.08 (1.54)	2.25 (1.32)		

\* Test: TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 100mg (sustained release tablets).

† Reference: VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> SR 100mg tablets, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Mississauga, ON, Canada

§ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (standard deviation)

A comparative bioavailability study was performed on two 100 mg diclofenac sodium slow release products under fasting state in normal, healthy, male volunteers. The pharmacokinetic plasma data calculated for the TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> SR tablet formulations is tabulated below:

<p><b>Diclofenac Sodium SR</b>  <b>(1 x 100 mg)</b>  <b>From measured data</b></p> <p><b>Geometric Mean</b>  <b>Arithmetic Mean (CV %)</b></p>
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<b>Parameter</b>	<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR* (1 x 100 mg)</b>	<b>VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> † (1 x 100 mg)</b>	<b>% Ratio of Geometric Means</b>	<b>90% Confidence Interval</b>
AUC <sub>(0-t)</sub> (ng•h/mL)	1998 2066 (23)	2122 2155 (19)	97.77%	88.19% – 106.93%
AUC <sub>(0-∞)</sub> (ng•h/mL)	2143 2179 (19)	2276 2322 (18)	97.11%	91.21% – 103.39%
C <sub>MAX</sub> (ng/mL)	513 606 (63)	464 535 (52)	112.82%	91.51% – 139.11%
T <sub>MAX</sub> § (h)	5.17 (2.3)	4.83 (2.24)		
T <sub>1/2</sub> § (h)	4.23 (7.45)	5.40 (4.71)		

\* Test: TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 100mg (sustained release tablets).

† Reference: VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> SR 100mg tablets, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Mississauga, ON, Canada

§ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (standard deviation)

**SUPPOSITORIES:**

A comparative bioavailability study was performed on two 100 mg diclofenac sodium suppository products, TEVA-DICLOFENAC 100 mg suppositories and VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> 100 mg suppositories. The pharmacokinetic plasma data calculated for the TEVA-DICLOFENAC suppository and VOLTAREN<sup>®</sup> suppository formulations is tabulated below:

**Diclofenac Sodium  
(1 x 100 mg)  
From measured data**

**Geometric Mean  
Arithmetic Mean (CV %)**

<b>Parameter</b>	<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC (100 mg Suppository)</b>	<b>VOLTAREN® (100 mg Suppository)</b>	<b>% Ratio of Geometric Means</b>	<b>95% Confidence Interval</b>
AUC <sub>(0-t)</sub> (ng•h/mL)	2864 2996 (31)	2807 2887 (26)	104.40%	93.37% - 116.72%
AUC <sub>(0-∞)</sub> (ng•h/mL)	2922 3033 (31)	2836 2928 (26)	104.40%	93.39% - 116.70%
C <sub>MAX</sub> (ng/mL)	1652 1751 (36)	1863 1928 (30)	91.67%	74.56% - 112.70%
T <sub>MAX</sub> <sup>§</sup> (h)	0.98 (0.45)	0.69 (0.19)		
T <sub>1/2</sub> <sup>§</sup> (h)	1.39 (0.64)	1.72 (1.61)		

\* Test: TEVA-DICLOFENAC 100mg (suppositories).

† Reference: VOLTAREN® 100mg suppositories, Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Mississauga, ON, Canada

§ Expressed as the arithmetic mean (standard deviation)

Randomized clinical trials with diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets, suppositories and slow release tablets have NOT been designed to detect differences in cardiovascular adverse events in a chronic setting.

However, large population-based observational studies, meta-analyses and systematic reviews suggest that diclofenac use is associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction and ischemic stroke. Results of some studies suggest that the CV risk is related to the dose and duration of diclofenac exposure and is greater in patients with risk factors for CV disease.

Large meta-analyses of randomized clinical trials show that diclofenac is associated with an increased risk of stroke, cardiovascular death, and death from any cause when compared with placebo. Data also suggest that diclofenac, particularly when used at a high dose (150 mg daily) may have a higher risk of thrombotic CV events than other NSAIDs.

*The information provided below supported the original registration and its subsequent amendments. These studies were conducted in accordance with the standards and regulations in force at the time of conduct of these studies.*



## **Enteric coated tablets**

The therapeutic safety and efficacy of diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets in arthritic conditions has been investigated in both short and long-term (three months) controlled clinical studies, followed by extended controlled and non-controlled studies. The majority of the comparative studies were double blind, within patient or between patient design, using placebo and indomethacin as controls. Acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), ibuprofen, phenylbutazone and acetaminophen were also used as comparative standards.

At time of approval, the safety and efficacy of diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets for relief of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis was demonstrated in short-term prospective comparative clinical trials conducted in 105 patients with osteoarthritis and 654 patients with rheumatoid arthritis. The controls used in these trials included: indomethacin, acetylsalicylic acid, acetaminophen and ibuprofen.

Several of the long-term double-blind, between patient studies comparing a three times daily dosing of diclofenac sodium enteric coated to that of indomethacin were of three months duration. Patients received either drug at dosages ranging from 50 to 125 mg. In the treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis there was no clear difference between the treatment groups for therapeutic effect.

The safety and efficacy of diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets compared to indomethacin for relief of the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis was also studied in longer-term studies of 6 to 30 months.

## **Slow release tablets**

Bioavailability studies have demonstrated that the absorption of active drug from the diclofenac sodium slow release (SR) tablets is similar as that reported from the diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets with the  $C_{max}$  being attained approximately four hours after the administration of a single 100 mg diclofenac sodium slow release tablet. Repeated administration of the diclofenac sodium slow release tablets for seven days or longer did not result in any accumulation of active drug and food intake did not alter absorption from the diclofenac sodium slow release tablet.

A regimen of multiple doses of the 75 mg diclofenac sodium slow release tablet (every 12 hours) provided an equivalent  $AUC_{0-24}$  to that of the 50 mg diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablet dosed every eight hours; an indication that the 75 mg diclofenac sodium slow release tablet is an effective and desirable alternate to the 50 mg diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablet for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis or osteoarthritis.

Safety and efficacy of diclofenac sodium 100 mg slow release tablets were demonstrated in a randomized, double-blind, parallel, short-term (two weeks) clinical study when compared to diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets and placebo in patients suffering from adult onset rheumatoid arthritis. A second comparative clinical trial was conducted in patients with established osteoarthritis of the hip and knee. No statistically significant differences were seen between the 2 diclofenac sodium regimens.

## Suppositories

The compilation of data to compare the bioavailability of diclofenac sodium from various dosage forms (enteric coated tablets and suppositories) has shown that the time to  $C_{max}$  following the administration of the suppository was slightly shorter (0.5 to 2 hours) than that observed for the diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablet (1 to 3 hours) and that the  $AUC_{(corr)}$  values of unchanged diclofenac sodium were directly proportional to the doses administered, irrespective of the dosage form used.

Seventy-five percent or more of patients suffering from osteoarthritis who received a once daily dose regimen of 100 mg diclofenac sodium or indomethacin as suppositories reported improved symptoms or became symptom free after one week of treatment. There were no significant differences in the treatment efficacy between treatment regimens.

**Table 4: Summary of 3 clinical trials with diclofenac sodium suppository in osteoarthritis(OA)**

Study design	Patients	Treatment duration	Medication dose/day	Efficacy variables
Double-blind, parallel,	98	7 days	-Diclofenac Sodium 100 mg suppositories - Indomethacin 100 mg suppositories	- Severity of pain at rest and on movement

## DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Diclofenac sodium is a phenyl-acetic acid derivative possessing anti-inflammatory activities as shown in various pharmacological models.

*In vitro* diclofenac sodium does not suppress proteoglycan biosynthesis in cartilage at concentrations equivalent to the concentrations reached in humans.

### Anti-Inflammatory Activity in Rats

The anti-inflammatory potency was assessed by testing inhibition of paw edema (carrageenin solution and kaolin suspension) and reduction of adjuvant arthritis (Freund's adjuvant).

Preparation	Inhibition of edema induced by	
	Carrageenin (ED <sub>50</sub> mg/kg) P.O.*	Kaolin (ED <sub>50</sub> mg/kg) P.O.*
Diclofenac sodium	2.1	1.2

\*determined by graphic interpolation from 3 or more doses.

### **Inhibition of Prostaglandin**

A close correlation exists between certain febrile reactions and increased prostaglandin levels in the brain. Diclofenac (0.5  $\mu$  g/mL) reduces prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> formation which parallels antipyresis but does not induce hypothermia in the afebrile animal. The inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis *in vitro* (IC<sub>50</sub>  $\mu$  M/L) is 1.6.

### **Platelet Adhesiveness**

At 15  $\mu$  g/mL, diclofenac reduces collagen-induced aggregation in rabbit platelets by 50%. ADP-induced adhesiveness at the same dosage is similarly affected. At 10 mg/kg P.O., diclofenac protected rabbits against the lethal action of thrombokinase without untoward effects.

### **Gastrointestinal Tolerability**

In rats, oral doses of 17 mg/kg diclofenac sodium caused a blood loss of 150  $\mu$  L in 72 hours, as measured by the administration of <sup>51</sup>Cr-labelled erythrocytes.

## **TOXICOLOGY**

### **Acute Toxicity**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Route</b>	<b>LD<sub>50</sub> mg/kg</b>	<b>95% Confidence Limits (mg/kg)</b>
Mouse	P.O.	389	197 - 595
	I.V.	133	126 - 140
Rat	P.O.	173	133 - 213
	I.V.	106	80 - 132
Guinea-pig	P.O.	1110	950 - 1270
	I.V.	127	123 - 132
Rabbit	P.O.	194	151 - 259

The symptoms included bradycardia and convulsions.

The most frequent autopsy findings in animals that died were gastric irritation, perforation and their sequelae.

## Long-Term Toxicity Studies

SPECIES	PERIOD	DAILY DOSE mg/kg/day P.O.		
		No signs of intoxication	Reversible signs of toxicity, mainly GI Tract	Minimum lethal dose
Rat	3 months	2	-	6
	6 months	1	2	4
	98 weeks	0.25	-	1
Dog	3 months	-	0.5	2
Rhesus Monkey	6 months	-	5-15	75
Baboon	12 months	-	5	10

Diclofenac sodium was given orally to male and female rats in doses of 0.25, 1.0 and 2.0 mg/kg/day from 59 weeks (high-dose groups) to 98 weeks (low- and intermediate-dose groups). High dose-related mortality rates resulted in termination of the high-dose administration after 59 weeks; the high mortality rate was caused by severe dose-dependent ulceration of the gastrointestinal tract, with perforated ulcers leading to peritonitis and sequelae. Body-weight gains and feed consumption of the treated groups were close to the controls. Hematologic patterns showing neutrophilic leucocytosis and anemia were seen in the high- and intermediate-dose groups, particularly females at weeks 52 and 98, respectively. Female animals tended to develop enlarged adrenals and eventually experienced depressed glucose and elevated alkaline phosphatase levels. Histology studies carried out on the tissues of the control, low- and intermediate-dose groups showed drug-related changes including mucosal ulceration of the small intestine, lymphangiectasis, lymphoid hypoplasia, and plasma cell hypoplasia of the mesenteric lymph nodes, foci of hepatocytic hyperplasia, adrenal cortical atrophy and prostatitis. No increase in tumour incidence was observed in the drug-treated groups as compared to the control group.

Diclofenac sodium was administered orally in gelatin capsules once daily to baboons (*Papio spp.*) at dose levels of 0, 5, 15 (reduced to 10 on day 254) and 50 (reduced to 30 on day 38) mg/kg/day for up to 52 weeks. At all dose levels studied, diclofenac caused ulceration of the gastrointestinal tract. Ulceration was confined to the colon in the low-dose group but was present in the stomach and small intestine also in the other two groups. Body weights were below controls. Constipation, with occasional episodes of diarrhea, was a marked feature. In all treated groups, there was a dose-related fall in serum albumin levels. Anemia and an increased ESR were observed in the high-dose group. In the recovery groups (control, low, and intermediate), no intestinal lesions were present. Food consumption and body-weight gains were within normal limits. Hematology parameters were comparable to controls and serum albumin levels returned towards normal values.

## Reproduction Studies

**Rats:** Doses of 2 and 4 mg/kg/day were given orally to male and female rats with no noticeable effect on fertility. Dosing was carried out during premating, mating, gestation, and lactation periods. At the higher dose, prolonged gestation and dystocia were observed. Embryotoxicity (low birth weight, failure to survive) was observed at both doses but it was minimal at 2 mg/kg/day. Post-natal survival and growth of pups from drug-treated animals were

comparable to those of controls except for slightly retarded growth at the higher dose.

**Mice and Rats:** Teratology studies at oral doses of 2, 3, 10, and 20 mg/kg/day showed no teratogenic effects on fetuses. At the higher doses, pronounced gastrointestinal effects were observed in the dams and a marked toxic effect noted in fetuses (reduced birth weights and increased fetal deaths).

**Rabbits:** Pregnant females treated with oral doses of 5 or 10 mg/animal/day throughout the gestation period showed a dose-dependent increase in resorption rates, diminished fetus weights, and abnormal skeletal findings. Definite embryotoxicity was observed at the highest dose although there was no evidence to suggest teratogenicity.

Administration of NSAIDs (including diclofenac) inhibited ovulation in the rabbit and implantation and placentation in the rat, and led to premature closure of the ductus arteriosus in the pregnant rat. Maternally toxic doses of diclofenac were associated with dystocia, prolonged gestation, decreased fetal survival, and intrauterine growth retardation in rats. The slight effects of diclofenac on reproduction parameters and delivery as well as constriction of the ductus arteriosus in utero are pharmacologic consequences of this class of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors (see **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS - Special Populations**).

### **Mutagenicity Studies**

Mutagenicity studies were carried out *in vitro* using bacteria with, and without microsomal activation, and in mammalian cells. Studies *in vivo* were also performed. Diclofenac sodium was not mutagenic in any of these test systems.

### **Carcinogenicity Studies**

Long-term carcinogenicity studies in rats given diclofenac sodium up to 2 mg/kg/day have revealed no significant increases in tumour incidence. There was a positive dose-related trend with respect to adrenal medullary hyperplasia, mammary fibroadenomas and subcutaneous tissue fibromas in females, as well as of C-cell adenomas of the thyroid in males. The differences in the incidence between the various groups, including control, were small and were considered to reflect the variation in the spontaneous occurrence of these incidental lesions, common in old laboratory rats.

In a 2-year mouse study, only controls and animals at the two lower daily doses of 0.1 and 0.3 mg/kg showed survival sufficient for assessment of carcinogenic potential. The two higher daily doses of 1 and 2 mg/kg resulted in a shortening of lifespan, particularly in males, as a consequence of ulceration and/or perforation of the small intestine and therefore prevented evaluation. The known susceptibility of rodents to non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, resulting in high mortality at dose levels close to the therapeutic dose, is considered to be a rodent-specific effect. Diclofenac sodium was not carcinogenic to mice under the conditions of this study.

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23. A comparative three-way, single dose bioavailability study (study #159) of diclofenac sodium enteric coated tablets in normal volunteers. Completed March 18, 1986. On file at Teva Canada Limited.
24. A two-way, single dose fasting bioavailability study (study # 1243) of sustained-release diclofenac sodium 100mg tablets in normal healthy male volunteers. Completed January 22, 1993. On file at Teva Canada Limited.
25. A two-way, single dose food effect bioavailability study (study # 1189) of sustained-release diclofenac sodium 100mg tablets in normal healthy male volunteers. Completed March 10, 1992. On file at Teva Canada Limited.
26. A comparative two-way, comparative bioavailability study (study #834-3) of diclofenac sodium 100 mg suppositories in human volunteers. Completed March 12, 1991. On file at Teva Canada limited
27. Voltaren<sup>®</sup>, Voltaren<sup>®</sup> SR, Product Monograph. Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., Dorval, Quebec. June 21, 2016 (control# 193614).

**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**

<sup>Pr</sup>TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC  
<sup>Pr</sup>TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR  
<sup>Pr</sup>TEVA-DICLOFENAC  
 (diclofenac sodium)

Read this information each time you refill your prescription in case new information has been added.

This leaflet is Part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC were approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will NOT tell you everything about TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

**ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**

**What the Medication is used for:**

Your health care provider has prescribed TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC for you to relieve pain and swelling in rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, including degenerative joint disease of the hip.

**What it does:**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC (diclofenac sodium), as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), can reduce the chemicals prostaglandins produced by your body which cause pain and swelling.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, as nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) do NOT cure your illness or prevent it from getting worse. TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC can only relieve pain and reduce swelling as long as you continue to take it.

**When it should not be used:**

**DO NOT TAKE TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC if you have any of the following conditions:**

- Heart bypass surgery (planning to have or recently had)
- Severe, uncontrolled heart failure
- Bleeding in the brain or other bleeding disorders
- Current pregnancy (after 28 weeks of pregnancy)

- Currently breastfeeding (or planning to breastfeed)
- Allergy (hypersensitivity) to diclofenac sodium, or ASA (Acetylsalicylic Acid) or other NSAIDs (Nonsteroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs), or any of the nonmedicinal ingredients in TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC
- Ulcer (active)
- Bleeding or perforation from the stomach or gut (active)
- Inflammatory bowel disease (Crohn's Disease or Ulcerative Colitis)
- Liver disease (active or severe)
- Kidney disease (severe or worsening)
- High potassium in the blood

Do not use TEVA-DICLOFENAC suppositories if you have inflammation of the rectum or anus or have a recent history of bleeding from the rectum or anus.

Patients who took a drug in the same class as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC after a type of heart surgery (coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG)) were more likely to have heart attacks, strokes, blood clots in the leg(s) or lung(s), and infections or other complications than those who did NOT take that drug.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC should NOT be used in patients under 16 years of age since the safety and effectiveness have NOT been established.

**What the medicinal ingredient is:**

diclofenac sodium.

**What the non-medicinal ingredients are:**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) 25 mg and 50 mg enteric coated tablets:

Each tablet contains the medicinal ingredient diclofenac sodium and non-medicinal ingredients: magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone, pregelatinized starch, silicon dioxide, sodium lauryl sulfate and sodium starch glycolate.

The film coating contains (25mg): D&C Yellow # 10, hypromellose, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, maltodextrin, methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, triethyl citrate

The film coating contains (50mg): hypromellose, iron oxide black, iron oxide red, iron oxide yellow, maltodextrin, methacrylic acid, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, triethyl citrate



Printing ink contains: black iron oxide, lecithin, shellac glaze, simethicone

TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) 75 mg and 100 mg slow release tablets:

Each tablet contains the medicinal ingredient diclofenac sodium and non-medicinal ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate and povidone.

The film coating contains: aquacoat ECD-30, dibutyl sebacate, FD&C Blue #2, FD&C Red #40, FD&C Yellow #6, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol, polysorbate and titanium dioxide.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC (diclofenac sodium) 50 mg and 100 mg suppositories:

Each rectal suppository contains the medicinal ingredient diclofenac sodium and non-medicinal ingredients: diglyceride, monoglyceridem free glycerin, free fatty acids and triglycerides.

**What dosage forms it comes in:**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) 25 mg: Yellowish, tan coloured, round, bi-convex, enteric film coated tablets, printed with black ink modified N/25 on one side and plain on the reverse.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC (diclofenac sodium) 50 mg: Tan coloured, round, bi-convex, enteric film coated tablets, printed with black ink modified N/50 on one side and plain on the reverse.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) 75 mg: Light pink triangular standard bi-convex bevel-edged film coated slow release tablets. Printed with black ink N on one side and SR /75 on the reverse.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR (diclofenac sodium) 100mg: Pink round bi-convex bevel-edged film coated slow release tablets. Printed N on one side and SR/100 on the reverse.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC (diclofenac sodium) 50mg: Yellowish-white coloured, smooth, torpedo-shaped suppositories.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC (diclofenac sodium) 100mg: Yellowish-white coloured, smooth, torpedo-shaped suppositories.

Check with your pharmacist if the identifying markings or colour appear different.

**If you have, or previously had, any of the following conditions, see your health care provider to discuss treatment options other than TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC:**

- Heart Attack or Angina
- Stroke or Mini-stroke
- Loss of Vision
- Current Pregnancy (less than 28 weeks)
- Congestive Heart Failure
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- High levels of fats in your blood
- Smoking

**It is important to take the lowest dose of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC that relieves your pain and/or swelling and for the shortest time possible in order to keep your risk of side effects on the heart and blood vessels as small as possible.**

**Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC can result in increased blood pressure and /or worsening of congestive heart failure.**

**Use of NSAIDs, such as TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC, may cause stomach and bowel problems (such as ulceration, perforation, obstruction and bleeding).**

Before taking this medication, tell your health care provider if you have any of the following:

- Disease of the heart or blood vessels (also called cardiovascular disease, including uncontrolled high blood pressure, congestive heart failure, established ischemic heart disease, or peripheral arterial disease), as treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and TEVA-DICLOFENAC in these cases is not recommended.
- Risk factors for cardiovascular disease (see above) such as high blood pressure, abnormally high levels of fat (cholesterol, triglycerides) in your blood, diabetes, or if you smoke.
- Diabetes mellitus or on a low sugar diet
- Atherosclerosis
- Poor circulation to your extremities

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

- Kidney disease or urine problems
- Previous ulcer or bleeding from the stomach or gut
- Previous bleeding in the brain
- Bleeding problems
- Family history of allergy to NSAIDs, such as acetylsalicylic acid (ASA), celecoxib, diclofenac, diflunisal, etodolac, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, ketorolac, mefenamic acid, meloxicam, nabumetone, naproxen, oxaprozin, piroxicam, rofecoxib, sulindac, tenoxicam, tiaprofenic acid, tolmetin, or valdecoxib (NOT a complete list)
- Family history of asthma, nasal polyps, long-term swelling of the sinus (chronic sinusitis) or hives

Also, before taking this medication, tell your health care provider if you are pregnant or you are planning to get pregnant.

While taking this medication:

- Tell any other doctor, dentist, pharmacist or other health care professional that you see, that you are taking this medication, especially if you are planning to have heart surgery;
- Do NOT drink alcoholic beverages while taking this medication because you would be more likely to develop stomach problems;
- Fertility may be decreased. The use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC is not recommended in women trying to get pregnant. In women who have difficulty conceiving, stopping TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC should be considered.
- If you have cardiovascular disease or risks for cardiovascular disease, your doctor will periodically re-evaluate whether you should continue treatment with TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC.
- Your doctor will monitor your kidney function, your liver function and your blood count to decide if TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC needs to be discontinued or if the dose needs to be changed.

If, at any time while taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC you experience any signs or symptoms of problems with your heart or blood vessels such as chest pain, shortness of breath, weakness, or slurring of speech, contact your doctor immediately.

**Long-term use of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-**

**DICLOFENAC might increase the risk of heart attacks or strokes.**

**TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC is NOT recommended for use in patients under 16 years of age since safety and effectiveness have NOT been established.**

## INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

### What About Taking Other Drugs At The Same Time?

See your health care provider and pharmacist if you are taking any other medication (prescription or non-prescription) such as any of the following (NOT a complete list):

- Acetaminophen
- Acetylsalicylic Acid (ASA) or other NSAIDs e.g. ASA, celecoxib, diclofenac, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketorolac, meloxicam, naproxen
- Alcohol
- Antacids
- Anti-depressants
- Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors (SSRIs) e.g. citalopram, fluoxetine, paroxetine, sertraline
- Blood pressure medications
  - ACE (angiotensin converting enzyme) inhibitors e.g. enalapril, lisinopril, perindopril, ramipril
  - ARBs (angiotensin II receptor blockers) e.g. candesartan, irbesartan, losartan, valsartan
  - Beta-blockers e.g. metoprolol
- Blood thinners (medicine used to prevent blood-clotting) e.g. warfarin, ASA, clopidogrel
- Corticosteroids (including glucocorticoids) (medicines used to provide relief for inflamed areas of the body) e.g. prednisone
- Cyclosporin (a medicine primarily used in patients who have received organ transplants)
- Digoxin (a medicine used for heart problems)
- Diuretics (medicines used to increase the amount of urine) e.g. furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide
- Lithium
- Methotrexate (a medicine used to treat some kinds of cancer or arthritis)
- Oral hypoglycemics (diabetes medications such as metformin)
- Phenytoin (a medicine used to treat seizures).
- Probenecid
- Quinolone antibacterials (medicines used against infection)

- Rifampin (an antibiotic medicine used to treat bacterial infections)
- Sulfinpyrazone (a medicine used to treat gout)
- Tacrolimus (a medicine primarily used in patients who have received organ transplants)
- Trimethoprim (a medicine used to prevent or treat urinary tract infection)
- Voriconazole (a medicine used to treat fungal infections)

Your health care provider may prescribe low dose ASA (acetylsalicylic acid) as a blood thinner to reduce your risk of having a heart attack or stroke) while you are taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC. Take only the amount of ASA prescribed by your health care provider. You are more likely to upset or damage your stomach if you take both TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC and ASA than if you took TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC alone.

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC is used for maintenance therapy only.

**Usual Dose for patients 16 years of age and older:**

Medical Condition	Starting Dose (per day)
<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 25 mg enteric-coated tablets</b>	
Rheumatoid Arthritis	25 mg 3 times a day.
Osteoarthritis	25 mg 3 times a day.

Medical Condition	Maintenance Dose	Maximum Dose (per day)
<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC 50 mg enteric-coated tablets</b>		
Rheumatoid Arthritis	50 mg twice daily	100 mg
Osteoarthritis	50 mg twice daily	100 mg
<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR 75 &amp; 100 mg slow-release tablets</b>		
Rheumatoid Arthritis	75 mg once daily	100 mg
Osteoarthritis	75 mg once daily	100 mg
<b>TEVA-DICLOFENAC 50 mg and 100 mg suppositories</b>		
Rheumatoid Arthritis	50 mg once daily	100 mg
Osteoarthritis	50 mg once daily	100 mg

Take TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC only as

directed by your health care provider. **Do NOT take more of it, do NOT take it more often and do NOT take it for a longer period of time than your health care provider recommended. If possible, you should take the lowest dose of this medication for the shortest time period.** Taking too much TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC may increase your chances of unwanted and sometimes dangerous side effects, especially if you are elderly and frail or if you have a low body weight, have other diseases or take other medications.

If you will be using TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC for more than 7 days, see your health care provider regularly to discuss whether this medicine is working for you and if it is causing you any unwanted effects.

Swallow the tablet whole with water, do not chew or divide the tablet. It is best to take your dose at the same time each day.

To help reduce the possibility of stomach upset you should take TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC immediately after a meal or with food or milk. Also, you should remain standing or sitting upright (i.e. do not lie down) for about 15-30 minutes after taking the medicine. This helps to prevent irritation that may lead to trouble swallowing. If stomach upset (indigestion, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain or diarrhea) occurs and continues, contact your doctor.

Using Suppositories

TEVA-DICLOFENAC suppositories (50 and 100 mg) are wrapped in a plastic film. Make sure that the plastic wrapping is fully removed before inserting the suppository into the rectum. It is best to take the suppositories after emptying your bowels.

Do not take suppositories by mouth.

**This medication has been prescribed specifically for you. Do NOT give it to anyone else. It may harm them, even if their symptoms seem to be similar to yours.**

Missed dose:

If you forget to take your scheduled dose, you should not double the next scheduled dose to make up for the missed dose.

Overdose:

If you have accidentally taken more than the prescribed dose of TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC, TEVA-DICLOFENAC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR, **contact your doctor, pharmacist or poison control centre immediately or go to the hospital emergency unit at once.** You may require medical attention.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC may cause some side effects, especially when used for a long time or in large doses. When these side effects occur, you may require medical attention. Report all symptoms or side effects to your health care provider

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC may cause you to become drowsy or tired. Be careful about driving or participating in activities that require you to be alert. If you become drowsy, dizzy or light-headed after taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, do NOT drive or operate machinery.

TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC may cause you to become more sensitive to sunlight. Any exposure to sunlight or sunlamps may cause sunburn, skin blisters, skin rash, redness, itching or discolouration, or vision changes. If you have a reaction from the sun, check with your health care provider.

Check with your health care provider IMMEDIATELY if you develop chills, fever, muscle aches or pains, or other flu-like symptoms, especially if they occur before or together with a skin rash. These symptoms may be the first signs of a SERIOUS ALLERGIC REACTION to this medication.

<b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM</b>		
<b>Symptom</b>	<b>STOP taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC and get emergency medical attention IMMEDIATELY</b>	<b>STOP taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR or TEVA-DICLOFENAC and talk to your physician or pharmacist</b>
Bloody or black tarry stools, vomiting blood	√	

<b>SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM</b>		
Spontaneous bleeding or bruising (signs of thrombocytopenia)	√	
Shortness of breath, wheezing, any trouble breathing or chest tightness	√	
Skin rash, hives, swelling or itching	√	
Skin rash with flaking or peeling (signs of dermatitis exfoliative).	√	
Purple skin patches (signs of purpura or Henoch-Schonlein purpura if caused by an allergy).	√	
Blurred vision, or any visual disturbance	√	
Any change in the amount or colour of your urine (red or brown)	√	
Any pain or difficulty experienced while urinating		√
Swelling of the feet, lower legs; weight gain		√
Swelling mainly of the face and throat (signs of angioedema)		√
Vomiting or persistent indigestion, nausea, stomach pain or diarrhea		√
Yellow discolouration of the skin or eyes (signs of liver failure), with or without itchy skin		√
Malaise, fatigue, loss of appetite or « flu-like » symptoms		√

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Headaches, stiff neck, fever, nausea, vomiting (signs of aseptic meningitis)		√
Mental confusion, depression		√
Dizziness, lightheadedness		√
Hearing problems		√
Rectal itching or bleeding		√
Right upper abdominal discomfort or pain		√

This is NOT a complete list of side effects. If you develop any other symptoms while taking TEVA-DICLOFENAC EC and/or TEVA-DICLOFENAC SR and/or TEVA-DICLOFENAC, see your health care provider.

**HOW TO STORE IT**

Store between 15°-30°C. Unit dose strips should be stored between 15°-25°C and protected from high humidity.

**Do NOT keep outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.** Any outdated or unused medicine should be returned to your pharmacist.

**Keep this and all medication out of the reach of children.**

You can help improve the safe use of health products for Canadians by reporting serious and unexpected side effects to Health Canada. Your report may help to identify new side effects and change the product safety information.

**3 ways to report:**

- Online at MedEffect (<http://hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/index-eng.php>);
- By calling 1-866-234-2345 (toll-free);
- By completing a Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form and sending it by:
  - Fax to 1-866-678-6789 (toll-free), or
  - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
Health Canada  
Postal Locator 0701E  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels and the Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form are available at MedEffect (<http://hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/index-eng.php>).

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

**MORE INFORMATION**

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found by contacting Teva Canada Limited by:  
Phone: 1-800-268-4127 ext. 3;  
Email: [druginfo@tevacanada.com](mailto:druginfo@tevacanada.com); or  
Fax: 1-416-335-4472

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**REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS**

Reporting Side Effects