

FAST-VOL (Dispersible tablets)

Diclofenac Sodium 50 mg

COMPOSITION & EXCIPIENTS :

Each dispersible tablet contains: Diclofenac Sodium 50 mg.

Excipients: Croscarmellose sodium, Microcrystalline cellulose, Sodium starch glycolate, Talc, Hydrogenated castor oil, Aerosil .

MECHANISM OF ACTION:

Fast-Vol is a non-steroidal compound with pronounced anti-rheumatic, anti-inflammatory, analgesic and antipyretic properties. Inhibition of prostaglandin biosynthesis, which has been demonstrated in experiments, is considered fundamental to its mechanism of action. Prostaglandins play a major role in causing inflammation, pain and fever.

PHARMACOKINETICS:

Absorption: Absorption of diclofenac from Fast-Vol dispersible tablets sets in immediately after administration, the bioavailability of diclofenac being 82% of that achieved with gastro-resistant tablets. Mean peak plasma concentrations of about 1 micrograms/mL (3 micromole/L) are attained on average 1 hour after ingestion of one Diclofenac dose on an empty stomach. Ingestion of dispersible tablets together with or immediately after a meal does not delay the onset of absorption but reduces the amount absorbed by an average of about 16% and the maximum concentrations by about 50%. Since about half of diclofenac 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 that following an equivalent parenteral dose.

Distribution: 99.7% of diclofenac is bound to serum proteins, mainly to albumin 99.4%. The apparent volume of distribution calculated is 0.12 to 0.17 L/kg. Diclofenac enters the synovial fluid, where maximum concentrations are measured 2 to 4 hours after peak plasma values have been attained. The apparent half-life for elimination from the synovial fluid is 3 to 6 hours. Two hours after reaching peak plasma values, concentrations of the active substance are already higher in the synovial fluid than in the plasma, and they remain higher for up to 12 hours. 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.

Metabolism: Biotransformation of diclofenac takes place partly by glucuronidation of the intact molecule. About 60% of the administered dose is excreted in the urine as the glucuronide conjugate of the intact molecule and as metabolites, most of which are also converted to glucuronide conjugates. Less than 1% is excreted as unchanged substance. The rest of the dose is eliminated as metabolites through the bile in the faeces.

INDICATIONS:

Short-term treatment of the following acute conditions:

- Post-operative inflammation and pain, e.g. following dental or orthopaedic surgery.
- Painful post-traumatic inflammatory states, e.g. due to sprains.
- Flare-up of osteoarthritis.
- Acute attacks of gout.
- Non-articular rheumatism.
- Painful syndromes of the vertebral column.
- Painful and/or inflammatory conditions in gynaecology, e.g. primary dysmenorrhoea or adnexitis.
- As an adjuvant in severe painful inflammatory infections of the ear, nose or throat, e.g. pharyngotonsillitis, otitis.

In keeping with general therapeutic principles, the underlying disease should be treated with basic therapy, as appropriate. Fever alone is not an indication.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:

Fast-Vol should only be prescribed when the benefits are considered to outweigh the potential risks. After assessing the risk/benefit ratio in each individual patient, the lowest effective dose for the shortest possible duration should be used. Adverse effects may be minimized by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary to control symptoms.

- The recommended initial daily dose is 2 to 3 dispersible tablets.
- In milder cases, 2 dispersible tablets daily are usually sufficient.
- The total daily dose should generally be divided into 2 to 3 separate doses.
- In primary dysmenorrhoea, the daily dose should be individually adjusted and is generally 1 to 3 dispersible tablets. A dose of 1 to 2 tablets should be given initially and, if necessary, increased over the course of several menstrual cycles up to a maximum of 4 tablets daily. Treatment should be started on appearance of the first symptoms and, depending on the symptomatology, continued for a few days.

Paediatric population: Because of their dosage strength, Fast-Vol dispersible tablets are not recommended for use in children and adolescents below 14 years of age. For adolescents aged 14 or over, 2 dispersible tablets of Fast-Vol daily are usually sufficient, taken in separate doses.

The maximum daily dose of 150 mg should not be exceeded.

Geriatric population (Patients aged 65 or above): No adjustment of the starting dose is generally required for elderly patients. However, caution is indicated on basic medical grounds, especially for frail elderly patients or those with a low body weight. Patients with established cardiovascular disease or significant cardiovascular risk factors. Treatment with Diclofenac is generally not recommended in patients with established cardiovascular disease or uncontrolled hypertension. If needed, patients with established cardiovascular disease, uncontrolled hypertension or significant risk factors for cardiovascular disease should be treated with Diclofenac only after careful consideration and only at doses ≤100 mg daily if treated for more than 4 weeks.

Patients with renal impairment: Fast-Vol is contraindicated in patients with renal failure. No specific studies have been carried out in patients with renal impairment, therefore, no specific dose adjustment recommendations can be made. Caution is advised when administering Fast-Vol to patients with renal impairment.

Patients with hepatic impairment: Fast-Vol is contraindicated in patients with hepatic failure. No specific studies have been carried out in patients with hepatic impairment, therefore, no specific dose adjustment recommendations can be made. Caution is advised when administering Fast-Vol to patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment.

Method of Administration:

Fast-Vol dispersible tablets should preferably be taken before meals.

Fast-Vol dispersible tablets should be dropped into a glass of water and the liquid stirred to aid dispersion before swallowing. Since a proportion of the active substance may remain in the glass after swallowing, it is advisable to rinse the glass with a small amount of water and swallow again. The dispersible tablets must not be divided or chewed.

CONTRAINDICATIONS:

- Known hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients.
- Active gastric or intestinal ulcer, bleeding or perforation.
- Last trimester of pregnancy.
- Hepatic failure.
- Renal failure.
- Severe cardiac failure.
- Like other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), Diclofenac is also contraindicated in patients in whom attacks of asthma, angioedema, urticaria, or acute rhinitis are precipitated by acetylsalicylic acid or other NSAIDs.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS:

General Patients on long-term treatment should be reviewed regularly with regards to efficacy, adverse effects, the development of risk factors and the on-going need for therapy. Consideration should be given to monitoring blood pressure, haemoglobin levels and renal function.

Cardiovascular thrombotic events: Observational studies have indicated that non-selective NSAIDs

may be associated with an increased risk of serious cardiovascular events including myocardial infarction and stroke, which may increase with dose or duration of use. Patients with cardiovascular disease or cardiovascular risk factors may also be at greater risk. Patients with previous myocardial infarction (within the last 6 to 12 months) should not use Fast-Vol. Treatment with Fast-Vol is generally not recommended in patients with established cardiovascular disease (e.g. congestive heart failure, established ischaemic heart disease, peripheral arterial disease) or uncontrolled hypertension. If needed, patients with established cardiovascular disease, uncontrolled hypertension or significant risk factors for cardiovascular disease (e.g. hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus and smoking) should be treated with Diclofenac only after careful consideration and only at doses ≤100 mg daily when treatment continues for more than 4 weeks. 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 reevaluated periodically, especially when treatment continues for more than 4 weeks. Prescribers should inform the individual patient of the possible increased risk when prescribing diclofenac for patients at high risk of cardiovascular events. Physicians and patients should remain alert for such events, even in the absence of previous cardiovascular symptoms. Patients should be informed about the signs and/or symptoms of cardiovascular toxicity and the steps to take should they occur. Patients should remain alert for the signs and symptoms of serious arthralgic events (e.g. chest pain, shortness of breath, weakness, slurring of speech), which can occur without warning. Patients should be instructed to see a physician immediately in case of such an event. There is no consistent evidence that the concurrent use of aspirin mitigates the possible increased risk of serious cardiovascular thrombotic events associated with NSAID use.

Hypertension: NSAIDs may lead to the onset of new hypertension or worsening of pre-existing hypertension and patients taking anti-hypertensives with NSAIDs may have an impaired anti-hypertensive response. Caution is advised when prescribing NSAIDs to patients with hypertension. Blood pressure should be monitored closely during initiation of NSAID treatment and at regular intervals thereafter.

Heart failure: Fluid retention and oedema have been observed in some patients taking NSAIDs, therefore caution is advised in patients with fluid retention or heart failure.

Gastrointestinal effects: Gastrointestinal bleeding, ulceration or perforation, which may increase with dose or duration of use and which can be fatal, have been reported with all NSAIDs, including diclofenac, and may occur at any time during treatment, with or without warning symptoms or a previous history of serious gastrointestinal events. They generally have more serious consequences in the elderly. If gastrointestinal bleeding or ulceration occur in patients receiving Diclofenac, the medicinal product should be discontinued. Even short-term therapy is not without risk.

Caution is advised in patients with risk factors for gastrointestinal events who may be at greater risk of developing serious gastrointestinal events, e.g. the elderly, those with a history of serious gastrointestinal events, smoking and alcoholism. As with all NSAIDs, including diclofenac, close medical surveillance is imperative and particular caution should be exercised when prescribing Diclofenac in patients with symptoms indicative of gastrointestinal (GI) disorders or with a history suggestive of gastric or intestinal ulceration, bleeding or perforation. The risk of GI bleeding is higher with increasing NSAID doses and in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation and in the elderly. To reduce the risk of GI toxicity in patients with a history of ulcer, particularly if complicated with haemorrhage or perforation, and in the elderly, the treatment should be initiated and maintained at the lowest effective dose. Combination therapy with protective agents (e.g. proton pump inhibitors or misoprostol) should be considered for these patients, and also for patients requiring concomitant use of medicinal products containing low-dose acetylsalicylic acid (ASA)/aspirin or other medicinal products likely to increase gastrointestinal risk.

Severe skin reactions: Serious skin reactions, some of them fatal, including exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), have been reported very rarely in association with the use of NSAIDs, including Diclofenac. These serious adverse events are idiosyncratic and are independent of dose or duration of use. Patients appear to be at highest risk of these reactions early in the course of therapy, the onset of the reaction occurring in the majority of cases within the first month of treatment. Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms of serious skin reactions and to consult their doctor at the first appearance of skin rash, mucosal lesions or any other sign of hypersensitivity, and Diclofenac should be discontinued. As with other NSAIDs, allergic reactions, including anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions, can also occur in rare cases with Diclofenac, without earlier exposure to the drug.

Masking signs of infections: Like other NSAIDs, Diclofenac may mask the signs and symptoms of infection due to its pharmacodynamic properties. 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.

Hepatic effects: Close medical surveillance is required when prescribing Diclofenac to patients with impaired hepatic function, as their condition may be exacerbated. As with other NSAIDs, including diclofenac, values of one or more liver enzymes may increase. During prolonged treatment with Diclofenac, regular monitoring of hepatic function is indicated as a precautionary measure. If abnormal liver function tests persist or worsen, if clinical signs or symptoms consistent with liver disease develop, or if other manifestations occur (e.g. eosinophilia, rash), Diclofenac should be discontinued. Hepatitis may occur with use of diclofenac without prodromal symptoms. Caution is called for when using Diclofenac in patients with hepatic porphyria, since it may trigger an attack.

Renal effects: As fluid retention and oedema have been reported in association with NSAID therapy, including diclofenac, particular caution is called for in patients with impaired cardiac or renal function, history of hypertension, the elderly, patients receiving concomitant treatment with diuretics or medicinal products that can significantly impact renal function, and in those patients with substantial extracellular volume depletion from any cause, e.g. before or after major surgery. Monitoring of renal function is recommended as a precautionary measure when using Diclofenac in such cases. Discontinuation of therapy is usually followed by recovery to the pre-treatment state.

Haematological effects: Use of Diclofenac is recommended only for short-term treatment. If however, Diclofenac is used for a prolonged period, monitoring of the blood count is recommended, as with other NSAIDs. Like other NSAIDs, Diclofenac may temporarily inhibit platelet aggregation. Patients with defects of haemostasis should be carefully monitored. Geriatric patients Caution is indicated in the elderly on basic medical grounds. In particular, it is recommended that the lowest effective dose be used in frail elderly patients or those with a low body weight.

Interactions with other NSAIDs: The concomitant use of Diclofenac with systemic NSAIDs including cyclooxygenase-2 selective inhibitors, should be avoided due to the absence of any evidence demonstrating synergistic benefits and the potential for additive undesirable effects.

DRUG INTERACTION:

Observed interactions to be considered :

CYP2C9 inhibitors: Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with potent CYP2C9 inhibitors (such as: sulfapyrazone and voriconazole), which could result in a significant increase in peak plasma concentrations and exposure to diclofenac due to inhibition of diclofenac metabolism.

Lithium: If used concomitantly, diclofenac may raise plasma concentrations of lithium. Monitoring

of the serum lithium level is recommended.

Digoxin: If used concomitantly, diclofenac may raise plasma concentrations of digoxin. Monitoring of the serum digoxin level is recommended.

Diuretics and antihypertensive agents: Like other NSAIDs, concomitant use of diclofenac with diuretics or antihypertensive agents (e.g. beta-blockers, angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors) may cause a decrease in their antihypertensive effect. Therefore, the combination should be administered with caution and patients, especially the elderly should have their blood pressure periodically monitored. Patients should be adequately hydrated and consideration should be given to monitoring of renal function after initiation of concomitant therapy and periodically thereafter, particularly for diuretics and ACE inhibitors due to the increased risk of nephrotoxicity.

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

Anticoagulants and anti-Platelet agents: Caution is recommended since concomitant administration could increase the risk of bleeding. Although clinical investigations do not appear to indicate that diclofenac affects the action of anticoagulants, there are reports of an increased risk of haemorrhage in patients receiving diclofenac and anticoagulants concomitantly. Close monitoring of such patients is therefore recommended.

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

Anti-diabetics: Clinical studies have shown that diclofenac can be given together with oral anti-diabetic agents without influencing their clinical effect. However, there have been isolated reports of both hypoglycaemic and hyperglycaemic effects necessitating changes in the dosage of the anti-diabetic agents during treatment with diclofenac. For this reason, monitoring of the blood glucose level is recommended as a precautionary measure during concomitant therapy. There have also been isolated reports of metabolic acidosis when diclofenac was co-administered with metformin, especially in patients with pre-existing renal impairment.

Methotrexate: Caution is recommended when NSAIDs, including diclofenac, are administered less than 24 hours before or after treatment with methotrexate, since blood concentrations of methotrexate may rise and the toxicity of this substance be increased.

Cyclosporin and Tacrolimus: Diclofenac, like other NSAIDs, may increase the nephrotoxicity of cyclosporin and tacrolimus due to the effect on renal prostaglandins. Therefore, it should be given at doses lower than those that would be used in patients not receiving cyclosporin and tacrolimus.

Drugs known to cause hyperkalemia: Concomitant treatment with potassium-sparing diuretics, cyclosporin, tacrolimus or trimethoprim may be associated with increased serum potassium levels, which should therefore be monitored frequently.

Quinolone anti-bacterials: There have been isolated reports of convulsions which may have been due to concomitant use of quinolones and NSAIDs.

Phenytin: When using phenytin concomitantly with diclofenac, monitoring of phenytin plasma concentration is recommended due to an expected increase in exposure to phenytin.

CYP2C9 inducers: Caution is recommended when co-prescribing diclofenac with CYP2C9 inducers (such as rifampicin), which could result in a significant decrease in plasma concentration and exposure to diclofenac.

Pregnancy: There are insufficient data on the use of diclofenac in pregnant women. Therefore, Diclofenac should not be used during the first two trimesters of pregnancy unless the expected benefits to the mother outweigh the risks to the foetus. As with other NSAIDs, use of diclofenac during the third trimester of pregnancy is contraindicated owing to the possibility of uterine inertia, fetal renal impairment with subsequent oligohydramnios and/or premature closure of the ductus arteriosus.

During the first and second trimester of pregnancy, Diclofenac should not be given unless clearly necessary. If Diclofenac is used by a woman attempting to conceive, or during the first and second trimester of pregnancy, the dose should be kept as low as possible and the duration of treatment as short as possible.

Breastfeeding: Like other NSAIDs, diclofenac passes into the breast milk in small amounts. Therefore, Diclofenac should not be administered during breast feeding in order to avoid undesirable effects in the infant.

Fertility: As with other NSAIDs, the use of Diclofenac may impair female fertility and is not recommended in women attempting to conceive. In women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of infertility, withdrawal of Diclofenac should be considered.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines: Patients who experience visual disturbances, dizziness, vertigo, somnolence, central nervous system disturbances, drowsiness, or fatigue while taking NSAIDs should refrain from driving or operating machinery

UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS:

Common: Headache, dizziness, Vertigo, Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, flatulence, decreased appetite, Rash, Transaminases increased.

Uncommon: Myocardial infarction, cardiac failure, palpitations, chest pain.

Frequency unknown: Kounis syndrome.

OVERDOSE:

- Symptoms: There is no typical clinical picture resulting from diclofenac overdose. Overdose 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 diclofenac, essentially consists of supportive measures and symptomatic treatment 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 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.

Storage Conditions: Store at room temperature, below 25° C, away from light and moisture.

Packaging: 2 blisters, each contains 10 dispersible tablets/carton box.

THIS IS A MEDICAMENT	
- A medicament is a product but unlike any other products.	
- A medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.	
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament. The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.	
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.	
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.	
KEEP MEDICAMENTS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN	
(Council of Arab Health Ministers)	(Arab Pharmacists Association)

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