LEVOFRACAM

FOCALE

250 mg, 500 mg and 1 g FILM-COATED TABLET
ANTIEPILEPTICS

FORMULATION
Each film-coated tablet contains:
Levetiracetam ..... 250 mg, 500 mg or 1 g

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION
Levetiracetam Focale 250 mg is a blue, oblong, film-coated tablet.
Levetiracetam Focale 500 mg is a yellow, oblong, film-coated tablet.
Levetiracetam Focale 1 g is a brownish, oblong, film-coated tablet.

PHARMACODYNAMICS
Levetiracetam, a pyrrolidone derivative, is an enantiomeric agent that is structurally unrelated to other available antiseizure medications. The mechanism of antiseizure action of levetiracetam is unknown.

In vitro and in vivo recordings of epileptiform activity from the hippocampus showed that levetiracetam does not affect normal neuronal excitability, but inhibits the synchronization of epileptiform bursts, likely prevent hypersynchronization of epileptiform burst firing and propagation of seizure activity.

At concentrations of up to 10 mM, levetiracetam did not exhibit binding affinity for the receptors/sites, ion channels, or transporters that were tested, including the GABA_A and GABA_B receptors. In a series of in vitro and in vivo experiments, it is unlikely that levetiracetam binds to the active site of the enzyme known as neuronal voltage-gated sodium or T-type calcium currents. levetiracetam does not appear to directly facilitate GABAergic neurotransmission. However, in vitro studies have shown that it partially reverses the activity of negative modulators of GABA- and glycine-gated currents and partially inhibits N-type calcium currents in neuronal cells.

Levetiracetam has been shown in in vitro studies to bind to a specific site in rodent brain tissue, the binding affinity correlates with the kindling protective potency of levetiracetam and its analogues in rapid kindling. Levetiracetam's affinity for this binding site (Ki value of 600 nM) is 10 times greater than that of the seizure protection in the mouse audiogenic model of epilepsy and suggests that such interaction contributes to the pharmacological properties of the drug.

PHARMACOKINETICS
Levetiracetam is rapidly absorbed after oral administration. The pharmacokinetics are linear over the dose range of 500 to 5,000 mg and time invariant within the intra- and inter-subject variability. Steady state is reached after two days of twice-daily dosing with an accumulation ratio of approximately 1.3. Gender has no effect on the dose or a multiple twice-daily dose. Peak concentrations are typically 31 µg/mL and 46 µg/mL after a single 1,000 mg dose and reported 1,000 mg/day dose, respectively. The rate of absorption is moderate. The extent of absorption is rapid and not affected by food does not affect the bioavailability but reduces the T_{max} by 20% and delays by 1.5 hours.

Neither levetiracetam nor its metabolite (UCB L057) binds significantly to plasma proteins. The clinically significant interaction with other drugs through competition for protein binding sites are therefore unlikely. Levetiracetam's volume of distribution is 0.5 to 0.7 L/kg, which is close to the total body water.

Metabolism and Excretion
Levetiracetam is primarily metabolized and the major metabolic pathway is the enzymatic hydrolysis of the acetamide group, which produces the carboxylic acid metabolite, ucb-L057 (24% of dose). The formation of ucb-L057 is not dependent on the cytochrome P450 isoenzyme system. The metabolite does not contribute to the antiseizure activity.

One was obtained as the product of hydroxylation of the 2-oxo-pyrrolidine ring in position 4 (1% of dose). Two metabolites, which together represent approximately 1% of dose, are the diastereomers of ucb-L057, the enantiomer and the hydrolysis of the acetamide group. The remaining 66% of dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. Levetiracetam's mean total body clearance is 0.96 mL/min/kg. The major route of excretion is via renal excretion by a combination of filtration and active tubular secretion followed by tubular reabsorption of 33% of the drug. Levetiracetam's renal clearance is 0.6 mL/min/kg. The relationship between creatinine clearance and levetiracetam clearance is linear, indicating that renal clearance is a good indicator of the major metabolic ucb-L057 at 4.2 mL/min/kg indicating active tubular secretion in addition to glomerular filtration.

Mycoclonic seizures in patients with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
- As adjunctive therapy in the treatment of myoclonic seizures in adults and adolescent 12 years and older with juvenile myoclonic epilepsy.

Primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures
- As adjunctive therapy in the treatment of primary generalized tonic-clonic seizures in adults and adolescents 12 years and older with idiopathic generalized epilepsy.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

LEVOFRACAM Tablet Weight-Based Dosing Guide for Children

Patient Weight	Daily Levetiracetam (LEVOFRACAM) Dosing		
	20 mg/kg/day	**40 mg/kg/day**	**60 mg/kg/day**
≥ 20 to 40 kg	1,000 mg/day (500 mg BID)	2,000 mg/day (1,000 mg BID)	3,000 mg/day (1,500 mg BID)
>40 kg	1,000 mg/day (500 mg BID)	2,000 mg/day (1,000 mg BID)	3,000 mg/day (1,500 mg BID)

Levetiracetam Tablet Weight-Based Dosing Guide for Children

Daily Levetiracetam (LEVOFRACAM) Dosing		
Initial Dose: 20 mg/kg/day **Maintenance dose: 40 mg/kg/day**		
Patient Weight	**Initial Dose**	**Maintenance Dose**
20 kg	400 mg/day	800 mg/day
25 kg	500 mg/day	1,000 mg/day
30 kg	600 mg/day	1,200 mg/day
35 kg	700 mg/day	1,400 mg/day
40 kg	800 mg/day	1,600 mg/day
45 kg	900 mg/day	1,800 mg/day
50 kg	1,000 mg/day	2,000 mg/day
55 kg	1,100 mg/day	2,200 mg/day
60 kg	1,200 mg/day	2,400 mg/day

Mycoclonic Seizures in Patients 12 years and older with Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy
Initial Dose: 1,000 mg/day, given as twice-daily dosing (500 mg BID).

Dosage should be increased by 1,000 mg/day every two weeks to the **recommended daily dose of 3,000 mg.**

The effectiveness of doses lower than 1,000 mg/day has not been established.

OR as prescribed by a physician.

Primary Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures

Adults (18 years and older)	Children and Adolescents (6 to <18 years old)
Initial Dose: 1,000 mg/day, given as twice-daily dosing (500 mg BID).	**Initial Dose: 20 mg/kg/day** given as twice-daily dosing (10 mg/kg BID).
Dosage should be increased by 1,000 mg/day every two weeks to the **recommended daily dose of 3,000 mg/day.**	The daily dose should be increased every two weeks by increments of 20 mg/kg/day to the **recommended daily dose of 60 mg/kg (3,000 mg BID).**
The effectiveness of doses lower than 1,000 mg/day has not been established.	If a patient cannot tolerate a daily dose of 60 mg/kg, the daily dose may be decreased.
	Note: See table below for tablet dosing for patients weighing during titration to 60 mg/kg/day

Levetiracetam Tablet Weight-Based Dosing Guide for Children

Patient Weight	Daily Levetiracetam (LEVOFRACAM) Dosing		
	20 mg/kg/day	**40 mg/kg/day**	**60 mg/kg/day**
≥ 20 to 40 kg	1,000 mg/day (500 mg BID)	2,000 mg/day (1,000 mg BID)	3,000 mg/day (1,500 mg BID)
>40 kg	1,000 mg/day (500 mg BID)	2,000 mg/day (1,000 mg BID)	3,000 mg/day (1,500 mg BID)

SPECIAL POPULATION
Patients with Renal Impairment: The daily dose of levetiracetam must be individualized according to renal function status.

Recommended Adult Levetiracetam Oral Dose in Adult and Adolescents (weighing more than 50 kg with impaired renal function)

Group	Creatinine Clearance (mL/min/1.73 m²)	Oral Dosage Regimen	Frequency
Normal	>80	500 to 1,500	Every 12 hours
Mild	50 to 80	500 to 1,000	Every 12 hours
Moderate	30 to 49	250 to 750	Every 12 hours
Severe	<30	250 to 500	Every 12 hours
*End-stage renal disease patients undergoing dialysis	-	500 to 1,000	

- A 750 mg loading dose is recommended on the first day of treatment with levetiracetam.
- Following dialysis, a 250 mg to 750 mg supplemental dose is recommended.

The CL_{cr} in mL/min/1.73 m² is the estimated creatinine clearance (CL_{cr} in mL/min is needed). The CL_{cr} in mL/min can be estimated from creatinine clearance (CL) determination using the following formula:

$$CL_{cr} = \frac{[140 - \text{age (years)}] \times \text{weight (kg)}}{72 \times \text{serum creatinine (mg/dL)}} \times (0.85 \text{ for women})$$

The CL_{cr} is adjusted for body surface area (BSA) to **1.73**:

$$CL_{cr} \text{ in mL/min/1.73 m}^2 = \frac{CL_{cr} \text{ (mL/min)} \times 1.73}{\text{BSA subject (m}^2\text{)}}$$

Children with Renal Impairment: The daily dose of levetiracetam must be individualized according to renal function. This recommendation is based on a study in adult renally impaired patients.

The CL_{cr} in mL/min/1.73 m² may be estimated from serum creatinine (mg/dL) determination, for young adolescents and children using the following Schwartz formula (bedside):

$$CL_{cr} \text{ (mL/min/1.73 m}^2\text{)} = \frac{\text{Height (cm)} \times \text{ks}}{\text{Serum Creatinine (mg/dL)}}$$

ks= 0.55 in Children less than 13 years old and in adolescent female; ks= 0.7 in adolescent male

Dosing adjustment for children and adolescents patients weighing less than 50 kg with impaired renal function

Recommended Levetiracetam Oral Dose for Children and Adolescents (weighing less than 50 kg with impaired renal function)

Group	Creatinine Clearance (mL/min/1.73 m²)	Oral dose frequency Children from 6 years and adolescents (weighing less than 50 kg)	
		Dose	Frequency
Normal	≥ 80	10 to 30 mg/kg (0.16 to 0.50 mL/kg) twice daily	
Mild	50 to 79	7.5 to 22.5 mg/kg (0.12 to 0.37 mL/kg) twice daily	
Moderate	30 to 49	5 to 15 mg/kg (0.08 to 0.25 mL/kg) twice daily	
Severe	< 30	5 to 15 mg/kg (0.08 to 0.25 mL/kg) once daily	
*End-stage renal disease patients undergoing dialysis	-	10 to 20 mg/kg (0.16 to 0.33 mL/kg) once daily**	

- A 15 mg/kg (0.25 mL/kg) loading dose is recommended on the first day of treatment with levetiracetam.
- Following dialysis, a 5 to 15 mg/kg (0.08 to 0.25 mL/kg) supplemental dose is recommended.

Patients with Hepatic Impairment:
Severe Hepatic Impairment: A 50% reduction of the daily maintenance dose is recommended when the creatinine clearance is <70 mL/min. No dose adjustment is needed for patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment.

CONTRAINDICATION
Known hypersensitivity to levetiracetam or to any ingredient in the formulation

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS
Psychiatric Reactions / Behavioral Abnormalities and Psychotic Symptoms
In some patients, treatment with levetiracetam associated abnormalities. The incidence of behavioral abnormalities in the levetiracetam and pregnancy pooled data from seizure studies were comparable to the incidence of the adult patients population in placebo-controlled studies.

Suicidal behavior and ideation
Antiepileptic drugs, including levetiracetam, increase the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior in patients taking these drugs for any indication. Patients treated with any antiepileptic drug should be monitored for the emergence or worsening of depression, suicidal thoughts of behavior, and/or any unusual changes in mood or behavior.

The increased risk of suicidal behavior and suicidal ideation was observed as early as one week after starting drug therapy with antiepileptic drugs and continued for the duration of treatment.

Anyone considering prescribing levetiracetam or any other AED must balance the risk of suicidal thoughts or behavior with the risk of the presence of untreated illness. Epilepsy and many other illness for AEDs are prescribed are themselves associated with morbidity and mortality and an increased risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior. Should suicidal thoughts and behavior emerge during treatment, the prescriber needs to consider whether the emergence of these symptoms in any given patient may be related to the illness being treated.

Patients, their caregivers, and families should be informed that AEDs increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior and should be advised of the need to be alert for the emergence or worsening of the signs and symptoms of depression, any unusual changes in mood or behavior, or the emergence of suicidal thoughts, behaviors or thoughts about self-harm. Behaviors of concern should be reported immediately to healthcare providers.

Somnolence and fatigue
Levetiracetam may cause somnolence and fatigue. In general, the incidences of somnolence and fatigue in the pediatric partial-onset seizures studies, and in pediatric and adult myoclonic and primary generalized tonic-clonic seizure studies were comparable to those in the adult partial-onset seizures studies.

Somnolence and asthenia occurred most frequently within the first four weeks of treatment.

Patients should be monitored for these signs and symptoms and advised not to drive or operate machinery until they have gained sufficient experience with levetiracetam to gauge whether it adversely affects their ability to drive or operate machinery.

Serious Dermatological Hypersensitivity Reactions
Serious dermatological rhypersensitivity reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS) have been reported in association with levetiracetam treatment. Such reactions can be life-threatening, and some patients have required hospitalization with very rare reports of fatal outcome. There is a risk (up to 6 of 100 or 6%) of cross-sensitivity with the use of other AEDs. If hypersensitivity reactions are suspected, and an alternative cause cannot be established, levetiracetam should be discontinued. Patients with a history of other hypersensitivity reactions to levetiracetam should be monitored closely. The estimated time of onset of SJS and TEN is reported to be 14 to 17 days, but cases have been reported at least four months after initiation of treatment. The time to onset of DRESS is usually around three weeks. Early signs of DRESS, such as fever and lymphadenopathy, may be present before the rash appears. DRESS initially presents with a rash on the face and then with other organ system involvement that may or may not include eosinophilia, lymphadenopathy, hepatitis, nephritis, hematological abnormalities, myocarditis or myocardial inflammation. Signs and symptoms not noted may also occur. Organ involvement may be more severe than skin reaction.

Coordination difficulties
Coordination difficulties were only observed in the adult partial-onset seizure studies. Patients should be advised that if they experience dizziness and/or ataxia that they should not perform tasks that require fine coordination skills, such as operating machinery, until they have gained sufficient experience on levetiracetam to gauge whether it could adversely affect their ability to drive or operate machinery.

Withdrawal seizures
As with other AEDs, levetiracetam should be withdrawn gradually to minimize the potential of increased seizure frequency.

Hematological abnormalities
Hematologic abnormalities such as decreases in red blood cells (RBC) count, hemoglobin, hematocrit, and increases in neutrophil counts have been seen in clinical trials of levetiracetam. Most of these changes were observed on RBC and neutrophil counts also occurred in clinical trials. Cases of agranulocytosis and pancytopenia have been reported rarely.

Monitor decreases in total mean erythrocyte count less than expected. Leukopenia, neutropenia, agranulocytosis, pancytopenia, decreased white cell and neutrophil counts may occur. If any abnormal hematological parameter is noted during the drug has not been established.

Increase in Blood Pressure
A significantly higher risk of increased blood pressure was observed in pediatric patients treated with levetiracetam compared to placebo in clinical trials. There was no overall difference in mean diastolic blood pressure between the levetiracetam and placebo groups. The clinical significance of these studies of older children or in adults. It is recommended to monitor patients 1 month to 4 years of age for increases in diastolic blood pressure.

Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines
No studies on the effects on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

Due to possible different individual sensitivity, some patients might experience, at the beginning of treatment or following a dosage increase or withdrawal, somnolence or other CNS effects. Therefore, caution is recommended in those patients when performing skilled tasks, e.g., vehicles or operating machinery. It is not known whether the risk to these activities until it is established that their ability to perform such activities is not impaired.

Acute Kidney Injury
Levetiracetam has been very rarely associated with acute kidney injury, with a time to onset varying from a few days to several months.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICAMENTS
- **Probenecid**: Probenecid, a renal tubular organic acid, **phenobarbital, lamotrigine, gabapentin, and primidone**: Levetiracetam does not affect the plasma concentrations of these **the AEDs** and that the AEDs may not significantly influence the pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam.
- Concomitant use of carbamazepine and levetiracetam has been reported to increase carbamazepine concentrations in some patients.
- **Alcohol**: No interaction between the effects of levetiracetam and alcohol.
- **Antacids**: No data on the influence of antacids on the absorption of levetiracetam is available.
- **Oral contraceptives**: Levetiracetam does not influence the pharmacokinetics of oral contraceptives.
- **Methotrexate**: Concomitant administration of levetiracetam and methotrexate has been reported to decrease methotrexate clearance, resulting in increased/prolonged blood methotrexate concentration to patients, toxic levels. Blood methotrexate and hepatic function levels would be carefully monitored in patients treated concomitantly with the two drugs.
- **Digoxin**: No effect on the pharmacokinetics of digoxin and no change in prothrombin time was observed when levetiracetam was co-administered with warfarin. Concomitant administration of levetiracetam should not be routinely recommended to monitor digoxin levels.
- **Oral Contraceptives (e.g., ethinylestradiol and levonorgestrel)**: No pharmacokinetic interaction was observed. However, pharmacokinetic interaction studies between levetiracetam and other hormonal contraceptives have not been conducted. Therefore, physicians should advise their female patients to be alert to any changes in their menstrual pattern while taking these combined oral contraceptives.
- **Probenecid**: Probenecid did not change the pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam when concomitantly used. The effect of levetiracetam on probenecid was not studied.
- **Warfarin**: Levetiracetam did not change the pharmacokinetics of warfarin. Concomitant administration of levetiracetam did not change prothrombin time.

STATEMENT ON USAGE FOR HIGH RISK GROUPS
PREGNANCY AND LACTATION
Pregnancy Category C
Pregnancy Category C: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Postmarketing data from several prospective pregnancy registries have documented outcomes in women exposed to levetiracetam monotherapy during pregnancy. The data are insufficient to conclude that these data do not suggest a substantial increase in the risk for major congenital malformations, although it indicates that the risk of having a child with a birth defect is greater for women on antiepileptic drug therapy, including levetiracetam, than for women who are not treated with AEDs. Therapy with multiple AEDs is associated with a higher risk of congenital malformations than monotherapy. Levetiracetam should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential fetal risk.

Levetiracetam is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, nursing is not recommended during treatment with levetiracetam. A decision should be made whether to discontinue breastfeeding or discontinue the drug, taking into consideration the importance of the drug to the mother, because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in breastfeeding infants from levetiracetam.

FERTILITY
The risk of having antiepileptic effects as a result of levetiracetam on male or female fertility.

Labor and Delivery
The effect of levetiracetam on labor and delivery is unknown.

Nursing Mothers
Levetiracetam is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, nursing is not recommended during treatment with levetiracetam. A decision should be made whether to discontinue breastfeeding or discontinue the drug, taking into consideration the importance of the drug to the mother, because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in breastfeeding infants from levetiracetam.

ADVERSE REACTIONS
Infections and Infestations: Infection, viral infection, flu syndrome, sinusitis, rhinitis, pharyngitis
Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Decreased hemoglobin, decreased hematocrit, decreased white blood cell count, decreased neutrophil count, agranulocytosis, pancytopenia
Immune System Disorders: Hypersensitivity (including angioedema and anaphylaxis), Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS)
Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders: Anorexia, weight decreased, weight increased, hyponatremia, dehydration
Psychiatric Disorders: Depression, hostility/aggression, anxiety, insomnia, nervousness, irritability, suicide attempt, suicidal ideation, psychotic disorder, abnormal behavior, hallucination, anger, confusional state, emotional lability, mood swings, agitation, personality disorder, aggressive reaction, bruxism, thinking abnormal, hyperkinesia
Nervous System Disorders: Somnolence, headache, convulsion, balance disorder, dizziness, coordination abnormal, tremor, ataxia, amnesia, memory impairment, paresthesia, sedation, disturbance in attention, convulsions, dizziness, abnormal coordination, balance disorders, disturbance in attention, emotional disorders, amnesia, tremor
Gastrointestinal Disorders: Abdominal pain, diarrhea, dyspepsia, vomiting, nausea, pancreatitis, abdominal pain upper, diarrhea, nausea, dyspepsia
Hepatobiliary Disorders: Liver function tests abnormal, hepatic failure, hepatitis
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Rash, alopecia, eczema, pruritus, toxic epidermal necrolysis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme, rash pruritic, alopecia, eczema, pruritus
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: Muscular weakness, myalgia, back pain, neck pain, myasthenia
Renal and Urinary Disorders: Urinary incontinence, urinary abnormality
General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions: Asthenia/fatigue, fever, pain, face edema
Injury, Poisoning and Procedural Complications: Injury, head injury, contusion, fall, prolonged

OVERDOSE AND TREATMENT
Cases of somnolence, agitation, aggression, depressed level of consciousness, respiratory depression, and coma were observed with overdose of levetiracetam. The highest dose of levetiracetam administered in clinical pharmacology trials was 10,000 mg as single dose and 6,000 mg twice daily. There were no adverse events in the few known cases of overdose in clinical trials.

Standard hemodialysis procedures result in significant clearance of levetiracetam (approximately 50% of the dose). Therefore, a supplemental dose may be necessary following hemodialysis. Data are not available on overdose in patients with renal impairment. The effect of peritoneal dialysis and hemodialysis in patient with significant renal impairment.

STORAGE CONDITION
Store at room temperature not exceeding 30°C. Keep the product out of sight and reach of children.

AVAILABILITY
LEVOFRACAM® 250 mg Film-coated tablet - PVC/PVDC/PE/PVC/Blue/Matte/Alu x 10 (Box of 6) - 01-144338
LEVOFRACAM® 500 mg Film-coated tablet - PVC/PVDC/PE/PVC/Blue/Matte/Alu x 10 (Box of 6) - 01-144339
LEVOFRACAM® 1 g Film-coated tablet - PVC/PVDC/PE/PVC/Blue/Matte/Alu x 10 (Box of 6) - 01-144340

GENERIC DESCRIPTION
Levetiracetam

PRESCRIPTION
For supervised administration by a medical practitioner.

SCHEDULE
Schedule IV

MANUFACTURED BY:
Fracmed Pharmaceuticals

Manufacturer's Code: 0111
Fracmed Pharmaceuticals Inc., Plot 4, Block 1, Phase 1, Philippine Economic Zone Authority, Pasir Ilat Tabacalera, Cavite City, Philippines 4100
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