VI.2 Elements for a public summary

VI.2.1 Overview of disease epidemiology

The HDM SLIT-tablet is allergy immunotherapy for treatment of house dust mite allergy. The aim is to increase the body's tolerance towards house dust mites and thereby reducing the symptoms.

Almost all adult patients with house dust mite allergy suffer from allergic rhinitis (hayfever-like symptoms) and approximately half also suffer from allergic asthma. Suffering from allergic rhinitis increases the risk for later development of allergic asthma.

On average, 1 in 5 of the population in Europe has allergic rhinitis, corresponding to 53 million people. It is estimated that about half of these react to house dust mites.

Allergy to house dust mites is the most common cause of allergic asthma and almost half of the adults suffering from allergic asthma are allergic to house dust mites.

Main treatment options are to avoid house dust mites, use symptom-relieving medication or allergy immunotherapy.

VI.2.2 Summary of treatment benefits

The HDM SLIT-tablet is for patients who

- have a positive test (skin prick test or blood sample test) to house dust mites, and
- who have persistent symptoms of allergic rhinitis despite using symptom-relieving medication, and/or
- allergic asthma not well controlled by their daily asthma inhaler treatment.

2029 patients (1817 adults and 212 children) have been investigated in completed clinical trials to investigate benefits and risks of the HDM SLIT-tablet. The trials showed that patients with house dust mite allergic asthma can use less of their daily inhaler treatment while maintaining control of their asthma. Also the risk for an acute asthma worsening is lowered when testing this in a trial design where daily asthma inhaler treatment was reduced and subsequently taken away. Patients with house dust mite rhinitis (hayfever-like symptoms) had fewer symptoms even though they used less symptom-relieving medication. These patients also had only half the number of days with really troublesome symptoms due to their house dust mite rhinitis compared with patients receiving placebo (a tablet with no medical effect).

The combined results of the trials show that the HDM SLIT-tablet can provide underlying protection against symptoms of house dust mite allergy.

VI.2.3 Unknowns relating to treatment benefits

The majority of the clinical trial programme comprised Caucasians, with Asians representing the only sizeable minority (3%). Efficacy is not expected to be dependent on race and no post-authorisation efficacy studies are proposed or planned for the HDM SLIT-tablet.

VI.2.4 Summary of safety concerns

Important identified risks

Risk	What is known	Preventability
Acute worsening of asthma symptoms	This is a known adverse effect of allergy immunotherapy in general. This type of adverse effect was also reported in the clinical investigations of the HDM SLIT-tablet however only very few were of severe intensity; approximately 3 out of 1000 patients reported severe acute worsening of asthma symptoms.	Patients at high risk of this adverse effect should not start treatment with the HDM SLIT-tablet. The treating physician should keep the patient under careful observation for at least 30 minutes after the patient takes the first HDM SLIT-tablet so that possible adverse effects can be treated immediately. The patient should be told to contact a physician and stop treatment in case of any severe symptoms.

Important potential risks

Risk	What is known (Including reason why it is considered a potential risk)
Serious allergic reactions in the throat	This is a known potential adverse effect of allergy immunotherapy to be placed under the tongue. No reports of the type that affected the ability to breathe were reported in the clinical investigations of the HDM SLIT-tablet.
Serious allergic reaction affecting other parts of the body than the mouth and throat	This is a known adverse effect of allergy immunotherapy in general. This type of adverse effect has not been reported in the clinical investigations of the HDM SLIT-tablet and is therefore considered potential.
Life-threatening allergic reaction (allergic shock) affecting several parts of the body and that has an effect on the patient's blood pressure	This is a known but very rare adverse effect of allergy immunotherapy in general. This type of adverse effect has not been reported in the clinical investigations of the HDM SLIT-table and is therefore considered potential.
Eosinophilic esophagitis	Eosinophilic esophagitis has been associated with the use of other allergy immunotherapy tablets to be placed under the tongue. It is suspected but not yet confirmed that this association may be a class effect. EoE is thus considered an important potential risk for the HDM SLIT-tablet.

Missing information

Risk	What is known
Children	Use of the HDM SLIT-tablet in children has not been investigated sufficiently, so the HDM SLIT-tablet is not intended for use in children. Use of the HDM SLIT-tablet in children is considered missing information.
Elderly	Use of the HDM SLIT-tablet in elderly has not been investigated sufficiently, so the HDM SLIT-tablet is not intended for use in elderly patients. Use of the HDM SLIT-tablet in elderly is considered missing information.
Pregnant and breastfeeding women	The use of the HDM SLIT-tablet in pregnant women has not been investigated. Treatment with the HDM SLIT-tablet should not be started in pregnant women because some of the medication that is used to treat potential serious allergic adverse effects may be harmful in connection with pregnancy. If a patient becomes pregnant during treatment with the HDM SLIT-tablet, the patient should contact her physician who will decide if it is safe to continue treatment.
Race/ethnicity other than Caucasian	Patients with race/ethnicity other than Caucasian have not been investigated sufficiently and are considered missing information. Based on available data, no safety issues are expected.
Patients with endocrine disorders	Patients with endocrine disorders have not been investigated sufficiently and are considered missing information. Based on available data, no safety issues are expected.
Patients with cardiac diseases	Patients with cardiac disease have not been investigated sufficiently and are considered missing information. Patients with cardiac disease may potentially be at increased risk in case of a serious allergic reaction.
Long term safety	Long term safety has not been investigated in clinical trials and is considered missing information. Based on available data, no safety issues are expected.

Risk	What is known
Asthma patients with impaired lung function at initiation of treatment; FEV_1<70% of predicted value, recent severe asthma exacerbation, or acute respiratory tract infection	There is no data on this risk, but based on experience with other allergy immunotherapy products, the risk of severe adverse effects may be increased for this population. For this reason, it is very important that the physician carefully evaluates the patient's asthma before starting treatment with the HDM SLIT-tablet. If a patient's asthma worsens during treatment, the patient should stop taking the tablet and contact the physician who will decide if and when it is safe to start taking the tablet again.

VI.2.5 Summary of risk minimisation measures by safety concern

All medicines have a Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) which provides the physicians, pharmacists and other health care professionals with details on how to use the medicine, the risks and recommendations for minimising them. An abbreviated version of this in lay language is provided in the form of the Package Leaflet (PL). The measures in these documents are known as routine risk minimisations measures.

The Summary of Product Characteristics and the Package Leaflet for the HDM SLIT-tablet can be found in the HDM SLIT-tablet's EPAR page.

This medicine has no additional risk minimisation activities.

VI.2.6 Planned post-authorisation development plan

There are no new studies proposed to be started after authorisation of the HDM SLIT-tablet. But 4 trials in adults and adolescents are ongoing. In addition, further studies in children will have to be performed before the HDM SLIT-tablet is approved for use in children.

VI.2.7 Summary of changes to the risk management plan over time

This is the first RMP for the HDM SLIT-tablet.