

VI.2 Elements for a public summary

VI.2.1 Overview of disease epidemiology

Parkinson's disease is a life-long disease with symptoms such as slowness and unstable walk, stiff muscles and shakiness. It is estimated that approximately 150-200 out of 100 000 people are affected. Flexilev is used for the treatment of symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Flexilev contains two active substances, levodopa and carbidopa. Levodopa is transformed in the brain to a substance called dopamine which reduces the symptoms of Parkinson's disease. Carbidopa is given together with levodopa to slow down the transformation of levodopa to dopamine and thereby give a stronger effect of levodopa.

VI.2.2 Summary of treatment benefits

The use of combination products with levodopa and carbidopa, such as Flexilev for treatment of Parkinson's disease is well-established and their therapeutic and adverse effects are already well known.

The dispersible tablet of Flexilev (microtablet) allows for small doses of levodopa to be administered with a dose dispenser, MyFID, which makes it possible for an individualised and frequent dosage of levodopa. This will lead to less fluctuations of levodopa in plasma and thus is likely to both improve the effect and reduce adverse events.

VI.2.3 Unknowns relating to treatment benefits

None

VI.2.4 Summary of safety concerns

Important identified risks

Risk	What is known	Preventability
Extreme tiredness (somnia)	Very rarely, the use of levodopa has been associated with extreme tiredness (somnia) and sudden sleep attacks.	The doctor must inform the patient about the risk of sudden sleep attacks and that the patient must be careful when driving a car or using machines. Patients who have experienced this side effect must not drive a car during treatment with Flexilev.

Important potential risks

Risk	What is known	What is known
Development of skin cancer (malignant melanoma)	Studies have shown that patients with Parkinson's disease have an increased risk (2-6 times) of developing skin cancer (melanoma) compared to people without Parkinson. It is not known if this is caused by medicine or the disease itself.	As a precaution, Flexilev should not be used by patients with a history of skin cancer or patients with abnormal changes of the skin that has not been examined by a doctor.

Missing information

Risk	What is known	What is known
Limited information on use during pregnancy and lactation	The incidence of Parkinson's disease in women of child bearing potential is low. There are limited knowledge concerning use during pregnancy and lactation and the use of Flexilev is not recommended. However, no specific risks with use of levodopa/carbidopa during pregnancy or lactation have been identified.	

VI.2.5 Summary of risk minimisation measures by safety concern

All medicines have a Summary of Product Characteristics (SmPC) which provides 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 minimisation measures.

The Summary of Product Characteristics and the Package leaflet for Flexilev can be found on the authorities web pages. This medicine has no additional risk minimizations measures.

VI.2.6 Planned post authorisation development plan– NA

Major changes to the Risk Management Plan over time

Risk	What is known	Preventability	Comment
2	11 April 2014	NA	Change to new RMP template and update after approval of the product
3	23 June 2015	NA	Review and update before MRP procedure
4	03 Sep 2015	NA	Minor administrative changes and updates on request from MPA