



# **FELDENE® GEL**

## **(Piroxicam)**

### **1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT**

FELDENE® GEL

### **2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION**

The Gel contains 0.5% (5 mg per gram of gel) by weight anhydrous piroxicam.

### **3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM**

Gel for topical application.

### **4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

#### **4.1. THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS**

FELDENE® GEL topical is indicated for a variety of conditions characterized by pain and inflammation such as osteoarthritis (arthrosis, degenerative joint disease), post traumatic or acute musculoskeletal disorders, including tendinitis, tenosynovitis, periarthrits, sprains, strains and low back pain.

#### **4.2. POSOLOGY AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION**

This product is intended for external use only. A 1-gram dose of the 0.5% gel (corresponding to 5 mg of piroxicam) should be applied to the affected site three or four times per day.

No occlusive dressing should be employed. Rub in the gel, leaving no residual material on the skin.

#### ***Use in Children***

Dosage recommendations and indications for use in children have not been established.

#### **4.3. CONTRAINDICATIONS**

1. Piroxicam topical should not be used in those patients who have previously shown a hypersensitivity to the gel or cream or piroxicam in any of its dosage forms. The potential exists for cross sensitivity to aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).
2. Piroxicam topical should not be given to patients in whom aspirin and other NSAIDs induce the symptoms of asthma, rhinitis, angioedema or urticaria.

#### **4.4. SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE**

Life-threatening cutaneous reactions, drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS syndrome)<sup>7</sup>, Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS) and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) have been reported with the use of systemic administration of piroxicam. These reactions have not been



associated with topical piroxicam, but the possibility of occurring with topical piroxicam cannot be ruled out.

Patients should be advised of the signs and symptoms and monitored closely for skin reactions. The highest risk for occurrence of SJS or TEN is within the first week of treatment.

If signs or symptoms of SJS or TEN (e.g. progressive skin rash often with blisters or mucosal lesions) are present, piroxicam treatment should be discontinued.

The best results in managing SJS and TEN come from early diagnosis and immediate discontinuation of any suspect drug. Early withdrawal is associated with a better prognosis.

If the patient has developed SJS or TEN with the use of piroxicam, piroxicam must not be re-started in this patient at any time.<sup>1</sup>

Cases of fixed drug eruption (FDE) have been reported with piroxicam. Piroxicam should not be reintroduced in patients with history of piroxicam-related FDE. Potential cross reactivity might occur with other oxicams (see section **4.8 Undesirable effects**).<sup>8</sup>

If local irritation develops, the use of piroxicam topical should be discontinued and appropriate therapy instituted as necessary. Do not apply to the eyes, mucosa or to open skin lesions, or skin conditions affecting the site of application.

NSAIDs, including piroxicam, may cause interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and renal failure. There have also been reports of interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and renal failure with topical piroxicam, although the causal relationship to treatment with topical piroxicam has not been established. As a result, the possibility that these events may be related to the use of topical piroxicam cannot be ruled out.<sup>4</sup>

#### **4.5. INTERACTION WITH OTHER MEDICINAL PRODUCTS AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERACTION**

None known

#### **4.6. FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION**

##### *Fertility*

Based on the mechanism of action, the use of NSAIDs, including piroxicam may delay or prevent rupture of ovarian follicles, which has been associated with reversible infertility in some women. In women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of infertility, withdrawal of NSAIDs, including topical piroxicam should be considered.<sup>2</sup>

##### *Pregnancy*

The safety of topical piroxicam use during pregnancy or during lactation has not yet been established.

There are no studies of the use of topical piroxicam in pregnant women. Studies in animals have shown reproductive toxicity with systemic formulations (see section **5.3. Preclinical Safety Data**),



but their relevance to the use of topical formulations in pregnant women is unknown.<sup>5</sup> As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of topical piroxicam in pregnant women.<sup>5</sup>

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis might adversely affect pregnancy. Data from epidemiological studies suggest an increased risk of spontaneous abortion after the use of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors in early pregnancy. In animals, administration of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors has been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss.<sup>3</sup>

#### *Lactation*

Piroxicam topical is not recommended for use in nursing mothers, as the clinical safety has not been established.

### **4.7. EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES**

None known

### **4.8. UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS**

Side effects possibly related to treatment have been infrequently reported. In clinical trials, the vast majority of side effects involved mild or moderate local irritation, erythema, rash, pityroid desquamation, pruritus, and reactions at the application site.

In post-marketing experience, the following additional dermatological effects have been reported: **fixed drug eruption**,<sup>8</sup> contact dermatitis,<sup>1</sup> eczema<sup>1</sup> and photosensitivity skin reaction.<sup>1</sup>

Mild but transient skin discolouration and staining of clothing have been noted when the gel is not rubbed in completely.

### **4.9. OVERDOSE**

Overdosage is unlikely to occur with this topical preparation.

## **5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES**

### **5.1. PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES**

Piroxicam is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent useful in the treatment of inflammatory conditions. Although the mode of action for this agent is not precisely understood, piroxicam inhibits prostaglandin synthesis and release through a reversible inhibition of the cyclo-oxygenase enzyme.<sup>1</sup>

### **5.2. PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTIES**

On the basis of various pharmacokinetic and tissue distribution studies in rats and dogs, piroxicam 0.5% gel is continuously and gradually released from the skin to the underlying muscle or synovial fluid. In addition, equilibrium between the skin and muscle or synovial fluid appears to be reached rapidly, within a few hours after application.



A multiple-dose study of twice daily application of piroxicam 0.5% gel (total daily dose equivalent to 20 mg per day, piroxicam) for 14 days found that plasma levels rose slowly over the course of the treatment period and reached a value of over 200 ng/ml on the fourth day. On an average, steady state plasma levels were between 300 ng/ml and 400 ng/ml, and mean values remained below 400 ng/ml even on the fourteenth day of treatment. These piroxicam levels observed at equilibrium were approximately 5% of those observed in subjects receiving similar oral dosing (20 mg daily). Elimination half-life in this study was calculated to be approximately 79 hours. In humans, the gel was well tolerated in skin sensitive volunteers.

The serum half-life of piroxicam is approximately 50 hours.<sup>1</sup>

### 5.3. PRECLINICAL SAFETY DATA

Subacute and chronic toxicity studies have been carried out in rats, mice, dogs, and monkeys, using oral doses which ranged from 0.3 mg/kg/day to 25 mg/kg/day. Non-clinical data show effects typical of a non-cox-selective NSAID; namely, renal papillary necrosis and gastrointestinal lesions. With regard to the latter, the monkey proved to be quite resistant to this effect and the dog unusually sensitive. In reproductive toxicity studies, piroxicam increases the incidence of dystocia and delayed parturition in animals, when drug administration is continued during pregnancy. Administration of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors has also been shown to result in increased pre- and post-implantation loss. These observations were made using oral dosing, and as noted in (section 5.2. **Pharmacokinetic Properties**), equilibrium plasma levels of piroxicam obtained in patients using the topical gel are only approximately 5% of those achieved using an equivalent dose of oral product.<sup>6</sup>

Acute and chronic toxicity and irritation has additionally been studied using the dermal product.<sup>6</sup> In an acute study, albino rats were given a single dermal application of 5 g/kg (200-300 times the recommended clinical application). No deaths, toxic signs or skin irritation were observed and no gross changes were found at autopsy. A one-month study was conducted in albino rats. One group received a daily application of gel to dorsal skin of 1 g per rat, another was treated with the vehicle and the third group served as untreated controls. No skin irritation was noted at the treatment sites, and no drug-related changes were observed in hematology, laboratory chemistries, organ weight, autopsy findings or histopathology. The gel was also evaluated for primary skin irritation, eye irritation, and phototoxicity in rabbits and for photoallergy and skin sensitization potential in guinea pigs, all according to standard established protocols. No skin reactions were found after the application of 0.5% gel or the vehicle to intact rabbit skin. On abraded skin, piroxicam gel produced slight erythema and edema, which was slightly greater than that following vehicle.

The anti-inflammatory and analgesic effects of piroxicam 0.5% gel were studied in rats and guinea pigs using standard models of pain and inflammation such as carrageenan induced rat paw edema, ultraviolet erythema in guinea pigs, traumatic edema in rats, yeast induced pain in rats, croton oil induced erythema on guinea pig abdomens, cotton pellet induced granuloma formation in rats and adjuvant induced arthritis in rats. Piroxicam 0.5% gel was comparable to indomethacin 1% gel in all of these models and was comparable to orally administered piroxicam in inhibiting inflammation in the rat paw edema model.

Piroxicam topical is a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) agent, which also possesses analgesic properties. Edema, erythema, tissue proliferation, fever and pain can all be inhibited in laboratory animals by the administration of piroxicam gel.



No teratogenic effects were seen when piroxicam was orally administered in animal testing. Piroxicam inhibits prostaglandin synthesis and release through a reversible inhibition of the cyclo-oxygenase enzyme. This effect, as with other NSAIDs, has been associated with an increased incidence of dystocia and delayed parturition in pregnant animals when drug administration is continued into late pregnancy. NSAIDs are also known to induce closure of the ductus arteriosus in infants.

A preliminary study indicates that following oral administration, piroxicam exists in maternal milk in a concentration of approximately 1% of that reached in plasma after oral administration.

## 6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

### 6.1. LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Hydroxyethyl cellulose  
Carbopol 940  
Purified water  
Benzyl Alcohol  
Propylene Glycol  
Isopropyl Alcohol  
Di-isopropanolamine

### 6.2. INCOMPATIBILITIES

Not Known

### 6.3. SHELF-LIFE

Please see pack for expiry of product.

### 6.4. SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR STORAGE

Store at controlled room temperature 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F).

### 6.5. NATURE AND CONTENTS OF CONTAINER

FELDENE® Gel: Tube of 25g

**Feldene Gel /LPD/PK-03**

According to CDS V 9.0 dated: 02 September 2021; Supersedes CDS V 8.0 dated: 01 November 2019

#### Marketed by:

Pfizer Pakistan Limited

Please visit our website [www.pfizerpro.com.pk](http://www.pfizerpro.com.pk) for latest version of Product leaflet.



## REFERENCES

1. Pfizer Inc. Clinical Overview to support CDS update May 2012.
2. Clinical Overview to support revision to the Piroxicam Topical Core Data Sheet, (Decreased Fertility) June 2012.
3. Clinical Overview to support revision to the Piroxicam Topical Core Data Sheet, (Spontaneous abortion) June 2012.
4. Clinical Overview to support revision to the Piroxicam Topical Core Data Sheet, Sept 2012.
5. Clinical Overview to support revision to the Piroxicam Topical Core Data Sheet, (Section 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation) May 2014.
6. Non-Clinical Overview to support revision to the Piroxicam Topical Core Date Sheet, (Section 5.3 Preclinical safety data) May 2014.
7. 2.5 Clinical Overview, Piroxicam Topical Gel (0.5% W/W) Update to the Section 4.4, Special Warnings and Precautions for Use of the Core Data Sheet, October 2019.
8. 2.5 Clinical Overview to Support Updates to Section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for Use and 4.8 Undesirable Effects of the Core Data Sheet, August 2021.