



PRISTIQ

Desvenlafaxine succinate

50 mg Extended-release tablets

Reference: United States

AfME Markets using same as LPD: Saudi Arabia

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

WARNING: SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS

Antidepressants increased the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior in children, adolescents, and young adults in short-term studies. These studies did not show an increase in the risk of suicidal thoughts and behavior with antidepressant use in patients over age 24; there was a reduction in risk with antidepressant use in patients aged 65 and older [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use].

In patients of all ages who are started on antidepressant therapy, monitor closely for worsening, and for emergence of suicidal thoughts and behaviors. Advise families and caregivers of the need for close observation and communication with the prescriber [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use].

PRISTIQ is not approved for use in pediatric patients [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use]

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Pristiq 50 mg extended-release tablet

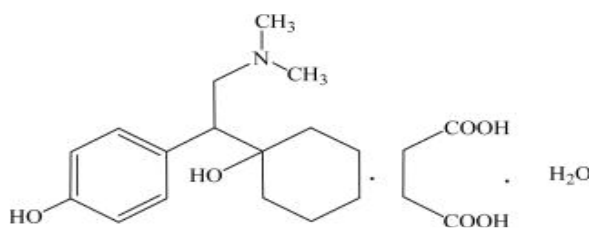
2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each Pristiq 50 mg extended-release tablet contains 76 mg of desvenlafaxine succinate monohydrate equivalent to 50 mg of desvenlafaxine.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

PRISTIQ is an extended-release tablet for oral administration that contains desvenlafaxine succinate, a structurally novel SNRI for the treatment of MDD. Desvenlafaxine (O-desmethylvenlafaxine) is the major active metabolite of the antidepressant venlafaxine, a medication used to treat major depressive disorder.

Desvenlafaxine is designated *RS*-4-[2-dimethylamino-1-(1-hydroxycyclohexyl)ethyl]phenol and has the empirical formula of $C_{16}H_{25}NO_2$ (free base) and $C_{16}H_{25}NO_2 \cdot C_4H_6O_4 \cdot H_2O$ (succinate monohydrate). Desvenlafaxine succinate monohydrate has a molecular weight of 399.48. The structural formula is shown below.



Desvenlafaxine succinate is a white to off-white powder that is soluble in water. The solubility of desvenlafaxine succinate is pH dependent. Its octanol:aqueous system (at pH 7.0) partition coefficient is 0.21.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Pristiq 50 mg extended-release tablets: light pink, square pyramid tablet debossed with “W” (over) “50” on the flat side.

4. Clinical PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

PRISTIQ is indicated for the treatment of adults with major depressive disorder (MDD) [see section 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties].

4.2 Posology and method of administration

General Instructions for Use

The recommended dose for PRISTIQ is 50 mg once daily, with or without food. The 50 mg dose is both a starting dose and the therapeutic dose. PRISTIQ should be taken at approximately the same time each day. Tablets must be swallowed whole with fluid and not divided, crushed, chewed, or dissolved.

In clinical studies, doses of 10 mg to 400 mg per day were studied. In clinical studies, doses of 50 mg to 400 mg per day were shown to be effective, although no additional benefit was demonstrated at doses greater than 50 mg per day and adverse reactions and discontinuations were more frequent at higher doses.

The 25 mg per day dose is intended for a gradual reduction in dose when discontinuing treatment. When discontinuing therapy, gradual dose reduction is recommended whenever possible to minimize discontinuation symptoms [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration and 4.4 Special warnings and precautions].

Dosage Recommendations for Patients with Renal Impairment

The maximum recommended dose in patients with moderate renal impairment (24-hr creatinine clearance [Cl_{Cr}] = 30 to 50 mL/min, Cockcroft-Gault [C-G]) is 50 mg per day. The maximum recommended dose in patients with severe renal impairment (Cl_{Cr} 15 to 29 mL/min, C-G) or end-stage renal disease (ESRD, Cl_{Cr} < 15 mL/min, C-G) is 25 mg every day or 50 mg every other day. Supplemental doses should not be given to patients after dialysis. [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions and 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties].

Dosage Recommendations for Patients with Hepatic Impairment

The recommended dose in patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh score 7 to 15) is 50 mg per day. Dose escalation above 100 mg per day is not recommended [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions and 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties].

Maintenance/Continuation/Extended Treatment

It is generally agreed that acute episodes of major depressive disorder require several months or longer of sustained pharmacologic therapy. Longer-term efficacy of PRISTIQ (50-400 mg) was established in two maintenance trials [see section 5.1 Pharmacological properties]. Patients should be periodically reassessed to determine the need for continued treatment.

Discontinuing PRISTIQ

Adverse reactions may occur upon discontinuation of PRISTIQ [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions]. Gradually reduce the dosage rather than stopping PRISTIQ abruptly when discontinuing therapy with PRISTIQ. In some patients, discontinuation may need to occur over a period of several months.

Switching Patients From Other Antidepressants to PRISTIQ

Discontinuation symptoms have been reported when switching patients from other antidepressants, including venlafaxine, to PRISTIQ. Tapering of the initial antidepressant may be necessary to minimize discontinuation symptoms.

Switching Patients to or from a Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitor (MAOI) Intended to Treat Psychiatric Disorders

At least 14 days should elapse between discontinuation of an MAOI intended to treat psychiatric disorders and initiation of therapy with PRISTIQ. Conversely, at least 7 days should be allowed after stopping PRISTIQ before starting an MAOI intended to treat psychiatric disorders [see section 4.3 Contraindications].

Use of PRISTIQ with other MAOIs such as Linezolid or Methylene Blue

Do not start PRISTIQ in a patient who is being treated with linezolid or intravenous methylene blue because there is increased risk of serotonin syndrome. In a patient who requires more urgent treatment of a psychiatric condition, other interventions, including hospitalization, should be considered [see section 4.3 Contraindications].

In some cases, a patient already receiving PRISTIQ therapy may require urgent treatment with linezolid or intravenous methylene blue. If acceptable alternatives to linezolid or intravenous methylene blue treatment are not available and the potential benefits of linezolid or intravenous methylene blue treatment are judged to outweigh the risks of serotonin syndrome in a particular patient, PRISTIQ should be stopped promptly, and linezolid or intravenous methylene blue can be administered. The patient should be monitored for symptoms of serotonin syndrome for 7 days or until 24 hours after the last dose of linezolid or intravenous methylene blue, whichever comes first. Therapy with PRISTIQ may be resumed 24 hours after the last dose of linezolid or intravenous methylene blue [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions].

The risk of administering methylene blue by non-intravenous routes (such as oral tablets or by local injection) or in intravenous doses much lower than 1 mg/kg with PRISTIQ is unclear. The clinician should, nevertheless, be aware of the possibility of emergent symptoms of serotonin syndrome with such use [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions].

4.3 Contraindications

- Hypersensitivity to desvenlafaxine succinate, venlafaxine hydrochloride or to any excipients in the PRISTIQ formulation. Angioedema has been reported in patients treated with PRISTIQ [see section 4.8 Undesirable effects].
- The use of MAOIs intended to treat psychiatric disorders with PRISTIQ or within 7 days of stopping treatment with PRISTIQ is contraindicated because of an increased risk of serotonin syndrome. The use of PRISTIQ within 14 days of stopping an MAOI intended to treat psychiatric disorders is also contraindicated [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration and 4.4 Special warnings and precautions].
- Starting PRISTIQ in a patient who is being treated with MAOIs such as linezolid or intravenous methylene blue is also contraindicated because of an increased risk of serotonin syndrome [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration and 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use].

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Pediatric and Young Adult Patients

Patients with MDD, both adult and pediatric, may experience worsening of their depression and/or the emergence of suicidal ideation and behavior (suicidality) or unusual changes in behavior, whether or not they are taking antidepressant medications, and this risk may persist until significant remission occurs. Suicide is a known risk of depression and certain other psychiatric disorders, and these disorders themselves are the strongest predictors of suicide. There has been a long-standing concern, however, that antidepressants may have a role in inducing worsening of depression and the emergence of suicidality in certain patients during the early phases of treatment. Pooled analyses of short-term placebo-controlled studies of antidepressant drugs (SSRIs and others) showed that these drugs increase the risk of suicidal thinking and behavior (suicidality) in children, adolescents, and young adults (ages 18 to 24) with major depressive disorder (MDD) and other psychiatric disorders. Short-term studies did not show an increase in the risk of suicidality with antidepressants compared to placebo in adults beyond age 24; there was a reduction with antidepressants compared to placebo in adults aged 65 and older.

The pooled analyses of placebo-controlled studies in children and adolescents with MDD, obsessive compulsive disorder (OCD), or other psychiatric disorders included a total of 24 short-term studies of 9 antidepressant drugs in over 4,400 patients. The pooled analyses of placebo-controlled studies in adults with MDD or other psychiatric disorders included a total of 295 short-term studies (median duration of 2 months) of 11 antidepressant drugs in over 77,000 patients. There was considerable variation in risk of suicidality among drugs, but a tendency toward an increase in the younger patients for almost all drugs studied. There were differences in absolute risk of suicidality across the different indications, with the highest incidence in

MDD. The risk differences (drug vs. placebo), however, were relatively stable within age strata and across indications. These risk differences (drug-placebo difference in the number of cases of suicidality per 1,000 patients treated) are provided in Table 1.

Table 1

Age Range	Drug-Placebo Difference in Number of Cases of Suicidality per 1,000 Patients Treated
	Increases Compared to Placebo
<18	14 additional cases
18 to 24	5 additional cases
	Decreases Compared to Placebo
25 to 64	1 fewer case
≥65	6 fewer cases

No suicides occurred in any of the pediatric studies. There were suicides in the adult studies, but the number was not sufficient to reach any conclusion about drug effect on suicide.

It is unknown whether the suicidality risk extends to longer-term use, i.e., beyond several months. However, there is substantial evidence from placebo-controlled maintenance studies in adults with depression that the use of antidepressants can delay the recurrence of depression.

All patients being treated with antidepressants for any indication should be monitored appropriately and observed closely for clinical worsening, suicidality, and unusual changes in behavior, especially during the initial few months of a course of drug therapy, or at times of dose changes, either increases or decreases.

The following symptoms, anxiety, agitation, panic attacks, insomnia, irritability, hostility, aggressiveness, impulsivity, akathisia (psychomotor restlessness), hypomania, and mania, have been reported in adult and pediatric patients being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder as well as for other indications, both psychiatric and nonpsychiatric. Although a causal link between the emergence of such symptoms and either the worsening of depression and/or the emergence of suicidal impulses has not been established, there is concern that such symptoms may represent precursors to emerging suicidality.

Consideration should be given to changing the therapeutic regimen, including possibly discontinuing the medication, in patients whose depression is persistently worse, or who are experiencing emergent suicidality or symptoms that might be precursors to worsening depression or suicidality, especially if these symptoms are severe, abrupt in onset, or were not part of the patient's presenting symptoms.

If the decision has been made to discontinue treatment, medication should be tapered, as rapidly as is feasible, but with recognition that abrupt discontinuation can be associated with certain symptoms [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration].

Families and caregivers of patients being treated with antidepressants for major depressive disorder or other indications, both psychiatric and nonpsychiatric, should be alerted about the need to monitor patients for the emergence of agitation, irritability, unusual changes in behavior, and the other symptoms described above, as well as the emergence of suicidality, and to report such symptoms immediately to healthcare providers. Such monitoring should include daily observation by families and caregivers.

Prescriptions for PRISTIQ should be written for the smallest quantity of tablets consistent with good patient management, in order to reduce the risk of overdose.

Screening patients for bipolar disorder

A major depressive episode may be the initial presentation of bipolar disorder. It is generally believed (though not established in controlled studies) that treating such an episode with an antidepressant alone may increase the likelihood of precipitation of a mixed/manic episode in patients at risk for bipolar disorder. Whether any of the symptoms described above represent such a conversion is unknown. However, prior to initiating treatment with an antidepressant, patients with depressive symptoms should be adequately screened to determine if they are at risk for bipolar disorder; such screening should include a detailed psychiatric history,

including a family history of suicide, bipolar disorder, and depression. It should be noted that PRISTIQ is not approved for use in treating bipolar depression.

Serotonin Syndrome

Serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and selective-serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), including PRISTIQ, can precipitate serotonin syndrome, a potentially life-threatening condition. The risk is increased with concomitant use of other serotonergic drugs (including triptans, tricyclic antidepressants, opioids (e.g. fentanyl, tramadol, meperidine, methadone), lithium, tryptophan, buspirone, amphetamines, and St. John's Wort) and with drugs that impair metabolism of serotonin, i.e., MAOIs [see section 4.3 Contraindications and section 4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction]. Serotonin syndrome can also occur when these drugs are used alone.

Serotonin syndrome signs and symptoms may include mental status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, delirium, and coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, dizziness, diaphoresis, flushing, hyperthermia), neuromuscular symptoms (e.g., tremor, rigidity, myoclonus, hyperreflexia, incoordination), seizures, and gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea).

The concomitant use of PRISTIQ with MAOIs is contraindicated. In addition, do not initiate PRISTIQ in a patient being treated with MAOIs such as linezolid or intravenous methylene blue. No reports involved the administration of methylene blue by other routes (such as oral tablets or local tissue injection). If it is necessary to initiate treatment with an MAOI such as linezolid or intravenous methylene blue in a patient taking PRISTIQ, discontinue PRISTIQ before initiating treatment with the MAOI [see section 4.3 Contraindications and 4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction].

Monitor all patients taking PRISTIQ for the emergence of serotonin syndrome. Discontinue treatment with PRISTIQ and any concomitant serotonergic agents immediately if the above symptoms occur and initiate supportive symptomatic treatment. If concomitant use of PRISTIQ with other serotonergic drugs is clinically warranted, inform patients of the increased risk for serotonin syndrome and monitor for symptoms.

Elevated Blood Pressure

Patients receiving PRISTIQ should have regular monitoring of blood pressure since increases in blood pressure were observed in clinical studies [see section 4.8 Undesirable side effects]. Pre-existing hypertension should be controlled before initiating treatment with PRISTIQ. Caution should be exercised in treating patients with pre-existing hypertension, cardiovascular, or cerebrovascular conditions that might be compromised by increases in blood pressure. Cases of elevated blood pressure requiring immediate treatment have been reported with PRISTIQ.

Sustained blood pressure increases could have adverse consequences. For patients who experience a sustained increase in blood pressure while receiving PRISTIQ, either dose reduction or discontinuation should be considered [see section 4.8 Undesirable side effects].

Increased Risk of Bleeding

Drugs that interfere with serotonin reuptake inhibition, including PRISTIQ, may increase the risk of bleeding events. Concomitant use of aspirin, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, warfarin, and other anticoagulants may add to this risk. Case reports and epidemiological studies (case-control and cohort design) have demonstrated an association between use of drugs that interfere with serotonin reuptake and the occurrence of gastrointestinal bleeding. Based on data from the published observational studies, exposure to SNRIs, particularly in the month before delivery, has been associated with a less than 2-fold increase in the risk of postpartum hemorrhage [see section 4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation]. Bleeding events related to SSRIs and SNRIs have ranged from ecchymosis, hematoma, epistaxis, and petechiae to life-threatening hemorrhages.

Inform patients about the increased risk of bleeding associated with the concomitant use of PRISTIQ and antiplatelet agents or anticoagulants. For patients taking warfarin, carefully monitor coagulation indices when initiating, titrating, or discontinuing PRISTIQ.

SSRIs/SNRIs may increase the risk of postpartum hemorrhage.

Angle Closure Glaucoma

The pupillary dilation that occurs following use of many antidepressant drugs including PRISTIQ may trigger an angle closure attack in a patient with anatomically narrow angles who does not have a patent iridectomy. Avoid use of antidepressants, including PRISTIQ, in patients with untreated anatomically narrow angles.

Activation of Mania/Hypomania

During all MDD phase 2 and phase 3 studies, mania was reported for approximately 0.02% of patients treated with PRISTIQ. Activation of mania/hypomania has also been reported in a small proportion of patients with major affective disorder who were treated with other marketed antidepressants. As with all antidepressants, PRISTIQ should be used cautiously in patients with a history or family history of mania or hypomania.

Discontinuation Syndrome

Adverse reactions after discontinuation of serotonergic antidepressants, particularly after abrupt discontinuation, include: nausea, sweating, dysphoric mood, irritability, agitation, dizziness, sensory disturbances (e.g., paresthesia, such as electric shock sensations), tremor, anxiety, confusion, headache, lethargy, emotional lability, insomnia, hypomania, tinnitus, and seizures. [see section 4.8 Undesirable side effects].

During marketing of serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), there have been post-marketing reports of serious discontinuation symptoms with PRISTIQ, which can be protracted and severe. Completed suicide, suicidal thoughts, and severe aggression (including hostility, rage, and homicidal ideation) have been observed in patients during reduction in PRISTIQ dosage, including during discontinuation. Other post-marketing reports describe visual impairment (such as blurred vision or trouble focusing) and hypertension after stopping or reducing the dose of PRISTIQ.

Patients should be monitored when discontinuing treatment with PRISTIQ. A gradual reduction in the dose, rather than abrupt cessation, is recommended. If intolerable symptoms occur following a decrease in the dose or upon discontinuation of treatment, then resuming the previously prescribed dose may be considered. Subsequently, the healthcare provider may continue decreasing the dose, but at a more gradual rate. In some patients, discontinuation may need to occur over a period of several months [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration].

Seizure

Cases of seizure have been reported in pre-marketing clinical studies with PRISTIQ. PRISTIQ has not been systematically evaluated in patients with a seizure disorder. Patients with a history of seizures were excluded from pre-marketing clinical studies. PRISTIQ should be prescribed with caution in patients with a seizure disorder.

Hyponatremia

Hyponatremia may occur as a result of treatment with SSRIs and SNRIs, including PRISTIQ. In many cases, this hyponatremia appears to be the result of the syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion (SIADH). Cases with serum sodium lower than 110 mmol/L have been reported. Elderly patients may be at greater risk of developing hyponatremia with SSRIs and SNRIs. Also, patients taking diuretics or who are otherwise volume depleted can be at greater risk [see section 5.3 Pharmacokinetic properties]. Discontinuation of PRISTIQ should be considered in patients with symptomatic hyponatremia and appropriate medical intervention should be instituted.

Signs and symptoms of hyponatremia include headache, difficulty concentrating, memory impairment, confusion, weakness, and unsteadiness, which can lead to falls. Signs and symptoms associated with more severe and/or acute cases have included hallucination, syncope, seizure, coma, respiratory arrest, and death.

Interstitial Lung Disease and Eosinophilic Pneumonia

Interstitial lung disease and eosinophilic pneumonia associated with venlafaxine (the parent drug of PRISTIQ) therapy have been rarely reported. The possibility of these adverse events should be considered in patients treated with PRISTIQ who present with progressive dyspnea, cough, or chest discomfort. Such patients should undergo a prompt medical evaluation, and discontinuation of PRISTIQ should be considered.

Sexual Dysfunction

Use of SNRIs, including PRISTIQ, may cause symptoms of sexual dysfunction [see section 4.8 Undesirable side effects]. There have been reports of long-lasting sexual dysfunction where the symptoms have continued despite discontinuation of SNRIs. In male patients, SNRI use may result in ejaculatory delay or failure, decreased libido, and erectile dysfunction. In female patients, SNRI use may result in decreased libido and delayed or absent orgasm.

It is important for prescribers to inquire about sexual function prior to initiation of PRISTIQ and to inquire specifically about changes in sexual function during treatment, because sexual function may not be spontaneously reported. When evaluating changes in sexual function, obtaining a detailed history (including timing of symptom onset) is important because sexual symptoms may have other causes, including the underlying psychiatric disorder. Discuss potential management strategies to support patients in making informed decisions about treatment.

Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of PRISTIQ have not been established in pediatric patients for the treatment of MDD.

Efficacy was not demonstrated in two adequate and well controlled, 8-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group studies conducted in 587 patients (7 to 17 years of age) for the treatment of MDD.

Antidepressants, such as PRISTIQ, increase the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors in pediatric patients [see the Boxed Warning and section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use].

PRISTIQ was associated with a decrease in body weight in placebo-controlled trials in pediatric patients with MDD. The incidence of weight loss ($\geq 3.5\%$ of baseline weight) was 22%, 14%, and 7% for patients treated with low dose PRISTIQ, high dose PRISTIQ, and placebo, respectively.

The risks associated with longer term PRISTIQ use were assessed in 6-month, open-label extension studies in pediatric patients (7 to 17 years of age) with MDD. Pediatric patients (7 to 17 years of age) had mean changes in weight that approximated expected changes, based on data from age- and sex-matched peers.

In clinical trials, when compared to adult patients receiving the same dose of PRISTIQ, exposure to desvenlafaxine was similar in adolescent patients 12 to 17 years of age, and was about 30% higher in pediatric patients 7 to 11 years of age.

Juvenile Animal Studies

In a juvenile animal study, male and female rats were treated with desvenlafaxine (75, 225 and 675 mg/kg/day) starting on postnatal day (PND) 22 through 112. Behavioral deficits (longer time immobile in a motor activity test, longer time swimming in a straight channel test, and lack of habituation in an acoustic startle test) were observed in males and females but were reversed after a recovery period. A No Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) was not identified for these deficits. The Low Adverse Effect Level (LOAEL) was 75 mg/kg/day which was associated with plasma exposure (AUC) twice the levels measured with a pediatric dose of 100 mg/day.

In a second juvenile animal study, male and female rats were administered desvenlafaxine (75, 225 or 675 mg/kg/day) for 8-9 weeks starting on PND 22 and were mated with naïve counterparts. Delays in sexual maturation and decreased fertility, number of implantation sites and total live embryos were observed in treated females at all doses. The LOAEL for these findings is 75 mg/kg/day which was associated with an AUC twice the levels measured with a pediatric dose of 100 mg/day. These findings were reversed at the end of a 4-week recovery period. The relevance of these findings to humans is not known.

Geriatric Use

Of the 4,158 patients in pre-marketing clinical studies with PRISTIQ, 6% were 65 years of age or older. No overall differences in safety or efficacy were observed between these patients and younger patients; however, in the short-term placebo-controlled studies, there was a higher incidence of systolic orthostatic hypotension in patients ≥ 65 years of age compared to patients < 65 years of age treated with PRISTIQ [see section 4.8 Undesirable effects]. For elderly patients, possible reduced renal clearance of PRISTIQ should be considered

when determining dose [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration and 5.3 Pharmacokinetic properties].

SSRIs and SNRIs, including PRISTIQ, have been associated with cases of clinically significant hyponatremia in elderly patients, who may be at greater risk for this adverse event [see section 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use].

Renal Impairment

Adjust the maximum recommended dosage in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment (CL_{cr} 15 to 50 mL/min, C-G), or end-stage renal disease (CL_{cr} < 15 mL/min, C-G) [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration and 5.3 Pharmacokinetic properties].

Hepatic Impairment

Adjust the maximum recommended dosage in patients with moderate to severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh score 7 to 15) [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration and 5.3 Pharmacokinetic properties].

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Drugs Having Clinically Important Interactions with PRISTIQ

Table 2: Clinically Important Drug Interactions with PRISTIQ

Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOI)	
<i>Clinical Impact</i>	The concomitant use of SSRIs and SNRIs including PRISTIQ with MAOIs increases the risk of serotonin syndrome.
<i>Intervention</i>	Concomitant use of PRISTIQ is contraindicated: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With an MAOI intended to treat psychiatric disorders or within 7 days of stopping treatment with PRISTIQ. • Within 14 days of stopping an MAOI intended to treat psychiatric disorders. • In a patient who is being treated with linezolid or intravenous methylene blue. [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration, 4.3 Contraindications and 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use].
<i>Examples</i>	selegiline, tranylecypromine, isocarboxazid, phenelzine, linezolid, methylene blue
Other Serotonergic Drugs	
<i>Clinical Impact</i>	Concomitant use of PRISTIQ with other serotonergic drugs increases the risk of serotonin syndrome.
<i>Intervention</i>	Monitor for symptoms of serotonin syndrome when PRISTIQ is used concomitantly with other drugs that may affect the serotonergic neurotransmitter systems. If serotonin syndrome occurs, consider discontinuation of PRISTIQ and/or concomitant serotonergic drugs [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use].
<i>Examples</i>	other SNRIs, SSRIs, triptans, tricyclic antidepressants, opioids (e.g., fentanyl and its analogues, tramadol, dextromethorphan, tapentadol, meperidine, methadone, pentazocine), lithium, buspirone, amphetamines, tryptophan, and St. John's Wort
Drugs that Interfere with Hemostasis	
<i>Clinical Impact</i>	Concomitant use of PRISTIQ with an antiplatelet or anticoagulant drug may potentiate the risk of bleeding. This may be due to the effect of PRISTIQ on the release of serotonin by platelets.
<i>Intervention</i>	Closely monitor for bleeding for patients receiving an antiplatelet or anticoagulant drug when PRISTIQ is initiated or discontinued [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use].
<i>Examples</i>	NSAIDs, aspirin, and warfarin
Drugs that are Primarily Metabolized by CYP2D6	

<i>Clinical Impact</i>	Concomitant use of PRISTIQ increases C_{max} and AUC of a drug primarily metabolized by CYP2D6 which may increase the risk of toxicity of the CYP2D6 substrate drug [see section 5.3 Pharmacokinetic properties].
<i>Intervention</i>	Original dose should be taken when co-administered with PRISTIQ 100 mg or lower. Reduce the dose of these drugs by up to one-half if co-administered with 400 mg of PRISTIQ.
<i>Examples</i>	desipramine, atomoxetine, dextromethorphan, metoprolol, nebivolol, perphenazine, tolterodine

Drugs Having No Clinically Important Interactions with PRISTIQ

Based on pharmacokinetic studies, no dosage adjustment is required for drugs that are mainly metabolized by CYP3A4 (e.g., midazolam), or for drugs that are metabolized by both CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 (e.g., tamoxifen, aripiprazole), when administered concomitantly with PRISTIQ [see section 5.3 Pharmacokinetic properties].

Alcohol

A clinical study has shown that PRISTIQ does not increase the impairment of mental and motor skills caused by ethanol. However, as with all CNS-active drugs, patients should be advised to avoid alcohol consumption while taking PRISTIQ.

Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

False-positive urine immunoassay screening tests for phencyclidine (PCP) and amphetamine have been reported in patients taking desvenlafaxine. This is due to lack of specificity of the screening tests. False positive test results may be expected for several days following discontinuation of desvenlafaxine therapy. Confirmatory tests, such as gas chromatography/mass spectrometry, will distinguish desvenlafaxine from PCP and amphetamine.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Based on data from published observational studies, exposure to SNRIs, particularly in the month before delivery, has been associated with a less than 2-fold increase in the risk of postpartum hemorrhage [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use and Clinical Considerations].

There are no published studies on PRISTIQ in pregnant women; however published epidemiologic studies of pregnant women exposed to venlafaxine, the parent compound, have not reported a clear association with adverse developmental outcomes (see Data). There are risks associated with untreated depression in pregnancy and with exposure to SNRIs and SSRIs, including PRISTIQ, during pregnancy (see Clinical Considerations).

In reproductive developmental studies in rats and rabbits treated with desvenlafaxine succinate, there was no evidence of teratogenicity at a plasma exposure (AUC) that is up to 19-times (rats) and 0.5-times (rabbits) the exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day. However, fetotoxicity and pup deaths were observed in rats at 4.5-times the AUC exposure observed with an adult human dose of 100 mg per day.

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2-4% and 15-20%, respectively.

Clinical Considerations

Disease-associated maternal and/or embryo/fetal risk

A prospective longitudinal study of 201 women with a history of major depression who were euthymic at the beginning of pregnancy, showed that women who discontinued antidepressant medication during pregnancy were more likely to experience a relapse of major depression than women who continued antidepressant medication.

Maternal adverse reactions

Exposure to PRISTIQ in mid to late pregnancy may increase the risk for preeclampsia, and exposure to PRISTIQ in the month before delivery may be associated with an increased the risk of postpartum hemorrhage [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use].

Observational data indicate an increased risk (less than 2-fold) of postpartum hemorrhage following SSRI/SNRI exposure within the month prior to birth.

Fetal/Neonatal adverse reactions

Exposure to SNRIs or SSRIs in late pregnancy may lead to an increased risk for neonatal complications requiring prolonged hospitalization, respiratory support, and tube feeding. Monitor neonates who were exposed to PRISTIQ in the third trimester of pregnancy for drug discontinuation syndrome (see Data).

Data

Human Data

Published epidemiological studies of pregnant women exposed to the parent compound venlafaxine have not reported a clear association with major birth defects or miscarriage. Methodological limitations of these observational studies include possible exposure and outcome misclassification, lack of adequate controls, adjustment for confounders, and confirmatory studies; therefore, these studies cannot establish or exclude any drug-associated risk during pregnancy.

Retrospective cohort studies based on claims data have shown an association between venlafaxine use and preeclampsia, compared to depressed women who did not take an antidepressant during pregnancy. One study that assessed venlafaxine exposure in the second trimester or first half of the third trimester and preeclampsia showed an increased risk compared to unexposed depressed women [adjusted (adj) RR 1.57, 95% CI 1.29-1.91]. Preeclampsia was observed at venlafaxine doses equal to or greater than 75 mg/day and a duration of treatment >30 days. Another study that assessed venlafaxine exposure in gestational weeks 10-20 and preeclampsia showed an increased risk at doses equal to or greater than 150 mg/day. Available data are limited by possible outcome misclassification and possible confounding due to depression severity and other confounders.

Retrospective cohort studies based on claims data have suggested an association between venlafaxine use near the time of delivery or through delivery and postpartum hemorrhage. One study showed an increased risk for postpartum hemorrhage when venlafaxine exposure occurred through delivery, compared to unexposed depressed women [adj RR 2.24 (95% CI 1.69-2.97)]. There was no increased risk in women who were exposed to venlafaxine earlier in pregnancy. Limitations of this study include possible confounding due to depression severity and other confounders. Another study showed an increased risk for postpartum hemorrhage when SNRI exposure occurred for at least 15 days in the last month of pregnancy or through delivery, compared to unexposed women (adj RR 1.64-1.76). The results of this study may be confounded by the effects of depression.

Neonates exposed to SNRIs or SSRIs, late in the third trimester have developed complications requiring prolonged hospitalization, respiratory support, and tube feeding. Such complications can arise immediately upon delivery. Reported clinical findings have included respiratory distress, cyanosis, apnea, seizures, temperature instability, feeding difficulty, vomiting, hypoglycemia, hypotonia, hypertonia, hyperreflexia, tremor, jitteriness, irritability, and constant crying. These features are consistent with either a direct toxic effect of SSRIs and SNRIs or, possibly, a drug discontinuation syndrome. It should be noted that, in some cases, the clinical picture is consistent with serotonin syndrome [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use].

Animal Data

When desvenlafaxine succinate was administered orally to pregnant rats and rabbits during the period of organogenesis at doses up to 300 mg/kg/day and 75 mg/kg/day, respectively, no teratogenic effects were observed. These doses were associated with a plasma exposure (AUC) 19 times (rats) and 0.5 times (rabbits) the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day. However, fetal weights were decreased, and

skeletal ossification was delayed in rats in association with maternal toxicity at the highest dose, with an AUC exposure at the no-effect dose that is 4.5-times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day.

When desvenlafaxine succinate was administered orally to pregnant rats throughout gestation and lactation, there was a decrease in pup weights and an increase in pup deaths during the first four days of lactation at the highest dose of 300 mg/kg/day. The cause of these deaths is not known. The AUC exposure at the no-effect dose for rat pup mortality was 4.5-times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day. Post-weaning growth and reproductive performance of the progeny were not affected by maternal treatment with desvenlafaxine succinate at exposures 19 times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day.

Lactation

Risk Summary

Available limited data from published literature show low levels of desvenlafaxine in human milk, and have not shown adverse reactions in breastfed infants (see Data). There are no data on the effects of desvenlafaxine on milk production.

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for PRISTIQ and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from PRISTIQ or from the underlying maternal condition.

Data

A lactation study was conducted in 10 breastfeeding women (at a mean of 4.3 months post-partum) who were being treated with a 50-150 mg daily dose of desvenlafaxine for postpartum depression. Sampling was performed at steady state (up to 8 samples) over a 24 hour dosing period, and included foremilk and hindmilk. The mean relative infant dose was calculated to be 6.8% (range of 5.5-8.1%). No adverse reactions were seen in the infants.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Interference with Cognitive and Motor Performance

Caution patients about operating hazardous machinery, including automobiles, until they are reasonably certain that PRISTIQ therapy does not adversely affect their ability to engage in such activities.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The following adverse reactions are discussed in greater detail in other sections of the label.

- Hypersensitivity [see section 4.3 Contraindications]
- Suicidal Thoughts and Behaviors in Pediatric and Young Adult Patients [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Serotonin Syndrome [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Elevated Blood Pressure [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Increased Risk of Bleeding [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Angle Closure Glaucoma [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Activation of Mania/Hypomania [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Discontinuation Syndrome [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Seizure [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Hyponatremia [see 4.4 section Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Interstitial Lung Disease and Eosinophilic Pneumonia [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]
- Sexual Dysfunction [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use]

Clinical Studies Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical studies of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice.

Patient exposure

PRISTIQ was evaluated for safety in 8,394 patients diagnosed with major depressive disorder who participated in multiple-dose pre-marketing studies, representing 2,784 patient-years of exposure. Of the total 8,394 patients exposed to at least one dose of PRISTIQ; 2,116 were exposed to PRISTIQ for 6 months, representing 1,658 patient-years of exposure, and 421 were exposed for one year, representing 416 patient-years of exposure.

Adverse reactions reported as reasons for discontinuation of treatment

In the pre-marketing pooled 8-week placebo-controlled studies in patients with MDD, 1,834 patients were exposed to PRISTIQ (50 to 400 mg). Of the 1,834 patients, 12% discontinued treatment due to an adverse reaction, compared with 3% of the 1,116 placebo-treated patients. At the recommended dose of 50 mg, the discontinuation rate due to an adverse reaction for PRISTIQ (4.1%) was similar to the rate for placebo (3.8%). For the 100 mg dose of PRISTIQ the discontinuation rate due to an adverse reaction was 8.7%.

The most common adverse reactions leading to discontinuation in at least 2% and at a rate greater than placebo of the PRISTIQ treated patients in the short-term studies, up to 8 weeks, were: nausea (4%); dizziness, headache and vomiting (2% each). In a longer-term study, up to 9 months, the most common was vomiting (2%).

Common adverse reactions in placebo-controlled MDD studies

The most commonly observed adverse reactions in PRISTIQ treated MDD patients in pre-marketing pooled 8-week, placebo-controlled, fixed-dose studies (incidence $\geq 5\%$ and at least twice the rate of placebo in the 50 or 100 mg dose groups) were: nausea, dizziness, insomnia, hyperhidrosis, constipation, somnolence, decreased appetite, anxiety, and specific male sexual function disorders.

Table 3 shows the incidence of common adverse reactions that occurred in $\geq 2\%$ of PRISTIQ treated MDD patients and twice the rate of placebo at any dose in the pre-marketing pooled 8-week, placebo-controlled, fixed dose clinical studies.

Table 3: Common Adverse Reactions ($\geq 2\%$ in any Fixed-Dose Group and Twice the Rate of Placebo) in Pre-marketing Pooled MDD 8-Week Placebo-Controlled Studies

System Organ Class Preferred Term	Placebo (n=636)	Percentage of Patients Reporting Reaction			
		PRISTIQ			
		50 mg (n=317)	100 mg (n=424)	200 mg (n=307)	400 mg (n=317)
Cardiac disorders					
Blood pressure increased	1	1	1	2	2
Gastrointestinal disorders					
Nausea	10	22	26	36	41
Dry mouth	9	11	17	21	25
Constipation	4	9	9	10	14
Vomiting	3	3	4	6	9
General disorders and administration site conditions					
Fatigue	4	7	7	10	11
Chills	1	1	<1	3	4
Feeling jittery	1	1	2	3	3
Metabolism and nutrition disorders					
Decreased appetite	2	5	8	10	10
Nervous system disorders					
Dizziness	5	13	10	15	16
Somnolence	4	4	9	12	12
Tremor	2	2	3	9	9
Disturbance in attention	<1	<1	1	2	1
Psychiatric disorders					

Table 3: Common Adverse Reactions ($\geq 2\%$ in any Fixed-Dose Group and Twice the Rate of Placebo) in Pre-marketing Pooled MDD 8-Week Placebo-Controlled Studies

System Organ Class Preferred Term	Placebo (n=636)	Percentage of Patients Reporting Reaction			
		PRISTIQ			
		50 mg (n=317)	100 mg (n=424)	200 mg (n=307)	400 mg (n=317)
Insomnia	6	9	12	14	15
Anxiety	2	3	5	4	4
Nervousness	1	<1	1	2	2
Abnormal dreams	1	2	3	2	4
Renal and urinary disorders					
Urinary hesitation	0	<1	1	2	2
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders					
Yawning	<1	1	1	4	3
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders					
Hyperhidrosis	4	10	11	18	21
Special Senses					
Vision blurred	1	3	4	4	4
Mydriasis	<1	2	2	6	6
Vertigo	1	2	1	5	3
Tinnitus	1	2	1	1	2
Dysgeusia	1	1	1	1	2
Vascular disorders					
Hot flush	<1	1	1	2	2

Sexual function adverse reactions

Table 4 shows the incidence of sexual function adverse reactions that occurred in $\geq 2\%$ of PRISTIQ treated MDD patients in any fixed-dose group (pre-marketing pooled 8-week, placebo-controlled, fixed -dose, clinical studies). [see section 4.4 Special Warnings and Precautions for use].

Table 4: Sexual Function Adverse Reactions ($\geq 2\%$ in Men or Women in any PRISTIQ Group) During the On-Therapy Period

		PRISTIQ				
	Placebo (n=239)	50 mg (n=108)	100 mg (n=157)	200 mg (n=131)	400 mg (n=154)	
<i>Men only</i>						
Anorgasmia	0	0	3	5	8	
Libido decreased	1	4	5	6	3	
Orgasm abnormal	0	0	1	2	3	
Ejaculation delayed	<1	1	5	7	6	
Erectile dysfunction	1	3	6	8	11	
Ejaculation disorder	0	0	1	2	5	
Ejaculation failure	0	1	0	2	2	
Sexual dysfunction	0	1	0	0	2	
	Placebo (n=397)	50 mg (n=209)	100 mg (n=267)	200 mg (n=176)	400 mg (n=163)	
<i>Women only</i>						
Anorgasmia	0	1	1	0	3	

Other adverse reactions observed in premarketing and postmarketing clinical studies

Other infrequent adverse reactions, not described elsewhere in the label, occurring at an incidence of < 2% in MDD patients treated with PRISTIQ were:

Cardiac disorders – Tachycardia.

General disorders and administration site conditions – Asthenia.

Investigations – Weight increased, liver function test abnormal, blood prolactin increased.

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders – Musculoskeletal stiffness.

Nervous system disorders – Syncope, convulsion, dystonia.

Psychiatric disorders – Depersonalization, bruxism.

Renal and urinary disorders – Urinary retention.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders – Rash, alopecia, photosensitivity reaction, angioedema.

In clinical studies, there were uncommon reports of ischemic cardiac adverse reactions, including myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, and coronary occlusion requiring revascularization; these patients had multiple underlying cardiac risk factors. More patients experienced these events during PRISTIQ treatment as compared to placebo.

Reproductive system and breast disorder – postpartum haemorrhage¹; frequency not known.

¹ This event has been reported for the therapeutic class of SSRIs/SNRIs

Laboratory, ECG and vital sign changes observed in MDD clinical studies

The following changes were observed in pre-marketing placebo-controlled, short-term MDD studies with PRISTIQ.

Lipids

Elevations in fasting serum total cholesterol, LDL (low density lipoproteins) cholesterol, and triglycerides occurred in the controlled studies. Some of these abnormalities were considered potentially clinically significant.

The percentage of patients who exceeded a predetermined threshold value is shown in Table 5.

Table 5: Incidence (%) of Patients with Lipid Abnormalities of Potential Clinical Significance*

	Placebo	PRISTIQ			
		50 mg	100 mg	200 mg	400 mg
Total Cholesterol	2	3	4	4	10
*(Increase of ≥ 50 mg/dl and an absolute value of ≥ 261 mg/dl)					
LDL Cholesterol	0	1	0	1	2
*(Increase ≥ 50 mg/dl and an absolute value of ≥ 190 mg/dl)					
Triglycerides, fasting	3	2	1	4	6
*(Fasting: ≥ 327 mg/dl)					

Proteinuria

Proteinuria, greater than or equal to trace, was observed in the pre-marketing fixed-dose controlled studies (see Table 6). This proteinuria was not associated with increases in BUN or creatinine and was generally transient.

Table 6: Incidence (%) of Patients with Proteinuria in the Fixed-dose Clinical Studies

	Placebo	PRISTIQ			
		50 mg	100 mg	200 mg	400 mg
Proteinuria	4	6	8	5	7

Vital sign changes

Table 7 summarizes the changes that were observed in placebo-controlled, short-term, pre-marketing studies with PRISTIQ in patients with MDD (doses 50 to 400 mg).

Table 7: Mean Changes in Vital Signs at Final on Therapy for All Short-term, Fixed-dose Controlled Studies

	Placebo	PRISTIQ			
		50 mg	100 mg	200 mg	400 mg
Blood pressure					
Supine systolic bp (mm Hg)	-1.4	1.2	2.0	2.5	2.1
Supine diastolic bp (mm Hg)	-0.6	0.7	0.8	1.8	2.3
Pulse rate					
Supine pulse (bpm)	-0.3	1.3	1.3	0.9	4.1
Weight (kg)	0.0	-0.4	-0.6	-0.9	-1.1

Treatment with PRISTIQ at all doses from 50 mg per day to 400 mg per day in controlled studies was associated with sustained hypertension, defined as treatment-emergent supine diastolic blood pressure (SDBP) ≥ 90 mm Hg and ≥ 10 mm Hg above baseline for 3 consecutive on-therapy visits (see Table 8). Analyses of patients in PRISTIQ pre-marketing short-term controlled studies who met criteria for sustained hypertension revealed a consistent increase in the proportion of patients who developed sustained hypertension. This was seen at all doses with a suggestion of a higher rate at 400 mg per day.

Table 8: Proportion of Patients with Sustained Elevation of Supine Diastolic Blood Pressure

Treatment Group	Proportion of Patients with Sustained Hypertension
Placebo	0.5%
PRISTIQ 50 mg per day	1.3%
PRISTIQ 100 mg per day	0.7%
PRISTIQ 200 mg per day	1.1%
PRISTIQ 400 mg per day	2.3%

Orthostatic hypotension

In the pre-marketing short-term, placebo-controlled clinical studies with doses of 50 to 400 mg, systolic orthostatic hypotension (decrease ≥ 30 mm Hg from supine to standing position) occurred more frequently in patients ≥ 65 years of age receiving PRISTIQ (8%, 7/87) versus placebo (2.5%, 1/40), compared to patients < 65 years of age receiving PRISTIQ (0.9%, 18/1,937) versus placebo (0.7%, 8/1,218).

Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reaction has been identified during post-approval use of PRISTIQ. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure:

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders – Stevens-Johnson syndrome

Gastrointestinal disorders – Pancreatitis acute

Cardiovascular system – Takotsubo cardiomyopathy

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders - Anosmia, hyposmia

Reporting of adverse reactions

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after marketing authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions according to their local requirements.

To report any side effects:

- **Saudi Arabia**

The National Pharmacovigilance Centre (NPC)

- SFDA Call Center: 19999
- E-mail: npc.drug@sfda.gov.sa
- Website: <https://ade.sfda.gov.sa/>

- **Other GCC States**

- *Please contact the relevant competent authority.*

4.9 Overdose

Controlled Substance

PRISTIQ is not a controlled substance.

Human Experience with Overdosage

There is limited clinical trial experience with desvenlafaxine succinate overdosage in humans. However, desvenlafaxine (PRISTIQ) is the major active metabolite of venlafaxine. Overdose experience reported with venlafaxine (the parent drug of PRISTIQ) is presented below; the identical information can be found in the Overdosage section of the venlafaxine package insert.

In postmarketing experience, overdose with venlafaxine (the parent drug of PRISTIQ) has occurred predominantly in combination with alcohol and/or other drugs. The most commonly reported events in overdosage include tachycardia, changes in level of consciousness (ranging from somnolence to coma), mydriasis, seizures, and vomiting. Electrocardiogram changes (e.g., prolongation of QT interval, bundle branch block, QRS prolongation), sinus and ventricular tachycardia, bradycardia, hypotension, rhabdomyolysis, vertigo, liver necrosis, serotonin syndrome, and death have been reported.

Published retrospective studies report that venlafaxine overdosage may be associated with an increased risk of fatal outcomes compared to that observed with SSRI antidepressant products, but lower than that for tricyclic antidepressants. Epidemiological studies have shown that venlafaxine-treated patients have a higher pre-existing burden of suicide risk factors than SSRI-treated patients. The extent to which the finding of an increased risk of fatal outcomes can be attributed to the toxicity of venlafaxine in overdosage, as opposed to some characteristic(s) of venlafaxine-treated patients, is not clear.

Management of Overdosage

No specific antidotes for PRISTIQ are known. In managing over dosage, consider the possibility of multiple drug involvement. In case of overdose, call National Drug and Poison Information Center (NDPIC) for latest recommendations.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Mechanism of Action

The exact mechanism of the antidepressant action of desvenlafaxine is unknown, but is thought to be related to the potentiation of serotonin and norepinephrine in the central nervous system, through inhibition of their reuptake. Non-clinical studies have shown that desvenlafaxine is a potent and selective SNRI..

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Desvenlafaxine lacked significant affinity for numerous receptors, including muscarinic-cholinergic, H₁-histaminergic, or α_1 -adrenergic receptors *in vitro*. Desvenlafaxine also lacked monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitory activity.

ECG changes

Electrocardiograms were obtained from 1,492 desvenlafaxine treated patients with major depressive disorder and 984 placebo-treated patients in clinical studies lasting up to 8 weeks. No clinically relevant differences were observed between desvenlafaxine treated and placebo-treated patients for QT, QTc, PR, and QRS intervals. In a thorough QTc study with prospectively determined criteria, desvenlafaxine did not cause QT prolongation. No difference was observed between placebo and desvenlafaxine treatments for the QRS interval.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Major Depressive Disorder

The efficacy of PRISTIQ as a treatment for depression was established in four 8-week, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, fixed-dose studies (at doses of 50 mg per day to 400 mg per day) in adult outpatients who met the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) criteria for major depressive disorder. In the first study, patients received 100 mg (n = 114), 200 mg (n = 116), or 400 mg (n = 113) of PRISTIQ once daily, or placebo (n = 118). In a second study, patients received either 200 mg (n = 121) or 400 mg (n = 124) of PRISTIQ once daily, or placebo (n = 124). In two additional studies, patients received 50 mg (n = 150 and n = 164) or 100 mg (n = 147 and n = 158) of PRISTIQ once daily, or placebo (n = 150 and n = 161).

PRISTIQ showed superiority over placebo as measured by improvement in the 17-item Hamilton Rating Scale for Depression (HAM-D₁₇) total score in four studies and overall improvement, as measured by the Clinical Global Impressions Scale - Improvement (CGI-I), in three of the four studies. In studies directly comparing 50 mg per day and 100 mg per day there was no suggestion of a greater effect with the higher dose and adverse reactions and discontinuations were more frequent at higher doses [see section 4.2 Posology and method of administration].

Table 9: Primary Efficacy (HAM-D₁₇) Results for Short-term Studies

Study No.	Primary Endpoint: HAM-D ₁₇	Placebo	PRISTIQ			
			50 mg/day	100 mg/day	200 mg/day	400 mg/day
1	Baseline Score (SD ^a)	23.1 (2.5)		23.2 (2.5)	22.9 (2.4)	23.0 (2.2)
	Difference from Placebo (95% CI ^c)			-2.9 ^b (-5.1, -0.8)	-2.0	-3.1 ^b (-5.2, -0.9)
2	Baseline Score (SD ^a)	25.3 (3.3)			24.8 (2.9)	25.2 (3.2)
	Difference from Placebo (95% CI ^c)				-3.3 ^b (-5.3, -1.2)	-2.8 ^b (-4.8, -0.7)
3	Baseline Score (SD ^a)	23.0 (2.6)	23.4 (2.6)	23.4 (2.6)		
	Difference from Placebo (95% CI ^c)		-1.9 ^b (-3.5, -0.3)	-1.5		
4	Baseline Score (SD ^a)	24.3 (2.6)	24.3 (2.4)	24.4 (2.7)		
	Difference from Placebo (95% CI ^c)		-2.5 ^b (-4.1, -0.9)	-3.0 ^b (-4.7, -1.4)		

^a Standard deviation.

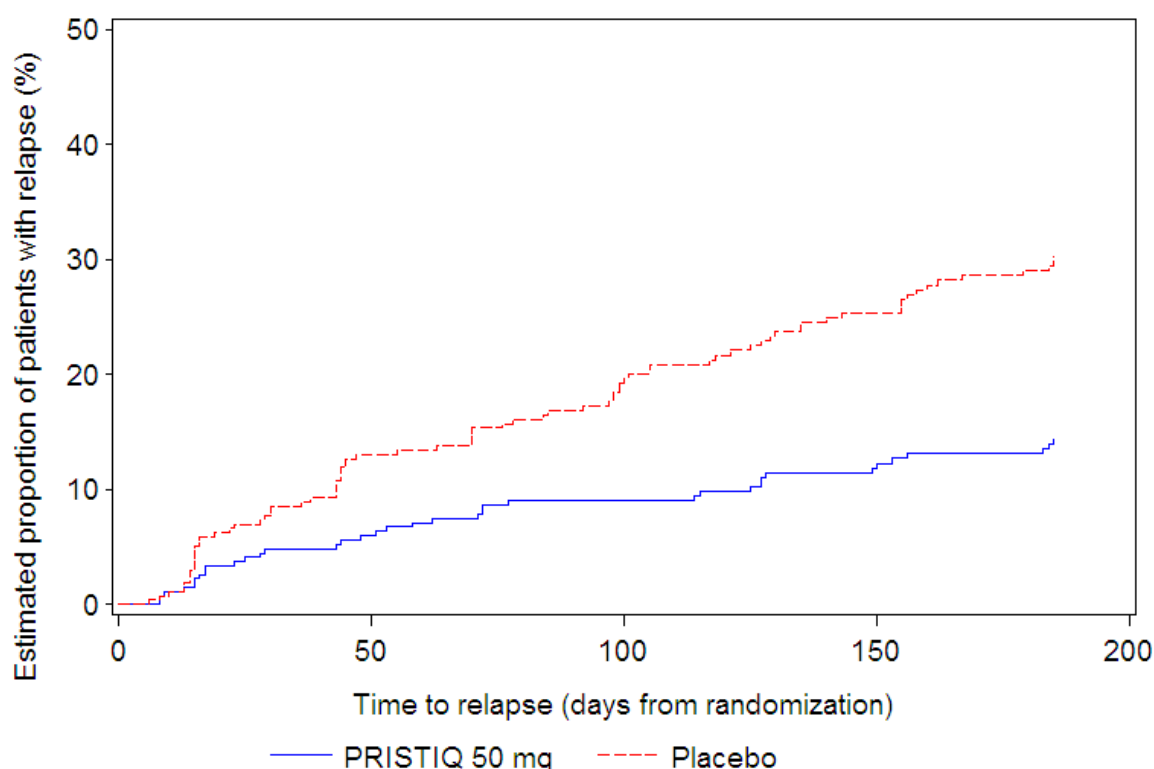
^b Adjusted p-value < 0.05;

^c Difference between least squares means at final evaluation, calculated as drug response minus placebo response; unadjusted 95% confidence intervals

Analyses of the relationships between treatment outcome and age and treatment outcome and gender did not suggest any differential responsiveness on the basis of these patient characteristics. There was insufficient information to determine the effect of race on outcome in these studies.

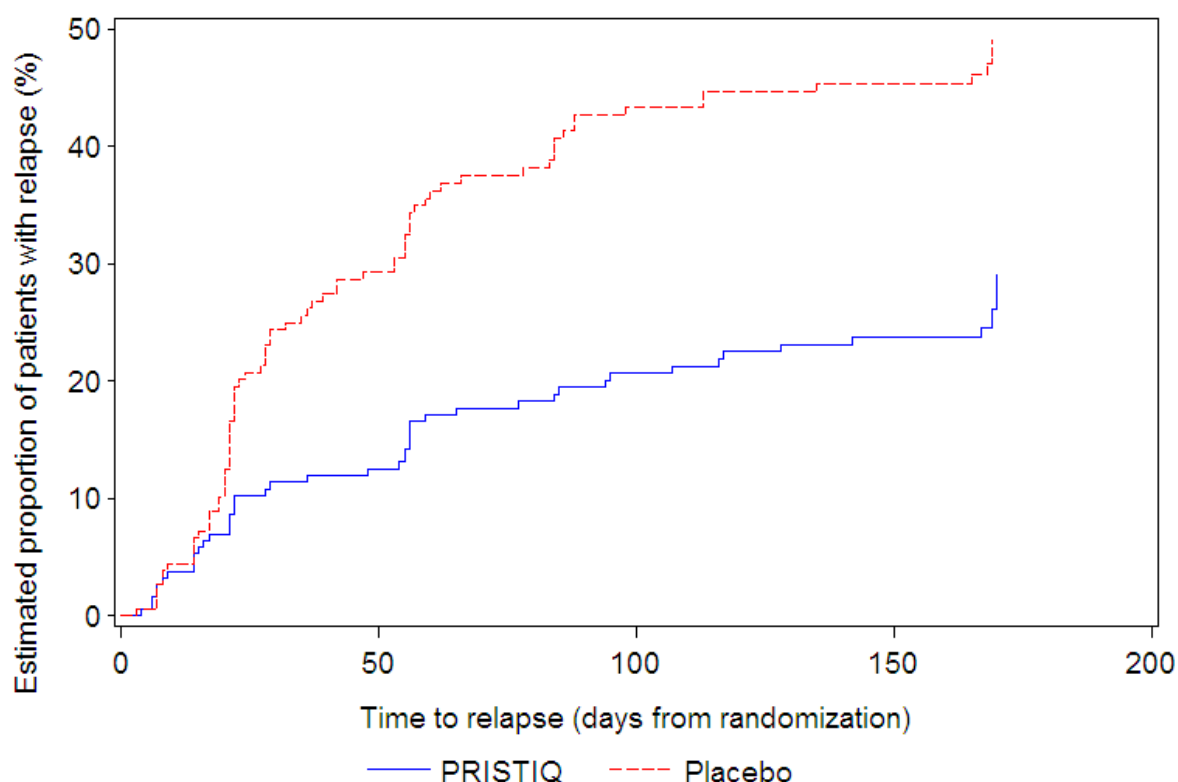
In a longer-term trial (Study 5), adult outpatients meeting DSM-IV criteria for major depressive disorder, who responded to 8 weeks of open-label acute treatment with 50 mg per day desvenlafaxine and subsequently remained stable for 12 weeks on desvenlafaxine, were assigned randomly in a double-blind manner to remain on active treatment or switch to placebo for up to 26 weeks of observation for relapse. Response during the open-label phase was defined as a HAM-D₁₇ total score of ≤ 11 and CGI-I ≤ 2 at the day 56 evaluation; stability was defined as HAM-D₁₇ total score of ≤ 11 and CGI-I ≤ 2 at week 20 and not having a HAM-D₁₇ total score of ≥ 16 or a CGI-I score ≥ 4 at any office visit. Relapse during the double-blind phase was defined as follows: (1) a HAM-D₁₇ total score of ≥ 16 at any office visit, (2) discontinuation for unsatisfactory efficacy response, (3) hospitalized for depression, (4) suicide attempt, or (5) suicide. Patients receiving continued desvenlafaxine treatment experienced statistically significantly longer time to relapse compared with placebo. At 26 weeks, the Kaplan-Meier estimated proportion of relapse was 14% with desvenlafaxine treatment versus 30% with placebo.

Figure 1. Estimated Proportion of Relapses vs. Number of Days since Randomization (Study 5)



In another longer-term trial (Study 6), adult outpatients meeting DSM-IV criteria for major depressive disorder and who responded to 12 weeks of acute treatment with desvenlafaxine were assigned randomly to the same dose (200 or 400 mg per day) they had received during acute treatment or to placebo for up to 26 weeks of observation for relapse. Response during the open-label phase was defined as a HAM-D₁₇ total score of ≤ 11 at the day 84 evaluation. Relapse during the double-blind phase was defined as follows: (1) a HAM-D₁₇ total score of ≥ 16 at any office visit, (2) a CGI-I score of ≥ 6 (versus day 84) at any office visit, or (3) discontinuation from the trial due to unsatisfactory response. Patients receiving continued desvenlafaxine treatment experienced statistically significantly longer time to relapse over the subsequent 26 weeks compared with those receiving placebo. At 26 weeks, the Kaplan-Meier estimated proportion of relapse was 29% with desvenlafaxine treatment versus 49% with placebo.

Figure 2. Estimated Proportion of Relapses vs. Number of Days since Randomization (Study 6)



In a postmarketing study, the efficacy of PRISTIQ at a dose lower than 50 mg per day was evaluated in an 8-week, multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, fixed-dose study in adult outpatients with Major Depressive Disorder. The treatment arms were 25 mg (n=232), 50 mg (n=236), and placebo (n=231). The 50 mg dose was superior to placebo, as measured by the mean change from baseline on the HAMD-17. The 25 mg dose was not superior to placebo.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

The single-dose pharmacokinetics of desvenlafaxine are linear and dose-proportional in a dose range of 50 to 600 mg (1 to 12 times the recommended approved dosage) per day. With once-daily dosing, steady-state plasma concentrations are achieved within approximately 4 to 5 days. At steady-state, multiple-dose accumulation of desvenlafaxine is linear and predictable from the single-dose pharmacokinetic profile.

Absorption

The absolute oral bioavailability of PRISTIQ after oral administration is about 80%.

Effect of Food

Ingestion of a high-fat meal (800 to 1000 calories) increased desvenlafaxine C_{max} about 16% and had no effect on AUC.

Distribution

Steady-state volume of distribution of desvenlafaxine is 3.4 L/kg. Plasma protein binding of desvenlafaxine is 30% and is independent of drug concentration.

Elimination

Metabolism

Desvenlafaxine is primarily metabolized by conjugation (mediated by UGT isoforms) and, to a minor extent, through oxidative metabolism. CYP3A4 mediates the oxidative metabolism (N-demethylation) of desvenlafaxine. The CYP2D6 metabolic pathway is not involved. The pharmacokinetics of desvenlafaxine was similar in subjects with CYP2D6 poor and extensive metabolizer phenotype.

Excretion

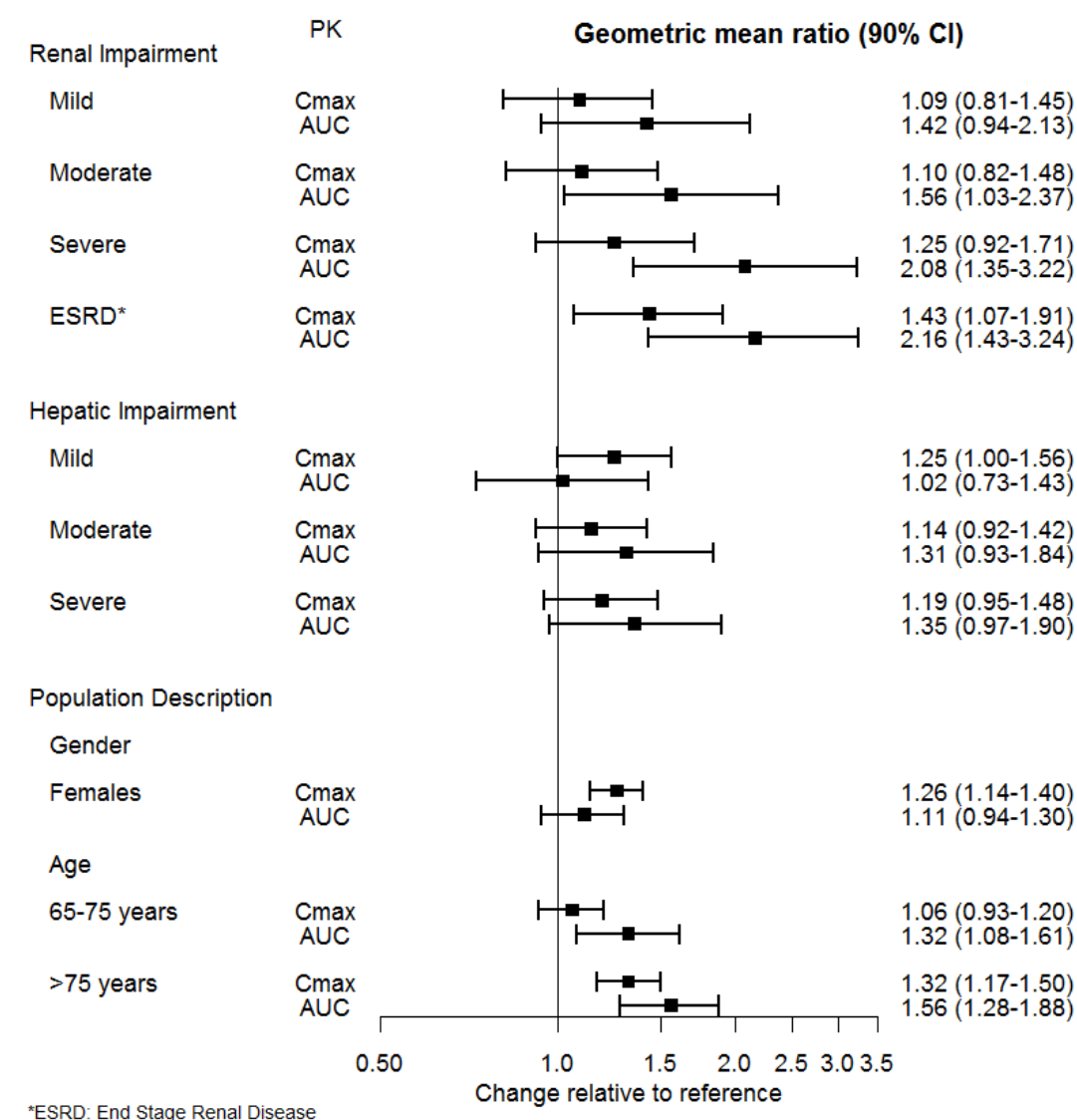
Approximately 45% of desvenlafaxine is excreted unchanged in urine at 72 hours after oral administration. Approximately 19% of the administered dose is excreted as the glucuronide metabolite and <5% as the oxidative metabolite (N,O-didesmethylvenlafaxine) in urine.

Specific Populations

No clinically significant differences in the exposures of desvenlafaxine were observed based on ethnicity (White, Black, Hispanic).

The effect of intrinsic patient factors on the pharmacokinetics of desvenlafaxine is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3 Impact of Intrinsic Factors (Renal, Hepatic Impairment and Population Description) on Desvenlafaxine Pharmacokinetics



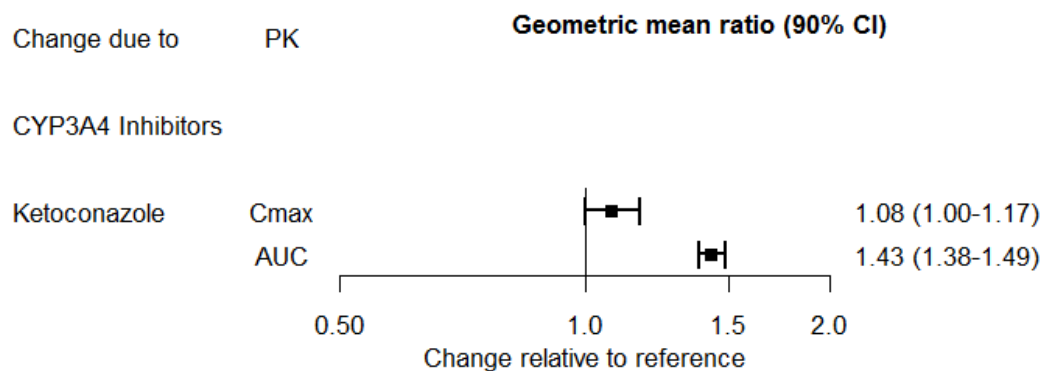
Drug Interaction Studies

Clinical Studies

Other Drugs on PRISTIQ

The effect of ketoconazole on the exposures of desvenlafaxine is summarized in Figure 4.

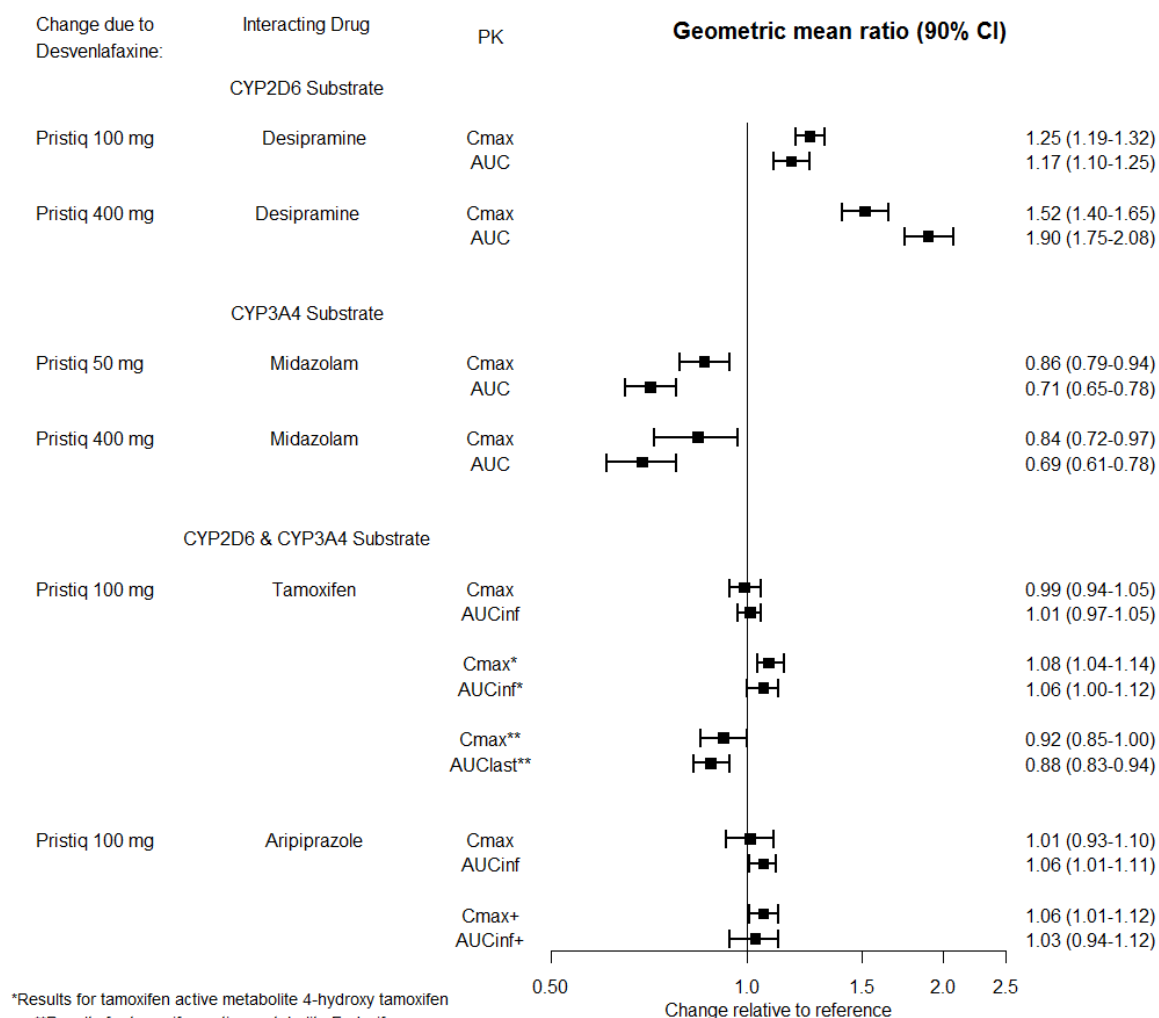
Figure 4. Effect of Other Drugs on Desvenlafaxine Pharmacokinetics



PRISTIQ on Other Drugs

The effects of PRISTIQ on the exposures of other drugs are summarized in Figure 5.

Figure 5. Effects of PRISTIQ on Pharmacokinetics of Other Drugs



*Results for tamoxifen active metabolite 4-hydroxy tamoxifen

**Results for tamoxifen active metabolite Endoxifen

+Results for aripiprazole active metabolite dehydro-aripiprazole

In Vitro Studies

Based on *in vitro* data, drugs that inhibit CYP isozymes 1A1, 1A2, 2A6, 2D6, 2C8, 2C9, 2C19, and 2E1 are not expected to have significant impact on the pharmacokinetic profile of desvenlafaxine.

Desvenlafaxine does not inhibit CYP1A2, 2A6, 2C8, 2C9, 2C19 CYP2D6, or CYP3A4 isozymes. Desvenlafaxine does not induce CYP3A4 either.

Desvenlafaxine is not a substrate or an inhibitor for the P-glycoprotein (P-gp) transporter.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Carcinogenesis

Desvenlafaxine succinate administered by oral gavage to mice and rats for 2 years did not increase the incidence of tumors in either study.

Mice received desvenlafaxine succinate at dosages up to 500/300 mg/kg/day (dosage lowered after 45 weeks of dosing). The AUC exposure at 300 mg/kg/day dose is estimated at 10 times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day.

Rats received desvenlafaxine succinate at dosages up to 300 mg/kg/day (males) or 500 mg/kg/day (females). The AUC exposure at the highest dose is estimated at 11 (males) or 26 (females) times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day.

Mutagenesis

Desvenlafaxine was not mutagenic in the *in vitro* bacterial mutation assay (Ames test) and was not clastogenic in an *in vitro* chromosome aberration assay in cultured CHO cells, an *in vivo* mouse micronucleus assay, or an *in vivo* chromosome aberration assay in rats. Additionally, desvenlafaxine was not genotoxic in the *in vitro* CHO mammalian cell forward mutation assay and was negative in the *in vitro* BALB/c-3T3 mouse embryo cell transformation assay.

Impairment of Fertility

When desvenlafaxine succinate was administered orally to male and female rats, fertility was reduced at the high dose of 300 mg/kg/day, which is 10 (males) and 19 (females) times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day. There was no effect on fertility at 100 mg/kg/day, which is 3 (males) or 5 (females) times the AUC exposure at an adult human dose of 100 mg per day. These studies did not address reversibility of the effect on fertility. The relevance of these findings to humans is not known.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Inactive ingredients for the 50 mg core tablet are hypromellose, microcrystalline cellulose, talc, and magnesium stearate. Depending on the region, film coating can be either: Opaglos 2, which consists of sodium carboxymethylcellulose, maltodextrin, dextrose, titanium dioxide, stearic acid and red iron oxide, or Opadry II, which consists of polyvinyl alcohol, polyethylene glycol, talc, titanium dioxide, and iron oxides.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not relevant.

6.3 Shelf life

Do not use Pristiq after the expiry date which is stated on the Bottle after EXP: The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Shelf life 36 months.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 30°C

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Pristiq 50 mg extended-release tablets are available as a bottle of 30 tablets.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Residual inert matrix tablet

Patients receiving desvenlafaxine succinate may notice an inert matrix tablet passing in the stool or via colostomy. Patients should be informed that the active medication has already been absorbed by the time the patient sees the inert matrix tablet.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

7. FURTHER INFORMATION

MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Pfizer Inc., United states.

MANUFACTURED BY

Pfizer Ireland Pharmaceuticals, Ireland

PACKED & RELEASED BY

Pfizer Pharmaceutical LLC, United States.

8. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 08-Jan-2011

9. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

August 2023