

## **SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS**

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

#### **1.1 (Invented) Name of the medicinal product**

**AFRICEF 1 GM**

#### **1.2 Strength**

Ceftriaxone for Injection 1 gm USP

Each vial contains:

Ceftriaxone Sodium USP

equivalent to Ceftriaxone....1000 mg

#### **1.3 Pharmaceutical Form**

Dry Powder for Injection

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

**Batch Size:** 50,000 Vials (60 Kg)

Inactive Substance: Product is sterile dry powder for injection. Does not contain any added Excipients.

\* 1200 mg of Ceftriaxone sodium corresponds to 1000 mg of Ceftriaxone.

### **3. Pharmaceutical form**

A White to yellowish orange crystalline powder

### **4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS**

#### **4.1 Therapeutic Indication**

Ceftriaxone is indicated for the treatment of the following infections in adults and children including term neonates (from birth):

- Bacterial Meningitis
- Community acquired pneumonia
- Hospital acquired pneumonia
- Acute otitis media
- Intra-abdominal infections
- Complicated urinary tract infections (including pyelonephritis)
- Infections of bones and joints
- Complicated skin and soft tissue infections
- Gonorrhoea
- Syphilis

- Bacterial endocarditis.

Ceftriaxone may be used:

For treatment of acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease in adults.

For treatment of disseminated Lyme borreliosis (early (stage II) and late (stage III)) in adults and children including neonates from 15 days of age.

For pre-operative prophylaxis of surgical site infections.

#### **4.2 Posology and method of administration:**

##### **Adults and children over 12 years of age ( $\geq 50$ kg)**

| Ceftriaxone Dosage | Treatment frequency | Indications                                                                                        |
|--------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 - 2 g            | Once daily          | Community acquired pneumonia                                                                       |
|                    |                     | Acute exacerbations of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease                                       |
|                    |                     | Intra-abdominal infections                                                                         |
|                    |                     | Complicated urinary tract infections (including pyelonephritis)                                    |
| 2 g                | Once daily          | Hospital acquired pneumonia                                                                        |
|                    |                     | Complicated skin and soft tissue infections                                                        |
|                    |                     | Infections of bones and joints                                                                     |
| 2 - 4 g            | Once daily          | Management of neutropenic patients with fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection |
|                    |                     | Bacterial endocarditis                                                                             |
|                    |                     | Bacterial meningitis                                                                               |

#### **Paediatric population**

Neonates, infants and children 15 days to 12 years of age ( $< 50$  kg)

For children with bodyweight of 50 kg or more, the usual adult dosage should be given.

| Ceftriaxone dosage     | Treatment frequency | Indications                                                     |
|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50-80 mg/kg            | Once daily          | Intra-abdominal infections                                      |
|                        |                     | Complicated urinary tract infections (including pyelonephritis) |
|                        |                     | Community acquired pneumonia                                    |
|                        |                     | Hospital acquired pneumonia                                     |
| 50-100 mg/kg (Max 4 g) | Once daily          | Complicated skin and soft tissue infections                     |
|                        |                     | Infections of bones and joints                                  |

|                           |            |                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                           |            | Management of neutropenic patients with fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection |
| 80-100 mg/kg<br>(max 4 g) | Once daily | Bacterial meningitis                                                                               |
| 100 mg/kg<br>(max 4 g)    | Once daily | Bacterial endocarditis                                                                             |

### Neonates 0-14 days

Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in premature neonates up to a postmenstrual age of 41 weeks (gestational age + chronological age).

| Ceftriaxone dosage* | Treatment frequency | Indications                                                                                        |
|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 20-50 mg/kg         | Once daily          | Intra-abdominal infections                                                                         |
|                     |                     | Complicated skin and soft tissue infections                                                        |
|                     |                     | Complicated urinary tract infections (including pyelonephritis)                                    |
|                     |                     | Community acquired pneumonia                                                                       |
|                     |                     | Hospital acquired pneumonia                                                                        |
|                     |                     | Infections of bones and joints                                                                     |
|                     |                     | Management of neutropenic patients with fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection |
| 50 mg/kg            | Once daily          | Bacterial meningitis                                                                               |
|                     |                     | Bacterial endocarditis                                                                             |

### Method of administration

Ceftriaxone injection is administered by intravenous route.

#### 4.3 Contraindications:

Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to beta-lactam antibiotics. In patients hypersensitive to penicillin, the possibility of allergic cross-reactions should be borne in mind.

Hyperbilirubinaemic newborns and preterm newborns should not be treated with ceftriaxone. In vitro studies have shown that ceftriaxone can displace bilirubin from its binding to serum albumin and bilirubin encephalopathy can possibly develop in these patients.

Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in:

- Premature newborns up to a corrected age of 41 weeks (weeks of gestation + weeks of life),
- Full-term newborns (up to 28 days of age) with jaundice, or who are hypoalbuminaemic or acidotic because these are conditions in which bilirubin binding is likely to be impaired if they require (or are expected to

require) IV calcium treatment, or calcium-containing infusions because of the risk of precipitation of ceftriaxone-calcium.

#### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use:**

##### **Hypersensitivity reactions**

As with all beta-lactam antibacterial agents, serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity reactions have been reported. In case of severe hypersensitivity reactions, treatment with ceftriaxone must be discontinued immediately and adequate emergency measures must be initiated. Before beginning treatment, it should be established whether the patient has a history of severe hypersensitivity reactions to ceftriaxone, to other cephalosporins or to any other type of beta-lactam agent. Caution should be used if ceftriaxone is given to patients with a history of non-severe hypersensitivity to other beta-lactam agents.

Severe cutaneous adverse reactions (Stevens Johnson syndrome or Lyell's syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis) have been reported; however, the frequency of these events is not known. should be exercised when prescribing cetirizine to lactating women.

##### **Interaction with calcium containing products**

Cases of fatal reactions with calcium-ceftriaxone precipitates in lungs and kidneys in premature and full-term neonates aged less than 1 month have been described. At least one of them had received ceftriaxone and calcium at different times and through different intravenous lines. In the available scientific data, there are no reports of confirmed intravascular precipitations in patients, other than neonates, treated with ceftriaxone and calcium-containing solutions or any other calcium-containing products. *In vitro* studies demonstrated that neonates have an increased risk of precipitation of ceftriaxone-calcium compared to other age groups.

In patients of any age ceftriaxone must not be mixed or administered simultaneously with any calcium-containing intravenous solutions, even via different infusion lines or at different infusion sites. However, in patients older than 28 days of age ceftriaxone and calcium-containing solutions may be administered sequentially one after another if infusion lines at different sites are used or if the infusion lines are replaced or thoroughly flushed between infusions with physiological salt-solution to avoid precipitation. In patients requiring continuous infusion with calcium-containing total parenteral nutrition (TPN) solutions, healthcare professionals may wish to consider the use of alternative antibacterial treatments which do not carry a similar risk of precipitation. If the use of ceftriaxone is considered necessary in patients requiring continuous nutrition, TPN solutions and ceftriaxone can be administered simultaneously, albeit via different infusion lines at different sites. Alternatively, infusion of TPN solution could be stopped for the period of ceftriaxone infusion and the infusion lines flushed between solutions.

### **Paediatric population**

Safety and effectiveness of Ceftriaxone in neonates, infants and children have been established for the dosages described under Posology and Method of Administration. Studies have shown that ceftriaxone, like some other cephalosporins, can displace bilirubin from serum albumin. Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in premature and full-term neonates at risk of developing bilirubin encephalopathy.

### **Immune mediated haemolytic anaemia**

An immune mediated haemolytic anaemia has been observed in patients receiving cephalosporin class antibacterials including Ceftriaxone. Severe cases of haemolytic anaemia, including fatalities, have been reported during Ceftriaxone treatment in both adults and children.

If a patient develops anaemia while on ceftriaxone, the diagnosis of a cephalosporin-associated anaemia should be considered and ceftriaxone discontinued until the aetiology is determined.

### **Long term treatment**

During prolonged treatment complete blood count should be performed at regular intervals.

### **Colitis/Overgrowth of non-susceptible microorganisms**

Antibacterial agent-associated colitis and pseudo-membranous colitis have been reported with nearly all antibacterial agents, including ceftriaxone, and may range in severity from mild to life-threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhoea during or subsequent to the administration of ceftriaxone. Discontinuation of therapy with ceftriaxone and the administration of specific treatment for *Clostridium difficile* should be considered. Medicinal products that inhibit peristalsis should not be given. Superinfections with non-susceptible micro-organisms may occur as with other antibacterial agents.

### **Severe renal and hepatic insufficiency**

In severe renal and hepatic insufficiency, close clinical monitoring for safety and efficacy is advised.

### **Interference with serological testing**

Interference with Coombs tests may occur, as Ceftriaxone may lead to false-positive test results. Ceftriaxone can also lead to false-positive test results for galactosaemia. Non-enzymatic methods for the glucose determination in urine may give false-positive results. Urine glucose determination during therapy with Ceftriaxone should be done enzymatically.

### **Sodium**

Each gram of Ceftriaxone contains 3.6 mmol sodium. This should be taken into consideration in patients on a controlled sodium diet.

### **Antibacterial spectrum**

Ceftriaxone has a limited spectrum of antibacterial activity and may not be suitable for use as a single agent for the treatment of some types of infections unless the pathogen has already been confirmed. In polymicrobial infections, where suspected pathogens include organisms resistant to ceftriaxone, administration of an additional antibiotic should be considered.

### **Use of lidocaine**

In case a lidocaine solution is used as a solvent, ceftriaxone solutions must only be used for intramuscular injection. Contraindications to lidocaine, warnings and other relevant information as detailed in the Summary of Product Characteristics of lidocaine must be considered before use. The lidocaine solution should never be administered intravenously.

### **Biliary lithiasis**

When shadows are observed on sonograms, consideration should be given to the possibility of precipitates of calcium ceftriaxone. Shadows, which have been mistaken for gallstones, have been detected on sonograms of the gallbladder and have been observed more frequently at ceftriaxone doses of 1 g per day and above. Caution should be particularly considered in the paediatric population. Such precipitates disappear after discontinuation of ceftriaxone therapy. Rarely precipitates of calcium ceftriaxone have been associated with symptoms. In symptomatic cases, conservative nonsurgical management is recommended and discontinuation of ceftriaxone treatment should be considered by the physician based on specific benefit risk assessment.

### **Biliary stasis**

Cases of pancreatitis, possibly of biliary obstruction aetiology, have been reported in patients treated with Ceftriaxone. Most patients presented with risk factors for biliary stasis and biliary sludge e.g. preceding major therapy, severe illness and total parenteral nutrition. A trigger or cofactor of Ceftriaxone-related biliary precipitation cannot be ruled out.

### **Renal lithiasis**

Cases of renal lithiasis have been reported, which is reversible upon discontinuation of ceftriaxone. In symptomatic cases, sonography should be performed. Use in patients with history of renal lithiasis or with hypercalciuria should be considered by the physician based on specific benefit risk assessment.

## **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

Calcium-containing diluents, such as Ringer's solution or Hartmann's solution, should not be used to reconstitute Ceftriaxone vials or to further dilute a reconstituted vial for intravenous administration because a precipitate can form. Precipitation of ceftriaxone-calcium can also occur when ceftriaxone is

mixed with calcium-containing solutions in the same intravenous administration line. Ceftriaxone must not be administered simultaneously with calcium-containing intravenous solutions, including continuous calcium-containing infusions such as parenteral nutrition via a Y-site. However, in patients other than neonates, ceftriaxone and calcium-containing solutions may be administered sequentially of one another if the infusion lines are thoroughly flushed between infusions with a compatible fluid. *In vitro* studies using adult and neonatal plasma from umbilical cord blood demonstrated that neonates have an increased risk of precipitation of ceftriaxone-calcium.

Concomitant use with oral anticoagulants may increase the anti-vitamin K effect and the risk of bleeding. It is recommended that the International Normalised Ratio (INR) is monitored frequently and the posology of the anti-vitamin K drug adjusted accordingly, both during and after treatment with ceftriaxone.

There is conflicting evidence regarding a potential increase in renal toxicity of aminoglycosides when used with cephalosporins. The recommended monitoring of aminoglycoside levels (and renal function) in clinical practice should be closely adhered to in such cases.

In an *in-vitro* study antagonistic effects have been observed with the combination of chloramphenicol and ceftriaxone. The clinical relevance of this finding is unknown.

There have been no reports of an interaction between ceftriaxone and oral calcium-containing products or interaction between intramuscular ceftriaxone and calcium-containing products (intravenous or oral).

In patients treated with ceftriaxone, the Coombs' test may lead to false-positive test results. Ceftriaxone, like other antibiotics, may result in false-positive tests for galactosaemia. Likewise, non-enzymatic methods for glucose determination in urine may yield false-positive results. For this reason, glucose level determination in urine during therapy with ceftriaxone should be carried out enzymatically.

No impairment of renal function has been observed after concurrent administration of large doses of ceftriaxone and potent diuretics (e.g. furosemide).

Simultaneous administration of probenecid does not reduce the elimination of ceftriaxone.

#### **4.8 Adverse Drug Reactions**

The most frequently reported adverse reactions for ceftriaxone are eosinophilia, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia, diarrhoea, rash, and hepatic enzymes increased.

Data to determine the frequency of ceftriaxone ADRs was derived from clinical trials.

The following convention has been used for the classification of frequency:

Very common ( $\geq 1/10$ )

Common ( $\geq 1/100 - < 1/10$ )

Uncommon ( $\geq 1/1000 - < 1/100$ )

Rare ( $\geq 1/10000 - < 1/1000$ )

Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

| <b>Class</b>                                    | <b>Common</b>                                  | <b>Uncommon</b>                                          | <b>Rare</b>                            | <b>Not Known<sup>a</sup></b>                                                                           |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Infections and infestations                     |                                                | Genital fungal infection                                 | Pseudo-membranous colitis <sup>b</sup> | Superinfection <sup>b</sup>                                                                            |
| Blood and lymphatic system disorders            | Eosinophilia<br>Leucopenia<br>Thrombocytopenia | Granulocytopenia <sup>a</sup><br>Anaemia<br>Coagulopathy |                                        | Haemolytic anaemia <sup>b</sup><br>Agranulocytosis                                                     |
| Immune system disorders                         |                                                |                                                          |                                        | Anaphylactic shock<br>Anaphylactic reaction<br>Anaphylactoid reaction<br>Hypersensitivity <sup>b</sup> |
| Nervous system disorders                        |                                                | Headache<br>Dizziness                                    |                                        | Convulsion                                                                                             |
| Ear and labyrinth disorders                     |                                                |                                                          |                                        | Vertigo                                                                                                |
| Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders |                                                |                                                          | Bronchospasm                           |                                                                                                        |
| Gastrointestinal disorders                      | Diarrhoea <sup>b</sup><br>Loose stools         | Nausea<br>Vomiting                                       |                                        | Pancreatitis <sup>b</sup><br>Stomatitis<br>Glossitis                                                   |
| Hepatobiliary disorders                         | Hepatic enzyme increased                       |                                                          |                                        | Gall bladder precipitation <sup>b</sup><br>Kernicterus                                                 |

|                                                      |      |                                             |                          |                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders               | Rash | Pruritus                                    | Urticaria                | Stevens Johnson Syndrome <sup>b</sup><br>Toxic epidermal necrolysis <sup>b</sup><br>Erythema multiforme<br>Acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis                    |
| Renal and urinary disorders                          |      |                                             | Haematuria<br>Glycosuria | Oliguria<br>Renal precipitation (reversible)                                                                                                                             |
| General disorders and administration site conditions |      | Phlebitis<br>Injection site pain<br>Pyrexia | Oedema<br>Chills         |                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Investigations                                       |      | Blood creatinine increased                  |                          | Coombs test false positive <sup>b</sup><br>Galactosaemia test false positive <sup>b</sup><br>Non enzymatic methods for glucose determination false positive <sup>b</sup> |

<sup>a</sup> Based on post-marketing reports. Since these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not possible to reliably estimate their frequency which is therefore categorised as not known.

### **Infections and infestations**

Reports of diarrhoea following the use of ceftriaxone may be associated with *Clostridium difficile*. Appropriate fluid and electrolyte management should be instituted.

### **Ceftriaxone-calcium salt precipitation**

Rarely, severe, and in some cases, fatal, adverse reactions have been reported in pre-term and full-term neonates (aged < 28 days) who had been treated with intravenous ceftriaxone and calcium. Precipitations of ceftriaxone-calcium salt have been observed in lung and kidneys post-mortem. The high risk of precipitation in neonates is a result of their low blood volume and the longer half-life of ceftriaxone compared with adults.

Cases of renal precipitation have been reported, primarily in children older than 3 years of age and who have been treated with either high daily doses (e.g.  $\geq 80$  mg/kg/day) or total doses exceeding 10 grams and who presented with

other risk factors (e.g. fluid restrictions or confinement to bed). The risk of precipitate formation is increased in immobilized or dehydrated patients. This event may be symptomatic or asymptomatic, may lead to renal insufficiency and anuria, and is reversible upon discontinuation of ceftriaxone.

Precipitation of ceftriaxone calcium salt in the gallbladder has been observed, primarily in patients treated with doses higher than the recommended standard dose. In children, prospective studies have shown a variable incidence of precipitation with intravenous application - above 30 % in some studies. The incidence appears to be lower with slow infusion (20 - 30 minutes). This effect is usually asymptomatic, but the precipitations have been accompanied by clinical symptoms such as pain, nausea and vomiting in rare cases. Symptomatic treatment is recommended in these cases. Precipitation is usually reversible upon discontinuation of ceftriaxone.

Health care professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via the <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org>

#### **4.9 Overdose:**

In overdose, the symptoms of nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea can occur. Ceftriaxone concentrations cannot be reduced by haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis. There is no specific antidote. Treatment is symptomatic.

### **5. Pharmacological properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic Group: Antibiotic

ATC code: J01DD04

#### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

**Pharmacotherapeutic Group:** Antibiotic

**ATC code:** J01DD04

#### **Mode of action:**

Ceftriaxone inhibits bacterial cell wall synthesis following attachment to penicillin binding proteins (PBPs). This results in the interruption of cell wall (peptidoglycan) biosynthesis, which leads to bacterial cell lysis and death.

#### **Resistance**

Bacterial resistance to ceftriaxone may be due to one or more of the following mechanisms:

- Hydrolysis by beta-lactamases, including extended-spectrum beta-lactamases (ESBLs), carbapenemases and Amp C enzymes that may be induced or stably derepressed in certain aerobic Gram-negative bacterial species.
- Reduced affinity of penicillin-binding proteins for ceftriaxone.
- Outer membrane impermeability in Gram-negative organisms.
- Bacterial efflux pumps.

### **Susceptibility testing Breakpoints**

Minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) breakpoints established by the European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) are as follows:

| <b>Pathogen</b>                              | <b>Dilution Test<br/>(MIC, mg/L)</b> |                  |
|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
|                                              | <b>Susceptible</b>                   | <b>Resistant</b> |
| Enterobacteriaceae                           | ≤ 1                                  | > 2              |
| Staphylococcus spp                           | a.                                   | a.               |
| Streptococcus spp.<br>(Groups A, B, C and G) | b.                                   | b.               |
| Streptococcus pneumoniae                     | ≤ 0.5 <sup>c</sup> .                 | > 2              |
| Viridans group Streptococci                  | ≤0.5                                 | >0.5             |
| Haemophilus influenzae                       | ≤ 0.12 <sup>c</sup> .                | > 0.12           |
| Moraxella catarrhalis                        | ≤ 1                                  | > 2              |
| Neisseria gonorrhoeae                        | ≤ 0.12                               | > 0.12           |
| Neisseria meningitidis                       | ≤ 0.12 <sup>c</sup> .                | > 0.12           |
| Non-species related                          | ≤ 1 <sup>d</sup> .                   | > 2              |

a. Susceptibility inferred from cefoxitin susceptibility.

b. Susceptibility inferred from penicillin susceptibility.

c. Isolates with a ceftriaxone MIC above the susceptible breakpoint are rare and, if found, should be re-tested and, if confirmed, should be sent to a reference laboratory.

d. Breakpoints apply to a daily intravenous dose of 1 g x 1 and a high dose of at least 2 g x 1.

### **Clinical efficacy against specific pathogens**

The prevalence of acquired resistance may vary geographically and with time for selected species and local information on resistance is desirable, particularly when treating severe infections. As necessary, expert advice should be sought when the local prevalence of resistance is such that the utility of ceftriaxone in at least some types of infections is questionable.

### **Commonly susceptible species**

#### **Gram-positive aerobes**

Staphylococcus aureus (methicillin-susceptible)<sup>£</sup>, Staphylococci coagulase-negative (methicillin-susceptible)<sup>£</sup>, Streptococcus pyogenes (Group A), Streptococcus agalactiae (Group B), Streptococcus pneumonia, Viridans Group Streptococci.

### **Gram-negative aerobes**

*Borrelia burgdorferi*, *Haemophilus influenza*, *Haemophilus parainfluenzae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis*, *Neisseria gonorrhea*, *Neisseria meningitidis*, *Proteus mirabilis*, *Providencia* spp *Treponema pallidum*

### **Species for which acquired resistance may be a problem**

### **Gram-positive aerobes**

*Staphylococcus epidermidis*<sup>+</sup>, *Staphylococcus haemolyticus*<sup>+</sup>, *Staphylococcus hominis*<sup>+</sup>, Gram-negative aerobes, *Citrobacter freundii*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*, *Enterobacter cloacae*, *Escherichia coli*%, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*%, *Klebsiella oxytoca*%, *Morganella morganii*, *Proteus vulgaris*, *Serratia marcescens*

### **Anaerobes**

*Bacteroides* spp., *Fusobacterium* spp., *Peptostreptococcus* spp., *Clostridium perfringens*

### **Inherently resistant organisms**

Gram-positive aerobes, *Enterococcus* spp., *Listeria monocytogenes*, Gram-negative aerobes, *Acinetobacter baumannii*, *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, *Stenotrophomonas maltophilia*, Anaerobes, *Clostridium difficile*, Others: *Chlamydia* spp., *Chlamydophila* spp., *Mycoplasma* spp., *Legionella* spp., *Ureaplasma urealyticum*.

£ All methicillin-resistant staphylococci are resistant to ceftriaxone.

+ Resistance rates >50% in at least one region

% ESBL producing strains are always resistant

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

### **Absorption**

#### **Intramuscular administration**

Following intramuscular injection, mean peak plasma ceftriaxone levels are approximately half those observed after intravenous administration of an equivalent dose. The maximum plasma concentration after a single intramuscular dose of 1 g is about 81 mg/l and is reached in 2 - 3 hours after administration.

The area under the plasma concentration-time curve after intramuscular administration is equivalent to that after intravenous administration of an equivalent dose.

#### **Intravenous administration**

After intravenous bolus administration of ceftriaxone 500 mg and 1 g, mean peak plasma ceftriaxone levels are approximately 120 and 200 mg/l respectively. After intravenous infusion of ceftriaxone 500 mg, 1 g and 2 g, the plasma ceftriaxone levels are approximately 80, 150 and 250 mg/l respectively.

## **Distribution**

The volume of distribution of ceftriaxone is 7 – 12 l. Concentrations well above the minimal inhibitory concentrations of most relevant pathogens are detectable in tissue including lung, heart, biliary tract/liver, tonsil, middle ear and nasal mucosa, bone, and in cerebrospinal, pleural, prostatic and synovial fluids. An 8 - 15 % increase in mean peak plasma concentration ( $C_{max}$ ) is seen on repeated administration; steady state is reached in most cases within 48 - 72 hours depending on the route of administration.

## **Penetration into particular tissues**

Ceftriaxone penetrates the meninges. Penetration is greatest when the meninges are inflamed. Mean peak ceftriaxone concentrations in CSF in patients with bacterial meningitis are reported to be up to 25 % of plasma levels compared to 2 % of plasma levels in patients with uninflamed meninges. Peak ceftriaxone concentrations in CSF are reached approximately 4-6 hours after intravenous injection. Ceftriaxone crosses the placental barrier and is excreted in the breast milk at low concentrations (see section 4.6).

## **Protein binding**

Ceftriaxone is reversibly bound to albumin. Plasma protein binding is about 95 % at plasma concentrations below 100 mg/l. Binding is saturable and the bound portion decreases with rising concentration (up to 85 % at a plasma concentration of 300 mg/l).

## **Biotransformation**

Ceftriaxone is not metabolised systemically; but is converted to inactive metabolites by the gut flora.

## **Elimination**

Plasma clearance of total ceftriaxone (bound and unbound) is 10 - 22 ml/min. Renal clearance is 5 - 12 ml/min. 50 - 60 % of ceftriaxone is excreted unchanged in the urine, primarily by glomerular filtration, while 40 - 50 % is excreted unchanged in the bile. The elimination half-life of total ceftriaxone in adults is about 8 hours.

## **Patients with renal or hepatic impairment**

In patients with renal or hepatic dysfunction, the pharmacokinetics of ceftriaxone are only minimally altered with the half-life slightly increased (less than two fold), even in patients with severely impaired renal function.

The relatively modest increase in half-life in renal impairment is explained by a compensatory increase in non-renal clearance, resulting from a decrease in protein binding and corresponding increase in non-renal clearance of total ceftriaxone.

In patients with hepatic impairment, the elimination half-life of ceftriaxone is not increased, due to a compensatory increase in renal clearance. This is also

due to an increase in plasma free fraction of ceftriaxone contributing to the observed paradoxical increase in total drug clearance, with an increase in volume of distribution paralleling that of total clearance.

### **Older people**

In older people aged over 75 years the average elimination half-life is usually two to three times that of young adults.

### **Paediatric population**

The half-life of ceftriaxone is prolonged in neonates. From birth to 14 days of age, the levels of free ceftriaxone may be further increased by factors such as reduced glomerular filtration and altered protein binding. During childhood, the half-life is lower than in neonates or adults.

The plasma clearance and volume of distribution of total ceftriaxone are greater in neonates, infants and children than in adults.

### **Linearity/non-linearity**

The pharmacokinetics of ceftriaxone are non-linear and all basic pharmacokinetic parameters, except the elimination half-life, are dose dependent if based on total drug concentrations, increasing less than proportionally with dose. Non-linearity is due to saturation of plasma protein binding and is therefore observed for total plasma ceftriaxone but not for free (unbound) ceftriaxone.

### **Pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic relationship**

As with other beta-lactams, the pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic index demonstrating the best correlation with in vivo efficacy is the percentage of the dosing interval that the unbound concentration remains above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of ceftriaxone for individual target species (i.e. %T > MIC).

## **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

There is evidence from animal studies that high doses of ceftriaxone calcium salt led to formation of concrements and precipitates in the gallbladder of dogs and monkeys, which proved to be reversible. Animal studies produced no evidence of toxicity to reproduction and genotoxicity. Carcinogenicity studies on ceftriaxone were not conducted.

## **6. Pharmaceutical particulars**

### **6.1 List of Excipients**

Product is sterile dry powder for injection. Does not contain any added Excipients.

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Based on literature reports, ceftriaxone is not compatible with amsacrine, vancomycin, fluconazole and aminoglycosides and labetalol.

In particular, diluents containing calcium, (e.g. Ringer's solution, Hartmann's solution) should not be used to reconstitute ceftriaxone vials or to further dilute a reconstituted vial for IV administration because a precipitate can form. Ceftriaxone must not be mixed or administered simultaneously with calcium containing solutions including total parenteral nutrition

### **6.3 Shelf life**

**Unopened** – 2 years.

**For reconstituted solution**, chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 8 hours at 25°C and for 24 hours at 2-8°C. From a microbiological point of view, once opened, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user and would normally not be longer than 24 hours at 2-8°C, unless reconstitution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Unopened: Do not store above 25°C. Keep the vials in the outer carton.

After reconstitution: Store at 2-8°C, see section 6.3 for complete storage instructions.

Store below 30°C.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

CEFTRIAZONE FOR INJECTION USP 1 GM is packed in 20 ml Clear glass Vial USP Type III packed in printed carton along with package insert.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements

## **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

MEDAFRIQ PHARMA LTD

P.O BOX243-00623, NAIROBI, KENYA

## **8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

H2022/CTD8288/16072

## **9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION / RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 17.02.2023

## **10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

17.02.2023