

Summary of Product Characteristics for Pharmaceutical Products

1. Name of the medicinal product:

Swich dry syrup (Cefpodoxime Proxetil for Oral Suspension USP)

2. Qualitative and Quantitative composition

Each 5 ml of reconstituted suspension contains:

Cefpodoxime Proxetil USP

Equivalent to Cefpodoxime 100 mg

Excipients q.s.

Color: Sunset Yellow FCF For Paediatric use only

Excipients of known concern:

Mannitol

For full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. Pharmaceutical form

Powder for oral suspension

4. Clinical particulars

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Swich Dry Syrup is indicated for the treatment of the following infections caused by

Cefpodoxime susceptible pathogens in children up to 11 years:

Upper respiratory tract infections

- Acute bacterial sinusitis
- Tonsillitiss
- Acute otitis media

Lower respiratory tract infections

- Bacterial pneumonia

In case of bacterial pneumonia Cefpodoxime might not be suitable option depending on the

Pathogen involved.

Consideration should be given to the official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Route of administration: oral.

Adults and Elderly:

Not applicable for this product

Infants (>28 days), toddlers, Children (up to 11 years):

The recommended mean dosage for children is 8mg/kg/day, administered in two divided doses at 12-hour intervals.

The dose to be taken is indicated on the measuring spoon. The graduations correspond to the child's weight in kg from 5kg (2.5ml) to 25kg (12.5ml) with intermittent graduations of 1kg (0.5ml) each. The dose to be taken is read directly from the spoon.

The following table provides dosage regimen for children as per the bodyweight graduations provided on the measuring spoon:

Body weight in kg	Cefpodoxime dose in mg to be used twice daily	Cefpodoxime dose in ml to be used twice daily
5	20	2.5
10	40	5
15	60	7.5
20	80	10
25	100	12.5

Children who weigh at least 25kg take 12.5ml of suspension twice daily or alternatively 100mg film-coated tablet twice daily.

Hepatic Impairment:

The dosage does not require modification in cases of hepatic impairment. Renal Impairment:

The dosage of cefpodoxime does not require modification if creatinine clearance exceeds 40ml.min⁻¹/1.73m².

Below this value, pharmacokinetic studies indicate an increase in plasma elimination half-life and the maximum plasma concentrations, and hence the dosage should be adjusted appropriately.

Creatinine Clearance (ml/min)	
39 – 10	Single dose administered every 24 hours instead of twice a day (i.e. Half of the usual dose).
<10	Single dose administered every 48 hours (i.e. Quarter of the usual dose).
Haemodialysis Patients	Single dose administered after each dialysis session.

The suspension may be taken with or without food. Instructions for Reconstitution

To prepare the suspension first shake the bottle to loosen granules. Add water up to about half of the 100ml ring mark and shake vigorously. Further add water up to the 100ml ring mark of the bottle and shake vigorously to obtain an evenly dispersed suspension.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to cefpodoxime or other cephalosporines or to any of the excipients.

Previous history of immediate and/or severe hypersensitivity reactions (anaphylaxis) to

Penicillin or other beta-lactam antibiotic.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Cefpodoxime is not a preferred antibiotic for the treatment of staphylococcal pneumonia

And should not be used in the treatment of atypical pneumonia caused by organisms such as Legionella, Mycoplasma and Chlamydia. Cefpodoxime is not recommended for the Treatment of pneumonia due to S.pneumoniae.

As with all beta-lactam antibacterial agents, serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity

Reactions have been reported. In case of severe hypersensitivity reactions, treatment with cefpodoxime 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 cefpodoxime, to other cephalosporins or to any other type of beta-lactam agent. Caution should be used if cefpodoxime is given to patients with a history of non-severe hypersensitivity to other beta-lactam agents.

In cases of severe renal insufficiency it may be necessary to reduce the dosage regimen dependent on the creatinine clearance.

Antibacterial agent-associated colitis and pseudo-membranous colitis have been reported with nearly all anti-bacterial agents, including cefpodoxime, and may range in severity from mild to life-threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhea during or subsequent to the administration of cefpodoxime.

Discontinuation of therapy with cefpodoxime and the administration of specific treatment for *Clostridium difficile* should be considered. Medicinal products that inhibit peristalsis should not be given. Cefpodoxime should always be prescribed with caution in patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease, particularly colitis. As with all beta-lactam antibiotics, neutropenia and more rarely agranulocytosis may develop particularly during extended treatment. For cases of treatment lasting longer than 10 days, the blood count should be monitored and treatment discontinued if neutropenia is found.

Cephalosporins may be absorbed onto the surface of red cell membranes and react with antibodies directed against the drug. This can produce a positive Coomb's test and very rarely, haemolytic anaemia. Cross-reactivity may occur with penicillin for this reaction. Changes in renal function have been observed with cephalosporin antibiotics, particularly

When given concurrently with potentially nephrotoxic drugs such as aminoglycosides and/or potential diuretics. In such cases, renal function should be monitored. As with other antibiotics, the prolonged use of cefpodoxime may result in the overgrowth

Of non-susceptible organisms (*Candida* and *Clostridium difficile*), which may require interruption of treatment.

Interaction with laboratory tests:

A false positive reaction for glucose in the urine may occur with Benedict's or Fehling's solutions or with copper sulphate test tablets, but not with tests based on enzymatic glucose oxidase reactions.

Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, fructose intolerance, the *Lapp* lactase deficiency, glucose-galactose malabsorption or sucrase-isomaltase insufficiency should not take this medicine.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No clinically significant drug interactions have been reported during the course of clinical studies.

Histamine H₂-antagonists and antacids reduce the bioavailability of cefpodoxime. Probenecid reduces the excretion of cephalosporins. Cephalosporins potentially enhance the anticoagulant effect of coumarins and reduce the contraceptive effect of oestrogens.

Oral anticoagulants:

Simultaneous administration of cefpodoxime with warfarin may augment its anti-coagulant effects. There have been many reports of increases in oral anti-coagulant activity in patients

Receiving antibacterial agents, including cephalosporins. The risk may vary with the underlying infection, age and general status of the patient so that the contribution of the cephalosporins to the increase in INR (international normalised ratio) is difficult to assess. It is recommended that the INR should be monitored frequently during and shortly after co-administration of cefpodoxime with an oral anti-coagulant agent.

Studies have shown that the bioavailability is decreased by approximately 30% when cefpodoxime is administered with drugs which neutralize gastric pH or inhibit acid secretions. Therefore, such drugs as antacids of the mineral type and H₂ blockers such as ranitidine, which can cause an increase in gastric pH, should be taken 2 to 3 hours after cefpodoxime administration.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

For Cefpodoxime proxetil no clinical data on exposed pregnancies are available. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryo-nal/foetal development, parturition or postnatal development. Caution should be exercised when prescribing to pregnant women. Studies carried out in several animal species have not shown any teratogenic or fetotoxic effects. However, the safety of cefpodoxime proxetil in pregnancy has not been established and, as with all drugs, it should be administered with caution during the early months of pregnancy.

Cefpodoxime is excreted in human milk. Mothers should stop breastfeeding during treatment with Cefpodoxime.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Dizziness has been reported during treatment with cefpodoxime and may affect the ability to drive and use machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Adverse drug reactions are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as:

Very common ($\geq 1/10$)

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

Uncommon

($\geq 1/1,000$ to

$< 1/100$) Rare

(≥1/10,000 to
<1/1,000) Very rare
(<1/10,000),

Not known (cannot be estimated from the available data)

Blood and lymphatic system disorders	
<i>Rare:</i>	Haematological disorders such as reduction in haemoglobin, thrombocytosis, thrombocytopenia, leucopenia and eosinophilia
<i>Very rare:</i>	Haemolytic anaemia.
Nervous system disorders	
<i>Uncommon:</i>	Headache, paraesthesia, dizziness

Ear and labyrinth disorders	
<i>Uncommon:</i>	Tinnitus
Gastrointestinal disorders	
<i>Common:</i>	Gastric pressure, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, flatulence, diarrhoea. Bloody diarrhoea can be seen as signs of enterocolitis.
The possibility of a pseudomembranous enterocolitis should be considered if severe or persistent diarrhea occurs during or after treatment.	
Metabolic and nutritional disorders	
<i>Common:</i>	Loss of appetite
Immune system disorders:	
Hypersensitivity reactions of all degrees of severity have been observed.	
<i>Very rare:</i>	Anaphylactic reactions, bronchospasm, purpura and angioedema.
Renal and urinary disorders	
<i>Very rare:</i>	Slight increases in blood urea and creatinine
Hepatobiliary disorders	
<i>Rare:</i>	Transient moderate elevations of ASAT, ALAT and alkaline phosphatases and/or bilirubin
These laboratory abnormalities, which may also be explained by the infection, may rarely exceed twice the upper limit of the named range and elicit a pattern of liver injury, usually cholestatic and most often asymptomatic.	
<i>Very rare:</i>	Liver damage

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	
<i>Uncommon:</i>	Hypersensitivity mucocutaneous reactions, rash, urticaria, pruri-tus
<i>Very rare:</i>	Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and ery-thema multiforme
Infections and infestations	
There can be multiplication of non-sensitive micro-organisms	
General disorders and administration site conditions	
<i>Uncommon:</i>	Asthenia or malaise

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are requested to report any suspected adverse reactions via the pharmacy and poisons board, Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System (PvERS): <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org>

4.9 Overdose

In the event of over dosage with Cefpodoxime, supportive and symptomatic therapy is indi-cated.

In cases of over dosage, particularly in patients with renal insufficiency, encephalopathy may occur. The encephalopathy is usually reversible once cefpodoxime plasma levels have fallen.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic Properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Other beta-lactam antibacterials, Third generation cephalo-sporins.

ATC-Code: J01DD13

Mode of Action:

Cefpodoxime 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.

PK/PD relationship

For cephalosporins, the most important pharmacokinetic-pharmacodynamic index correlat-ing with *in vivo* efficacy has been

shown to be the percentage of the dosing interval that the unbound concentration remains above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of cefpodoxime for individual target species (i.e. %T>MIC).

Mechanism(s) of resistance:

Resistance to cephalosporins results from a variety of mechanisms:

- 1) Alteration of the cell-wall permeability of gram-negative bacteria
- 2) Alteration of the penicillin binding proteins (pbps)
- 3) B-lactamase production
- 4) Bacterial efflux pumps

Breakpoints:

European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) clinical break-points for MIC testing are presented below. EUCAST clinical MIC breakpoints for cefpodoxime (2011-01-05, v 1.3)

Organism	Susceptible (S) (mg/l)	Resistant (R) (mg/l)
Enterobacteriaceae (uncomplicated UTI only)	≤1	>1
Staphylococcus spp.	Note ¹	Note ¹
Streptococcus groups A, B, C and G	Note ²	Note ²
Streptococcus pneumoniae	≤ 0.25	>0.5
Haemophilus influenzae	≤ 0.25 Note ³	>0.5
Moraxella catarrhalis	≤ 0.25 Note ³	>0.5
Neisseria gonorrhoeae	IE	IE
Non-species related breakpoint	IE	IE

1 Susceptibility of staphylococci to cephalosporins is inferred from the cefoxitin susceptibility.

2 The beta-lactam susceptibility of beta-haemolytic streptococcus groups A, B, C and G is inferred from the penicillin susceptibility.

3 Strains with MIC values above the susceptible breakpoint are very rare or not yet reported. The identification and antimicrobial susceptibility tests on any such isolate must be repeated and if the result is confirmed the isolate must be sent to a reference laboratory.

*Insufficient evidence

Susceptibility:

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 re-sistance is such that the utility of the agent in at least some types of infections is questionable.

<u>Antibacterial spectrum</u>
Commonly Susceptible species
<i>Aerobic Gram positive organisms:</i>
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (Methicillin-susceptible)
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>
<i>Aerobic Gram negative organisms:</i>
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i>
<i>Moraxella catarrhalis</i>
<i>Proteus mirabilis</i> [%]
Species for which acquired resistance may be a problem
<i>Aerobic Gram positive organisms</i>
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>
<i>Aerobic Gram negative organisms</i>
<i>Citrobacter freundii</i> ^{\$}
<i>Enterobacter cloacae</i> ^{\$}
<i>Escherichia coli</i> [%]
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i> [%]
<i>Serratia marcescens</i> ^{\$}
Inherently resistant organisms
<i>Aerobic Gram positive organisms</i>
<i>Enterococcus spp.</i>
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (methicillin resistant)
<i>Aerobic Gram negative organisms</i>
<i>Morganella morganii</i>
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i> .
Others

<i>Chlamydia</i> spp.
<i>Chlamydophila</i> spp.
<i>Legionella pneumophila</i>
<i>Mycoplasma</i> spp.

*Resistance rates >50% in at least 1 region

% ESBL producing species are always resistant.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Cefpodoxime proxetil is taken up in the intestine and is hydrolysed to the active metabolite cefpodoxime. When cefpodoxime proxetil is administered orally to fasting subjects as a tablet corresponding to 100mg of cefpodoxime, 51.5% is absorbed and absorption is increased by food intake. The volume of distribution is 32.3 L and peak levels of cefpodoxime occur 2 to 3 hrs after dosing. The maximum plasma concentration is 1.2mg/L and 2.5mg/L after

Doses of 100mg and 200mg respectively. Following administration of 100mg and 200mg twice daily over 14.5 days, the plasma pharmacokinetic parameters of cefpodoxime remain unchanged.

Serum protein binding of cefpodoxime, 40% principally to albumin. This binding is non saturable in type. Concentrations of cefpodoxime in excess of the minimum inhibitory levels (MIC) for common pathogens can be achieved in lung parenchyma, bronchial mucosa, pleural fluid, tonsils, interstitial fluid and prostate tissue.

As the majority of cefpodoxime is eliminated in the urine, the concentration is high. (Concentrations in 0-4, 4-8, 8-12 hr fractions after a single dose exceed MIC₉₀ of common urinary pathogens). Good diffusion of cefpodoxime is also seen into renal tissue, with concentrations above MIC₉₀ of the common urinary pathogens, 3-12 hrs after an administration of a

Single 200mg dose (1.6-3.1µg/g). Concentrations of cefpodoxime in the medullary and cortical tissues is similar.

The main route of excretion is renal, 80% is excreted unchanged in the urine, with an elimination half-life of approx 2.4 hours.

CHILDREN

In children, studies have shown the maximum plasma concentration occurs approximately 2-4 hours after dosing. A single 5mg/kg dose in 4-12 year olds produced a maximum concentration similar to that in adults given a 200mg dose. In patients below 2 years receiving repeated doses of 5mg/kg 12 hourly,

the average plasma concentrations, 2hrs post dose, are between 2.7mg/l (1-6 months) and 2.0mg/l (7 months-2 Years).

In patients between 1 month and 12 years receiving repeated doses of 5mg/kg 12 hourly, the residual plasma concentrations at steady state are between 0.2-0.3mg/l (1 month-2 years) and 0.1mg/l (2-12 years).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

There are no findings from chronic toxicity investigations suggesting that any side effects

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are requested to report any suspected adverse reactions via the pharmacy and poisons board, Pharmacovigilance Electronic Reporting System (pvers): <https://pv.pharmacyboardkenya.org>

Unknown to date could occur in humans.

Furthermore, in vivo and in vitro studies did not yield any indication of a potential to cause

Reproductive toxicity or mutagenicity. Studies on carcinogenicity have not been conducted.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of Excipients

Carboxymethyl Cellulose Sodium

Colloidal silicon Dioxide

Sodium Benzoate

Dried Sucrose (Pharma Grade)

Dry Flavour Pineapple

Mannitol

Neomalt

Menthol

Colour: Sunset yellow FCF

Sodium Lauryl Sulphate

Microcrystalline Cellulose PH-112

Sterile water for injection 20 ml

6.2 Incompatibilities

None known

6.3 Shelf life

24 months from date of manufacturing

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at a temperature below 30°C. Protect from light and moisture.

Keep medicine out of the reach of children.

6.5 Contents of container

30.0 g dry powder filled in a 60 ml amber round glass bottle and sealed & labeled glass bottle packed in a mono carton with measuring spoon & printed insert with sterile water for injection 2x20ml.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

No special requirements.

7. Marketing authorization holder

Alkem Laboratories Ltd.

8. Marketing authorization number(s)

H2024/CTD10119/20516

9. Date of first authorization/renewal of the authorization

10. Date of revision of the text
