

AUSTRALIAN PRODUCT INFORMATION – CLEOCIN[®] (clindamycin hydrochloride) CAPSULES

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINE

Clindamycin hydrochloride

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Each CLEOCIN capsule contains clindamycin hydrochloride, equivalent to 150 mg of clindamycin.

It is a semi-synthetic antibiotic produced by a 7(S)-chloro-substitution of the 7(R)-hydroxyl group of the parent compound lincomycin.

Excipient(s) with known effect

- Lactose monohydrate

For the full list of excipients, see Section 6.1 - List of excipients.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Capsules.

The capsules consist of a white cap and white body imprinted with 'Clin 150' and 'Pfizer' in edible black ink.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

CLEOCIN (clindamycin hydrochloride) capsules are indicated in the treatment of serious infections caused by susceptible anaerobic bacteria.

CLEOCIN capsules are also indicated in the treatment of serious infections due to susceptible strains of *streptococci*, *pneumococci* and *staphylococci*.

Their use should be reserved for penicillin-allergic patients or other patients for whom, in the judgement of the physician, a penicillin is inappropriate.

Anaerobes

Serious respiratory tract infections such as empyema, anaerobic pneumonitis and lung abscess; serious skin and soft tissue infections; septicaemia; intra-abdominal infections such as peritonitis and intra-abdominal abscess (typically resulting from anaerobic organisms

resident in the normal gastrointestinal tract); infections of the female pelvis and genital tract such as endometritis, non-gonococcal tubo-ovarian abscess, pelvic cellulitis and post-surgical vaginal cuff infection.

Streptococci

Serious respiratory tract infections; serious skin and soft tissue infections, septicaemia.

Staphylococci

Serious respiratory tract infections; serious skin and soft tissue infections; septicaemia; acute haematogenous osteomyelitis.

Pneumococci

Serious respiratory tract infections.

Adjunctive Therapy

In the surgical treatment of chronic bone and joint infections due to susceptible organisms. Indicated surgical procedures should be performed in conjunction with antibiotic therapy.

Bacteriological studies should be performed to determine the causative organisms and their susceptibility to clindamycin.

4.2 Dose and method of administration

Adults

150 mg every six hours

300 mg every six hours - more serious infections

450 mg every six hours - severe infections

Absorption of CLEOCIN is not appreciably modified by ingestion of food, and CLEOCIN may be taken with meals with no significant reduction of the serum level. To avoid the possibility of oesophageal irritation, CLEOCIN capsules should be taken with a full glass of water.

In the treatment of anaerobic infections (see Section 4.1 – Therapeutic indications), DALACIN C (clindamycin phosphate) injection should be used initially. This may be followed by oral therapy with CLEOCIN (clindamycin hydrochloride) capsules at the discretion of the physician.

In cases of beta-haemolytic streptococcal infections, treatment should continue for at least 10 days.

Children

For formulation reasons, CLEOCIN capsules are not recommended in newborns, infants and children.

4.3 Contraindications

CLEOCIN capsules are contraindicated in individuals with a history of hypersensitivity to preparations containing clindamycin, lincomycin, or any of the ingredients listed under Section 6.1 – List of excipients.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Severe hypersensitivity reactions, including severe skin reactions such as drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) have been reported in patients receiving clindamycin therapy. If a hypersensitivity or severe skin reaction occurs, clindamycin should be discontinued and appropriate therapy should be initiated (see Section 4.3 – Contraindications and Section 4.8 – Adverse effects (undesirable effects)). The usual agents (adrenaline, corticosteroids, antihistamines, colloid infusion) should be available for emergency treatment of serious reactions.

The use of CLEOCIN capsules can lead to the development of severe colitis. Fatalities have been reported. Most of these patients have been found to be colonised with *C. difficile*. Therefore, the drug should be reserved for serious infections where less toxic antimicrobial agents are inappropriate, as described in Section 4.1 – Therapeutic indications. It should not be used in patients with non-bacterial infections such as most upper respiratory tract infections.

It is important to consider the diagnosis of antibiotic-associated colitis in patients who develop diarrhoea or colitis associated with antibiotic use. Antibiotic-associated colitis appears to result from a toxin produced by *Clostridium difficile* in the alimentary tract. The severity of the colitis may range from mild watery diarrhoea to severe, persistent, life-threatening bloody diarrhoea. The diagnosis is usually made by recognition of the clinical symptoms. The symptoms may occur during therapy or up to several weeks after cessation of therapy. Additional confirmatory signs of antibiotic-associated colitis include pseudomembrane formation seen with colonoscopy, *C. difficile* culture from the stool, or assay of the stool for *C. difficile* toxin.

Mild cases usually respond to drug discontinuation alone. However, in moderate to severe cases, appropriate therapy with a suitable oral antibacterial agent effective against *C. difficile* should be considered. Fluids, electrolytes and protein replacement should be provided when indicated.

Drugs which delay peristalsis, e.g. opiates and diphenoxylate hydrochloride with atropine sulfate (LOMOTIL[®]), may prolong and/or worsen the condition and should not be used.

Antibiotic-associated colitis and diarrhoea (due to *C. difficile*) occur more frequently and may be more severe in debilitated and/or elderly patients (>60 years). When clindamycin is indicated in these patients, they should be carefully monitored for change in bowel frequency.

Clostridium difficile associated diarrhoea (CDAD) has been reported with use of nearly all antibacterial agents, including clindamycin, and may range in severity from mild diarrhoea to fatal colitis. Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon leading to overgrowth of *C. difficile*.

C. difficile produces toxins A and B which contribute to the development of CDAD. Hypertoxin producing strains of *C. difficile* cause increased morbidity and mortality, as these infections can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy and may require colectomy. CDAD must be considered in all patients who present with diarrhoea following antibiotic use. Careful medical history is necessary since CDAD has been reported to occur over two months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

CLEOCIN capsules should be prescribed with caution in individuals with a history of gastrointestinal disease, particularly colitis.

Since clindamycin does not diffuse adequately into the cerebrospinal fluid, the drug should not be used in the treatment of meningitis.

CLEOCIN (clindamycin) capsules should not be used in patients with non-bacterial infections.

CLEOCIN (clindamycin) capsules should be prescribed with caution in atopic individuals.

During prolonged therapy, periodic liver and kidney function tests and blood counts should be performed.

Certain infections may require incision and drainage or other indicated surgical procedures in addition to antibiotic therapy. The use of clindamycin occasionally results in overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms - particularly yeasts. Should superinfections occur, appropriate measures should be taken as indicated by the clinical situation.

Patients with very severe renal disease and/or very severe hepatic disease accompanied by severe metabolic aberrations should be dosed with caution, and serum clindamycin levels monitored during high-dose therapy.

Use in the elderly

No data available

Paediatric use

When clindamycin is administered to newborns and infants, appropriate monitoring of organ system functions is desirable. For formulation reasons, CLEOCIN capsules are not recommended in newborns, infants and children.

Effects on laboratory tests

No data available

4.5 Interactions with other medicines and other forms of interactions

Clindamycin has been shown to have neuromuscular blocking properties that may enhance the action of other neuromuscular blocking agents. Therefore, CLEOCIN capsules should be used with caution in patients receiving such agents.

Antagonism has been demonstrated between clindamycin and erythromycin *in vitro*. Because of possible clinical significance, these two drugs should not be administered concurrently.

In vitro studies of human liver and intestinal microsomes showed that Clindamycin is metabolised predominantly by CYP3A4, and to a lesser extent by CYP3A5, to the major metabolite clindamycin sulfoxide and minor metabolite N-desmethylclindamycin. Therefore inhibitors of CYP3A4 and CYP3A5 may reduce clindamycin clearance and inducers of these isoenzymes may increase clindamycin clearance. In the presence of strong CYP3A4 inducers such as rifampicin, monitor for loss of effectiveness.

In vitro studies indicate that clindamycin does not inhibit CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2E1 or CYP2D6 and only moderately inhibits CYP3A4.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Effects on fertility

Fertility was not impaired in rats given 300 mg/kg/day in the diet.

Use in pregnancy - Pregnancy Category A

Clindamycin crosses the placenta in humans. After multiple doses, amniotic fluid concentrations were approximately 30% of maternal concentrations. CLEOCIN capsules should be used in pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Use in lactation

Clindamycin has been reported to appear in human breast milk in ranges from <0.5 to 3.8 micrograms/mL. Clindamycin has the potential to cause adverse effects on the breastfed infant's gastrointestinal flora such as diarrhoea or blood in the stool, or rash. Therefore, clindamycin is not recommended for nursing mothers.

If oral or intravenous clindamycin is required by a nursing mother, it is not a reason to discontinue breastfeeding, but an alternate drug may be preferred. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for clindamycin and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from clindamycin or from the underlying maternal condition.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

The effects of this medicine on a person's ability to drive and use machines were not assessed as part of its registration.

4.8 Adverse effects (undesirable effects)

The adverse effects listed in the table below are presented by system organ class. Within each frequency category, the adverse effects are presented in the order of frequency and then by decreasing medical seriousness.

System Organ Class	Common (≥1/100 to <1/10)	Uncommon (≥1/1000 to <1/100)	Rare (≥1/10000 to <1/1000)	Frequency not known (cannot be estimated from available data)
Infections and infestations	Pseudomembranous colitis			Vaginal infection
Blood and	Eosinophilia			Agranulocytosis,

lymphatic system disorders				neutropenia, thrombocytopenia, leucopenia
Immune system disorders				Anaphylactoid reaction
Nervous system disorders		Dysgeusia		
Gastrointestinal disorders	Diarrhoea, abdominal pain	Vomiting, nausea		Oesophagitis‡, oesophageal ulcer‡
Hepatobiliary disorders				Jaundice
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Rash maculo-papular	Urticaria	Erythema multiforme, pruritus	Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Steven Johnson syndrome (SJS), drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), dermatitis exfoliative, dermatitis bullous, rash morbilliform
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders				Polyarthrititis
Renal and urinary disorders				Renal dysfunction (as evidenced by azotemia, oliguria, and/or proteinuria)
Investigations	Liver function test abnormal			
CIOMS III categories: Very Common $\geq 1/10$ ($\geq 10\%$); Common $\geq 1/100$ to $< 1/10$ ($\geq 1\%$ and $< 10\%$); Uncommon $\geq 1/1000$ to $< 1/100$ ($\geq 0.1\%$ and $< 1\%$); Rare $\geq 1/10,000$ to $< 1/1000$ ($\geq 0.01\%$ and $< 0.1\%$); Very Rare $< 1/10,000$ ($< 0.01\%$)				

‡ Adverse reactions apply only to oral formulation.

Post-Marketing Experience

The following additional adverse reactions have been reported during post-marketing experience.

Infections and infestations

Not known: *Clostridium difficile* colitis.

Immune system disorders

Not known: Anaphylactic shock, anaphylactic reaction, hypersensitivity.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

Not known: Angioedema.

Reporting suspected adverse effects

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after registration 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 at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems.

4.9 Overdose

Signs and symptoms

Overdosage with orally administered clindamycin has been rare. Adverse reactions similar to those seen with normal doses can be expected, however, unexpected reactions could occur (see Section 4.8 – Adverse effects (undesirable effects)).

The minimal toxic or lethal dose is not well established. At therapeutic doses, the primary toxic effects may involve the gastrointestinal tract and may include severe diarrhoea and pseudomembranous colitis that may result in death. Dermatitis, nephrotoxicity, hepatotoxicity, and various haematological abnormalities are toxic effects that occur less frequently. Rapid administration of large doses intravenously has resulted in ventricular dysrhythmias, hypotension and cardiac arrest.

Recommended treatment

No specific antidote is known. Support respiratory and cardiac function. In cases of overdose, drug levels of clindamycin are not clinically useful. However, monitoring serum concentrations in patients with markedly reduced renal and hepatic function, may be indicated during high-dose therapy. Monitor full blood count in patients with significant exposure as clindamycin may produce abnormalities of the haematopoietic system. Because clindamycin may cause hepatotoxicity, monitor liver function tests in patients with significant exposure.

Neither haemodialysis nor peritoneal dialysis appear to be effective in reducing clindamycin levels significantly.

Serious anaphylactoid reactions require immediate emergency treatment with adrenaline. Oxygen and intravenous corticosteroids should also be administered as indicated.

For information on the management of overdose, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 131126 (Australia).

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Mechanism of action

No data available.

Microbiology

Clindamycin has been shown to have *in vitro* activity against isolates of the following organisms:

Aerobic gram-positive cocci, including:

Staphylococcus aureus

Staphylococcus epidermidis (penicillinase and non-penicillinase producing strains)

When tested by *in vitro* methods some staphylococcal strains originally resistant to erythromycin rapidly develop resistance to clindamycin.

Streptococci (except *S. faecalis*)

Pneumococci

Anaerobic gram-negative bacilli, including:

Bacteroides species

Fusobacterium species

Anaerobic gram-positive non-spore forming bacilli, including:

Propionibacterium species

Eubacterium species

Actinomyces species

Anaerobic and microaerophilic gram-positive cocci, including:

Peptococcus species

Peptostreptococcus species

Microaerophilic streptococci

Clostridia

Clostridia are more resistant than most anaerobes to clindamycin. Most *C. perfringens* are susceptible, but other species, e.g. *C. sporogenes* and *C. tertium* are frequently resistant to clindamycin.

Susceptibility testing should be done.

Cross-resistance has been demonstrated between clindamycin and lincomycin.

Disc Susceptibility Testing

Dilution or diffusion techniques – either quantitative (MIC) or breakpoint, should be used following a regularly updated, recognised and standardised method (e.g. NCCLS). Standardised susceptibility testing procedures require the use of laboratory control microorganisms to control the technical aspects of laboratory procedures.

A report of “Susceptible” indicates that the pathogen is likely to be inhibited if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable. A report of “Intermediate” indicates that the result should be considered equivocal, and if the microorganism is not fully susceptible to alternative, clinically feasible drugs, the test should be repeated. This category implies possible clinical applicability in body sites where the drug is physiologically concentrated or in situations where high dosage of drug can be used. This category also provides a buffer zone, which prevents small, uncontrolled technical factors from causing major discrepancies in interpretation. A report of “Resistant” indicates that the pathogen is not likely to be inhibited if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable and other therapy should be selected.

The prevalence of resistance may vary geographically for selected species and local information on resistance is desirable, particularly when treating severe infections.

Clinical trials

No data available.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Serum level studies with a 150 mg oral dose of clindamycin in 24 normal adult volunteers showed that clindamycin was rapidly absorbed after oral administration. An average peak serum level of 2.5 micrograms/mL was reached in 45 minutes; serum levels averaged 1.51 micrograms/mL at 3 hours and 0.70 micrograms/mL at 6 hours. Absorption of an oral dose is virtually complete (90%).

Concomitant administration of food does not appreciably modify the serum concentrations; serum levels have been uniform and predictable from person to person and dose to dose. Serum level studies following multiple doses of clindamycin for up to 14 days show no evidence of accumulation or altered metabolism of drug. Multiple-dose studies in newborns and infants up to 6 months of age show that the drug does not accumulate in the serum and is excreted rapidly.

Serum half-life of clindamycin is increased slightly in patients with markedly reduced renal function. Haemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis are not effective in removing clindamycin from the serum.

Concentrations of clindamycin in the serum increased linearly with increased dose. Serum levels exceed the MIC (minimum inhibitory concentration) for most indicated organisms for at least six hours following administration of the usually recommended doses. Clindamycin is widely distributed in body fluids and tissues, including bones. *In vitro* studies in human liver and intestinal microsomes indicated that clindamycin is predominantly oxidised by CYP3A4, with minor contribution from CYP3A5, to form clindamycin sulfoxide and a minor metabolite, N-desmethylclindamycin. The average biological half-life is 2.4 hours. Approximately 10% of the bioactivity is excreted in the urine and 3.6% in the faeces; the remainder is excreted as bio-inactive metabolites.

Doses of up to 2 g of clindamycin per day for 14 days have been well tolerated by healthy volunteers, except that the incidence of gastrointestinal side effects is greater with the higher doses.

No significant levels of clindamycin are attained in the cerebrospinal fluid, even in the presence of inflamed meninges.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Genotoxicity

No data available.

Carcinogenicity

No data available.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Lactose monohydrate,
Magnesium stearate,
Maize starch,
Purified talc,
Titanium dioxide,
Gelatin with traces of edible black ink.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Incompatibilities were either not assessed or not identified as part of the registration of this medicine.

6.3 Shelf life

In Australia, information on the shelf life can be found on the public summary of the Australian Register of Therapeutic Goods (ARTG). The expiry date can be found on the packaging.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store below 25°C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

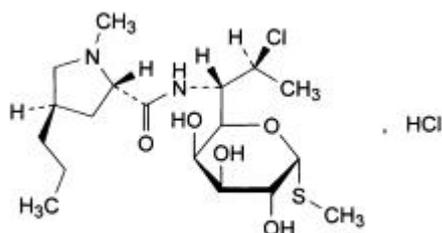
Available in blister packs of 24 capsules.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

In Australia, any unused medicine or waste material should be disposed of by taking to your local pharmacy.

6.7 Physicochemical properties

Chemical structure



C₁₈H₃₃ClN₂O₅S.HCl MW 461.5

Clindamycin is methyl 7-chloro-6,7,8-trideoxy-6-[(2*S*,4*R*)-1-methyl-4-propylpyrrolidine-2-carboxamido]-1-thio- α -L-*threo*-D-*galacto*-octapyranoside (CAS-18323-44-9).

CAS number

CAS Number 21462-39-5

7. MEDICINE SCHEDULE (POISONS STANDARD)

Schedule 4 (Prescription Only Medicine).

8. SPONSOR

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd
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9. DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL

20 February 2007

10. DATE OF REVISION

7 November 2018

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Summary Table of Changes

Section changed	Summary of new information
Section 4.6	To update the text related to recommendation for nursing mothers
All	Reformatting according to new Australian PI template