



- reported in such patients [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.7, 5.8) ]
- In the setting of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ]

## 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### 5.1 Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events

Clinical trials of lower COX-2 selective and nonselective NSAIDs of up to three years duration have shown an increased risk of serious cardiovascular (CV) thrombotic events, including myocardial infarction (MI) and stroke, which can be fatal. Based on available data, it is unclear that the risk for CV thrombotic events is similar for all NSAIDs. The risk may vary in terms of CV thrombotic events over course of treatment by NSAID use and by other factors such as smoking status and other CV disease risk factors for CV disease. However, patients with known CV disease or risk factors had a higher absolute risk of serious CV events or risk factors. Use with caution in patients with baseline risk. Some observational studies found that this increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events began as early as the first weeks of treatment. The increase in CV thrombotic risk has been observed most consistently at higher doses.

To minimize the potential risk for an adverse CV event in NSAID-treated patients, use the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration possible. Physicians and patients should remain alert for the development of such events. Throughout the entire treatment course, even in the absence of previous CV symptoms. Patients should be informed about the symptoms of serious CV events and the risks to take if they occur.

There is no consistent evidence that concurrent use of aspirin mitigates the increased risk of serious CV thrombotic events associated with NSAID use. The concurrent use of aspirin and an NSAID, such as meloxicam, increases the risk of serious gastrointestinal (GI) events [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.2) ].

#### Subst Post Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Surgery

Two large, controlled clinical trials of a COX-2 selective NSAID for the treatment of pain in the first 10-14 days following CABG surgery found an increased incidence of myocardial infarction and stroke. NSAIDs are contraindicated in the setting of CABG [ see Contraindications ( 4) ].

#### Stroke Patients

Observational studies conducted in the Danish National Registry have demonstrated that patients treated with NSAIDs in the post-MI period were at increased risk of reinfarction, CV-related death, and all-cause mortality beginning in the first week of treatment. In this same cohort, the incidence of death in the first year post-MI was 20 per 100 person years in NSAID-treated patients compared to 12 per 100 person years in non-NSAID exposed patients. Although the absolute rate of death declined somewhat after the first year post-MI, the increased relative risk of death in NSAID users persisted over at least the next four years of follow-up.

Avoid the use of Meloxicam in patients with a recent MI unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of recurrent CV thrombotic events. If Meloxicam is used in patients with a recent MI, monitor patients for signs of cardiac ischemia.

### 5.2 Gastrointestinal Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation

NSAIDs, including meloxicam, can cause serious gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events including inflammation, bleeding, ulceration, and perforation of the esophagus, stomach, and/or large intestine, which can be fatal. These serious adverse events can occur at any time, with or without warning symptoms, in patients treated with NSAIDs. Only one in five patients who develop a serious upper GI adverse event on NSAID therapy, however, will report a warning symptom, such as bleeding, or perforation. The NSAID occurred in approximately 1% of patients treated for 3-6 months, and in about 2-4% of patients treated for one year. However, even short-term NSAID therapy is not without risk.

#### Risk Factors for GI Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation

Patients with a prior history of peptic ulcer disease and/or GI bleeding who used NSAIDs had a greater than 10-fold increased risk for developing a GI bleed compared to patients without these risk factors. Other factors that increase the risk of GI bleed in patients treated with NSAIDs include longer duration of NSAID therapy; concomitant use of oral corticosteroids, aspirin, anticoagulants, or selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs); concurrent use of alcohol; older age; and poor health status. Most postmarketing reports of fatal GI events occurred in elderly or debilitated patients. Additionally, patients with advanced liver disease and/or coagulopathy are at increased risk for GI bleeding.

#### Strategies to Minimize the GI Risk in NSAID-treated patients:

- Use the lowest effective dosage for the shortest possible duration.
- Avoid administration of more than one NSAID at a time.
- Avoid use in patients at higher risk unless benefits are expected to outweigh the increased risk of bleeding. For such patients, as well as those with active GI bleeding, consider alternate therapies other than NSAIDs.
- Remain alert for signs and symptoms of GI ulceration and bleeding during NSAID therapy.
- If a serious GI adverse event is suspected, promptly initiate evaluation and treatment, and discontinue Meloxicam until a serious GI adverse event is ruled out.
- In the setting of concomitant use of low-dose aspirin for cardiac prophylaxis, monitor patients more closely for evidence of GI bleeding [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

### 5.3 Hepatotoxicity

Elevations of ALT or AST (three or more times the upper limit of normal [ULN]) have been reported in approximately 1% of NSAID-treated patients in clinical trials. In addition, rare, sometimes fatal, cases of severe hepatic injury, including fulminant hepatitis, liver necrosis, and hepatic failure have been reported.

Elevations of ALT or AST (less than three times ULN) may occur in up to 15% of patients treated with NSAIDs, including meloxicam.

Inform patients of the warning signs and symptoms of hepatotoxicity (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, diarrhea, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and "flu-like" symptoms). If clinical signs and symptoms consistent with liver disease develop, or if systemic manifestations occur (e.g., erythema, rash, etc.), discontinue Meloxicam immediately, and perform a clinical evaluation of the patient [ see Use in Specific Populations ( 8.6) and Clinical Pharmacology ( 12.3) ].

### 5.4 Hypertension

NSAIDs, including Meloxicam, can lead to new onset or worsening of preexisting hypertension, either of which may result in the increased incidence of CV events. Some patients taking angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, thiazide diuretics, or loop diuretics may have impaired response to these therapies when taking NSAIDs [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

Monitor blood pressure (BP) during the initiation of NSAID treatment and throughout the course of therapy.

### 5.5 Heart Failure and Edema

The Coxs and traditional NSAIDs Triplet Collaboration meta-analysis of randomized controlled trials demonstrated an approximately two-fold increase in hospitalizations for heart failure in COX-2 selective-treated patients, and nonselective NSAID-treated patients compared to placebo-treated patients. In certain high-risk elderly patients with heart failure, NSAID use increased the risk of MI, hospitalization for heart failure, and death.

Additionally, fluid retention and edema have been observed in some patients treated with NSAIDs. Use of meloxicam may blunt the CV effects of several therapeutic agents used to treat these medical conditions (e.g., diuretics, ACE inhibitors, or angiotensin receptor blockers [ARBs]) [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

Avoid the use of Meloxicam in patients with severe heart failure unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening heart failure. If Meloxicam is used in patients with severe heart failure, monitor patients for signs of worsening heart failure.

### 5.6 Renal Toxicity and Hypokalemia

#### Renal Toxicity

Long-term administration of NSAIDs, including Meloxicam, has resulted in renal papillary necrosis, renal insufficiency, acute renal failure, and other renal injury.

Renal toxicity has also been seen in patients in whom renal prostaglandins have a compensatory role in the maintenance of renal perfusion. In these patients, administration of an NSAID may cause a dose-dependent reduction in prostaglandin formation and, secondarily, in renal blood flow, which may precipitate overt renal decompensation. Patients at greatest risk of this reaction are those with treated renal function, dehydration, hypovolemia, heart failure, liver dysfunction, those taking diuretics and ACE inhibitors or ARBs, and the elderly. Discontinuation of NSAID therapy is usually followed by recovery to the pretreatment state.

The renal effects of Meloxicam may hasten the progression of renal dysfunction in patients with preexisting renal disease. Because some Meloxicam metabolites are excreted by the kidney, monitor patients for signs of worsening renal function.

Correct volume status in dehydrated or hypovolemic patients prior to initiating Meloxicam. Monitor renal function in patients with renal or hepatic impairment, heart failure, dehydration, or hypovolemia during use of Meloxicam [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

If information is available from controlled clinical studies regarding the use of Meloxicam in patients with advanced renal disease. Avoid the use of Meloxicam in patients with advanced renal disease unless the benefits are expected to outweigh the risk of worsening renal function. If Meloxicam is used in patients with advanced renal disease, monitor patients for signs of worsening renal function [ see Clinical Pharmacology ( 12.3) ].

#### Hyperkalemia

Increases in serum potassium concentration, including hyperkalemia, have been reported with use of NSAIDs, including in some patients without renal impairment. In patients with normal renal function, these effects have been attributed to a hyporeninemic/hypoaldosteronemic state.

### 5.7 Anaphylactic Reactions

Meloxicam has been associated with anaphylactic reactions in patients with and without known hypersensitivity to meloxicam and in patients with aspirin-sensitive asthma [ see Contraindications ( 4) and Warnings and Precautions ( 5.8) ].

Seek emergency help if an anaphylactic reaction occurs.

### 5.8 Exacerbation of Asthma Related to Aspirin Sensitivity

A subpopulation of patients with asthma may have aspirin-sensitive asthma which may include chronic rhinosinusitis complicated by nasal polyps; severe, persistent, fatal bronchospasm; and/or intolerance to aspirin and other NSAIDs. Because cross-reactivity between aspirin and other NSAIDs has been reported in such aspirin-sensitive patients, Meloxicam is contraindicated in patients with this form of aspirin sensitivity [ see Contraindications ( 4) ]. When Meloxicam is used in patients with preexisting asthma without known aspirin sensitivity, monitor patients for changes in the signs and symptoms of asthma.

### 5.9 Serious Skin Reactions

NSAIDs, including meloxicam, can cause serious skin adverse reactions such as cutaneous dermatitis, Stevens Johnson Syndrome (SJS), and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), which can be fatal. These serious events may occur without warning. Inform patients about the signs and symptoms of serious skin reactions, and to discontinue the use of Meloxicam at the first appearance of skin rash or any other sign of hypersensitivity. Meloxicam is contraindicated in patients with previous serious skin reactions to NSAIDs [ see Contraindications ( 4) ].

### 5.10 Premature Closure of Fetal Ductus Arteriosus

Meloxicam may cause premature closure of the fetal ductus arteriosus. Avoid use of NSAID, including Meloxicam, in pregnant women starting at 30 weeks of gestation (third trimester) [ see Use in Specific Populations ( 8.3) ].

### 5.11 Hematologic Toxicity

Asthma has occurred in NSAID-treated patients. This may be due to occult or overt blood loss, fluid retention, or an incompletely described effect on erythropoiesis. If a patient treated with Meloxicam has any signs or symptoms of anemia, monitor hemoglobin or hematocrit.

NSAIDs, including Meloxicam, may increase the risk of bleeding events. Concomitant conditions such as coagulation disorders or concomitant use of warfarin, other anticoagulants, antiplatelet agents (e.g., aspirin), serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) and serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) may increase this risk. Monitor patients for signs of bleeding [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

### 5.12 Masking of Inflammation and Fever

The pharmacological activity of Meloxicam in reducing inflammation, and possibly fever, may diminish the utility of diagnostic signs in detecting infections.

### 5.13 Laboratory Monitoring

Because serious GI bleeding, hepatotoxicity, and renal injury can occur without warning symptoms or signs, consider monitoring patients on long-term NSAID treatment with a CBC and a chemistry profile periodically [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.2, 5.3, 5.6) ].

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions are discussed in greater detail in other sections of the labeling:

- Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events [ see Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions ( 5.1) ]
- GI Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation [ see Boxed Warning and Warnings and Precautions ( 5.2) ]
- Hepatotoxicity [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ]
- Hypertension [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.4) ]
- Heart Failure and Edema [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.5) ]
- Renal Toxicity and Hypokalemia [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.6) ]
- Anaphylactic Reactions [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.7) ]
- Serious Skin Reactions [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.9) ]
- Hematologic Toxicity [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.11) ]

### 6.1 Clinical Trial Experience

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

#### Adults

##### Onset/offset and Rheumatoid Arthritis

The Meloxicam Phase 2/3 clinical trial database includes 10,122 OA patients and 1012 RA patients treated with Meloxicam 15 mg/day, 3551 OA patients and 2311 RA patients treated with Meloxicam 15 mg/day. Meloxicam at this dose was administered to 661 patients for at least 6 months and to 132 patients for at least one year. Approximately 15,500 of these patients were treated in the placebo- and/or active-controlled observational trials and 2353 of these patients were treated in the placebo- and/or active-controlled rheumatoid arthritis trials. Gastrointestinal (GI) adverse events were the most frequently reported adverse events in all treatment groups across Meloxicam trials.

A 12-week multicenter, double-blind, randomized trial was conducted in patients with osteoarthritis of the knee or hip to compare the efficacy and safety of Meloxicam with placebo and with an active control. Two 12-week multicenter, double-blind, randomized



meloxicam doses of 1 mg/kg/day and 5 mg/kg/day, respectively (0.65 and 6.5-fold greater, respectively, than the MPOD based on NSA comparisons when administered throughout organogenesis).

Oral administration of meloxicam to pregnant rats during late gestation through lactation increased the incidence of dystocia, delayed parturition, and decreased offspring survival of meloxicam doses of 0.125 mg/kg/day or greater (0.08 times MPOD based on NSA comparisons).

## 8.2 Lactation

### 8.2.1 Sub-Section

There are no human data available on whether meloxicam is present in human milk, or on the effects on breastfed infants, or on milk production. The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the risks of inadequate milk for infants and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed infant from the meloxicam or from the underlying maternal condition.

## Data

### Animal Data

Meloxicam was present in the milk of lactating rats at concentrations higher than those in plasma.

## 8.3 Females and Males of Reproductive Potential

### 8.3.1 Males

#### Females

Based on the mechanism of action, the use of prostaglandin-mediated NSAIDs, including meloxicam, may delay or prevent ovarian follicular maturation, which has been associated with reproductive dysfunction in female non-rodent animal studies. The administration of prostaglandin synthesis inhibitors has the potential to disrupt progesterone-mediated follicular rupture required for ovulation. Clinical studies in women treated with NSAIDs have also shown a reversible delay in ovulation. Consider withdrawal of NSAIDs, including Meloxicam, in women who have difficulties conceiving or who are undergoing investigation of infertility.

### 8.4 Pediatric Use

The safety and effectiveness of meloxicam in pediatric (PA) patients from 17 to 17 years of age has been evaluated in three clinical trials (see Dosage and Administration (2.3), Adverse Reactions (4.1) and Clinical Studies (14.2)).

### 8.5 Geriatric Use

Elderly patients, compared to younger patients, are at greater risk for NSAID-associated serious cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, and/or renal adverse reactions. If the anticipated benefit for the elderly patient outweighs these potential risks, start dosing at the low end of the dosing range, and monitor patients for adverse effects (see Warnings and Precautions (5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.6, 5.13)).

### 8.6 Hepatic Impairment

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment. Patients with severe hepatic impairment have not been adequately studied. Since meloxicam is a highly protein bound drug, hepatic impairment may occur, and use meloxicam with caution in patients with hepatic impairment (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

### 8.7 Renal Impairment

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment. Patients with severe renal impairment have not been studied. The use of Meloxicam in subjects with severe renal impairment is not recommended. In patients on hemodialysis, meloxicam should not exceed 7.5 mg per day. Meloxicam is not dialyzable (see Dosage and Administration (2.1) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)).

## 10 OVERDOSAGE

Symptoms following acute NSAID overdosage have been typically limited to lethargy, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, and epigastric pain, which have been generally reversible with supportive care. Gastrointestinal bleeding has occurred. Hypotension, acute renal failure, respiratory depression, and coma have occurred, but were rare (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3, 5.2, 5.4, 5.4)).

Manage patients with symptomatic and supportive care following an NSAID overdose. There are no specific antidotes. Consider emesis and/or activated charcoal (50 to 100 grams in adults, 10 to 20 grams in 10 to 15 kg body weight in pediatric patients) and/or ipecac syrup in symptomatic patients seen within four hours of ingestion or in patients with an overdose up to 10 times the recommended dosage. Forced diuresis, alkalinization of urine, hemodialysis, or hemoperfusion may not be useful due to high protein binding.

There is limited experience with meloxicam overdose. Cholestyramine is known to accelerate the clearance of meloxicam. Accelerated removal of meloxicam by 4 g oral doses of cholestyramine given three times a day was demonstrated in a clinical trial. Administration of cholestyramine may be useful following an overdose. For additional information about overdose treatment, call a poison control center (1-800-522-3223).

## 11 DESCRIPTION

Meloxicam Tablets USP are a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID). Each tablet contains 15 mg meloxicam for oral administration. Meloxicam is chemically designated as 4-hydroxy-2-methyl-1-(5-methyl-2-thiazoyl)-2,1,2-benzoxazole-3-carboxamide, 1,1-dioxide. The molecular weight is 351.4. Its empirical formula is C<sub>14</sub>H<sub>13</sub>N<sub>3</sub>O<sub>5</sub>S<sub>2</sub> and it has the following structural formula:



Meloxicam is a pastel yellow solid, practically insoluble in water, with higher solubility observed in strong acids and bases. It is very slightly soluble in methanol. Meloxicam has an apparent partition coefficient (log P<sub>ow</sub>) = 0.1 in octanol/ether at 7.4. Meloxicam has pKa values of 1.3 and 4.2.

Meloxicam is available as a tablet for oral administration containing 15 mg meloxicam. The inactive ingredients in Meloxicam tablets USP include colloidal silicon dioxide, croscarmellose sodium, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, microcrystalline cellulose, polydioxane, and sodium citrate dihydrate.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Meloxicam has analgesic, anti-inflammatory, and antipyretic properties. The mechanism of action of Meloxicam, like that of other NSAIDs, is not completely understood but involves inhibition of cyclooxygenase (COX-1 and COX-2). Meloxicam is a potent inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis *in vitro*. Meloxicam concentrations reached during therapy have produced *in vivo* effects. Prostaglandins sensitize afferent nerves and potentiate the action of bradykinin in inducing pain in animal models. Prostaglandins are mediators of inflammation. Because meloxicam is an inhibitor of prostaglandin synthesis, its mode of action may be due to a decrease of prostaglandins in peripheral tissue.

### 12.2 Pharmacokinetics

**Oral Administration**  
The absolute bioavailability of meloxicam capsules was 89% following a single oral dose of 30 mg compared with 30 mg by oral fraction. Following single intravenous doses, dose-proportional pharmacokinetics were shown in the range of 5 mg to 60 mg. After multiple oral doses the pharmacokinetics of meloxicam capsules were dose-proportional over the range of 7.5 mg to 30 mg. Mean C<sub>max</sub> was achieved within four to five hours after dosing. Meloxicam tablets USP were found to have similar pharmacokinetics to a prolonged drug absorption. With multiple dosing, steady-state concentrations were reached by Day 5. A second meloxicam concentration peak occurs around 12 to 14 hours post-dose suggesting biliary recycling.

Meloxicam capsules have been shown to be bioequivalent to Meloxicam Tablets.

Pharmacokinetic Parameters (MUCV)	Single Dose					
	7.5 mg capsules	15 mg capsules	7.5 mg capsules	15 mg capsules	15 mg capsules	15 mg capsules
<b>N</b>	8	8	8	8	8	8
<b>C<sub>max</sub></b> (ng/mL)	4.8 (18)	9.7 (20)	4.8 (18)	9.7 (20)	9.7 (20)	9.7 (20)
<b>C<sub>12h</sub></b> (ng/mL)	4.8 (18)	9.7 (20)	4.8 (18)	9.7 (20)	9.7 (20)	9.7 (20)
<b>C<sub>24h</sub></b> (ng/mL)	8.8 (20)	17.6 (20)	8.8 (20)	17.6 (20)	17.6 (20)	17.6 (20)
<b>AUC<sub>0-24h</sub></b> (ng·h/mL)	11.1 (15)	22.2 (15)	11.1 (15)	22.2 (15)	22.2 (15)	22.2 (15)

<sup>a</sup> The percentage values in the table are from venous routes.

<sup>b</sup> Mean (SD)

<sup>c</sup> 1/2 t<sub>1/2</sub> (Mean/SD)

<sup>d</sup> Food and Adipic Effects

Administration of meloxicam capsules following a high fat breakfast (75 g of fat) resulted in a mean peak drug levels (i.e., C<sub>max</sub>) being increased by approximately 25% when the steady-state of meloxicam (AUC) was unchanged. The time to maximum concentration (T<sub>max</sub>) was achieved between 5 and 6 hours. No pharmacokinetic interaction was detected with concomitant administration of aspirin. Based on these results, Meloxicam can be administered without regard to timing of meals or concomitant administration of aspirin.

### Distribution

The mean volume of distribution (V<sub>d</sub>) of meloxicam is approximately 10 L. Meloxicam is 99.4% bound to human plasma proteins (primarily albumin) within the therapeutic dose range. The fraction of protein binding is independent of drug concentration, over the range of 0.1 to 1000 ng/mL. Meloxicam is not bound to α<sub>1</sub>-acid glycoprotein, an acute phase reactant. Meloxicam penetration into human red blood cells, after oral dosing, is about 10%. Following a radiolabeled dose, over 90% of the radioactivity detected in the plasma was present in unchanged meloxicam.

Meloxicam concentrations in synovial fluid, after a single oral dose, range from 40% to 50% of those in plasma. The fraction in synovial fluid is 2.5 times that in plasma, due to the lower albumin content in synovial fluid as compared to plasma. The optimum of the penetration is unknown.

### Metabolism

Meloxicam is extensively metabolized in the liver. Meloxicam metabolites include 5'-carboxy meloxicam (60% of dose), from P-450 mediated metabolism formed by oxidation of an intermediate metabolite 5'-hydroxymethyl meloxicam which is also excreted to a lesser extent (9% of dose). *In vitro* studies indicate that CYP2C9 (cytochrome P450 mediating enzyme) play an important role in the metabolic pathway with a minor contribution of the CYP2A isozyme. Patients' peroxidase activity is probably responsible for the other two metabolites which account for 14% and 4% of the administered dose, respectively. All the four metabolites are not known to have any *in vivo* pharmacologic activity.

### Excretion

Meloxicam excretion is predominantly in the form of metabolites, and occurs to equal extents in the urine and feces. Only trace of the unchanged parent compound are excreted in the urine (2.7%) and feces (1.6%). The extent of the urinary excretion was confirmed for unbound meloxicam 7.5 mg doses: 0.5%, 6%, and 13% of the dose were found in urine in the form of meloxicam and the 5'-hydroxymethyl and 5'-carboxy metabolites, respectively. There is a significant delay in the elimination of the drug. This was demonstrated when oral administration of cholestyramine following a single IV dose of meloxicam decreased the AUC of meloxicam by 58%.

The mean elimination half-life (t<sub>1/2</sub>) ranges from 15 hours to 20 hours. The elimination half-life is constant across dose levels indicating linear metabolism within the therapeutic dose range. Plasma clearance ranges from 7 to 9 mL/min.

### Specific Populations

#### Pediatric

After single 0.25 mg/kg dose administration and after achieving steady state (0.375 mg/kg/day), there was a general trend of approximately 30% lower exposure in younger patients (2 to 6 years old) compared to older patients (7 to 16 years old). The older patients had meloxicam exposures similar to single dose or slightly reduced (slightly total) to those in the adult patients, when using AUC values normalized to a dose of 0.25 mg/kg. (see Dosage and Administration (2.4)). The meloxicam mean (SD) elimination half-life was 15.2 (10.1) and 13.0 hours (5.0) for the 2 to 6 year old patients, and 7 to 16 year old patients, respectively.

In a covariate analysis, using population pharmacokinetics, body-weight, but not age, was the single predictive covariate for differences in the meloxicam apparent oral plasma clearance. The body-weight normalized apparent oral clearance values were adequate predictors of meloxicam exposure in pediatric patients.

The pharmacokinetics of meloxicam in pediatric patients under 2 years of age have not been investigated.

#### Geriatric

Elderly males (≥65 years of age) exhibited meloxicam plasma concentrations and steady-state pharmacokinetics similar to young males. Elderly females (≥65 years of age) had a 47% higher AUCs and 32% higher C<sub>max</sub> as compared to younger females (18-55 years of age) after both single and multiple dosing. The increased total concentrations in the elderly females, the adverse event profile was comparable for both elderly patient populations. A smaller free fraction was found in elderly female patients in comparison to elderly male patients.

#### Sex

Young females exhibited slightly lower plasma concentrations relative to young males. After single doses of 7.5 mg Meloxicam, the mean elimination half-life was 13.9 hours for the female group as compared to 21.4 hours for the male group. At steady state, the data were similar (11.9 hours vs 12.1 hours). The pharmacokinetic differences due to gender is likely to be of little clinical importance. There was no history of pharmacokinetics and no appreciable difference in the C<sub>max</sub> or free across gender.

#### Hepatic Impairment

Following a single 15 mg dose of meloxicam there was no marked difference in plasma concentrations in patients with mild (Child-Pugh Class I) or moderate (Child-Pugh Class II) hepatic impairment compared to healthy volunteers. Pre-dose levels of meloxicam were not affected by hepatic impairment. No dosage adjustment is necessary in patients with mild to moderate hepatic impairment. Patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class III) have not been adequately studied (see Warnings and Precautions (5.3) and Use in Specific Populations (6.6)).

#### Renal Impairment

Meloxicam pharmacokinetics have been investigated in subjects with mild and moderate renal impairment. Total drug plasma concentrations of meloxicam decreased and total clearance of meloxicam increased with the degree of renal impairment with free AUC values were similar in all groups. The higher meloxicam clearance in subjects with renal impairment may be due to increased fraction of unbound meloxicam which is available

for hepatic metabolism and subsequent excretion. No dosage adjustment is necessary in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment. Patients with severe renal impairment have not been adequately studied. The use of Meloxicam in subjects with severe renal impairment is not recommended [ see Dosage and Administration ( 2.3), Warnings and Precautions ( 5.6) and Use in Specific Populations ( 8.7) ].

#### Hermodolay

Following a single dose of meloxicam, the free C<sub>15</sub> plasma concentrations were higher in patients with renal failure or chronic hemodialysis (10% free fraction) in comparison to patients with normal renal function. Hemodialysis did not affect the free drug concentration in plasma; therefore, additional doses are not necessary after hemodialysis. Meloxicam is not dialyzable [ see Dosage and Administration ( 2.3) and Use in Specific Populations ( 8.7) ].

#### Nonclinical Toxicology

**Aspirin:** When NSAIDs were administered with aspirin, the protein binding of NSAIDs was reduced, although the clearance of the NSAID was not altered. When Meloxicam is administered with aspirin (1000 mg three times daily) to healthy volunteers, it tended to increase the AUC (10%) and C<sub>15</sub> (4%) of meloxicam. The clinical significance of this interaction is unknown. See Table 1 for clinically significant drug interactions of NSAIDs with aspirin [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

**Cholestyramine:** Pretreatment for four days with cholestyramine significantly increased the clearance of meloxicam by 50%. This resulted in a decrease in C<sub>15</sub> from 19.2 hours to 12.5 hours, and a 30% reduction in AUC. This suggests the existence of a re-adsorption pathway for meloxicam in the gastrointestinal tract. The clinical relevance of this interaction has not been established.

**Cimetidine:** Concurrent administration of 200 mg cimetidine four times daily did not alter the single-dose pharmacokinetics of 20 mg meloxicam.

**Digoxin:** Meloxicam 15 mg once daily for 7 days did not alter the plasma concentration profile of digoxin after 8-antidigoxigenin administration for 7 days at critical doses. In vivo studies do not show protein binding drug interaction between digoxin and meloxicam.

**Lithium:** In a study conducted in healthy subjects, mean plasma lithium concentration and AUC were increased by 24% in subjects receiving lithium doses ranging from 804 to 1072 mg twice daily with meloxicam 15 mg QD every day as compared to subjects receiving lithium alone [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

**Methotrexate:** A study in 13 rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients evaluated the effects of multiple doses of meloxicam on the pharmacokinetics of methotrexate taken once weekly. Meloxicam did not have a significant effect on the plasma concentrations, patient blood counts, or methotrexate in urine. Methotrexate did not displace meloxicam from its human serum binding sites [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

**Warfarin:** The effect of meloxicam on the anticoagulant effect of warfarin was studied in a group of healthy subjects receiving daily doses of warfarin that produced an INR (International Normalized Ratio) between 1.2 and 1.8. In these subjects, meloxicam did not alter warfarin pharmacokinetics and the average anticoagulant effect of warfarin as determined by prothrombin time. However, one subject showed an increase in INR from 1.5 to 2.1. Caution should be used when administering Meloxicam with warfarin since patients on warfarin may experience changes in INR and an increased risk of bleeding complications when a new medication is introduced [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

### 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

#### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

##### Carcinogenesis

There was no increase in tumor incidence in long-term carcinogenicity studies in rats (104 weeks) and mice (89 weeks) administered meloxicam at oral doses up to 0.8 mg/kg/day in mice and up to 8.0 mg/kg/day in rats for up to 2.6 times, respectively, the maximum recommended human dose (MHD) of 15 mg/day Meloxicam based on body surface area (BSA) comparison.

##### Mutagenesis

Meloxicam was not mutagenic in an Ames assay, or clastogenic in a chromosome aberration assay with human lymphocytes and in an in vivo micronucleus test in mouse bone marrow.

##### Impairment of Fertility

Meloxicam did not impair male and female fertility in rats at oral doses up to 9 mg/kg/day in males and 5 mg/kg/day in females (at 15.8 and 3.2 times greater, respectively, than the MHD based on BSA comparison).

### 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

#### 14.1 Osteoarthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis

The use of Meloxicam for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis of the knee and hip was evaluated in a 12-week, double-blind, controlled trial. Meloxicam (7.5 mg, 7.5 mg, and 15 mg daily) was compared to placebo. The four primary endpoints were: improvement in global assessments, patient global assessment, patient pain index, and the WOMAC score (a self-administered questionnaire assessing pain, function, and stiffness). Patients on Meloxicam 7.5 mg daily and Meloxicam 15 mg daily showed significant improvement in each of these endpoints compared with placebo.

The use of Meloxicam for the management of signs and symptoms of osteoarthritis was evaluated in six double-blind, active-controlled trials outside the U.S., ranging from 4 weeks to 18 months' duration. In these trials, the efficacy of Meloxicam in doses of 7.5 mg/day and 15 mg/day was comparable to piroxicam 20 mg/day and diclofenac SR 100 mg/day and consistent with the efficacy seen in the U.S. trial.

The use of Meloxicam for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis was evaluated in a 12-week, double-blind, controlled multinational trial. Meloxicam (7.5 mg, 7.5 mg, and 22.5 mg daily) was compared to placebo. The primary endpoint in this study was the ACR20 response rate, a composite measure of clinical, laboratory, and functional measures of RA response. Patients receiving Meloxicam 7.5 mg and 15 mg daily showed significant improvement in the primary endpoint compared with placebo. No incremental benefit was observed with the 22.5 mg dose compared to the 15 mg dose.

#### 14.2 Juvenile Rheumatoid Arthritis (JRA) Pauciarticular and Polyarticular Course

The use of Meloxicam for the treatment of the signs and symptoms of pauciarticular or polyarticular course juvenile rheumatoid arthritis in patients 2 years of age and older was evaluated in two 12-week, double-blind, parallel arm, active-controlled trials.

Both studies included three arms: naproxen and two doses of meloxicam. In both studies, meloxicam dosing began at 0.125 mg/kg/day (7.5 mg treatment) or 0.25 mg/kg/day (15 mg treatment), and naproxen dosing began at 1 mg/kg/day. One study used three doses throughout the 12-week study period, while the other study used a titration after 4 weeks to doses of 0.25 mg/kg/day (7.5 mg) or 0.375 mg/kg/day (22.5 mg) treatment of meloxicam and 15 mg/kg/day of naproxen.

The efficacy analysis used the ACR Pediatric 30 responder definition, a composite of parent and investigator assessments, counts of affected joints and joints with limited range of motion, and erythrocyte sedimentation rate. The proportion of responders were similar in all three groups in both studies, and no difference was observed between the meloxicam dose groups.

### 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

The 15 mg tablet is impressed with letter U and L on one side and tablet code 15 on the other side.

Meloxicam Tablets USP 15 mg are available as follows:

NDC 29300-125-01 Bottle of 100

**Storage:** Store at 20° to 25° C (68° to 77° F) [ see USP Controlled Room Temperature ]. Keep Meloxicam Tablets USP in a dry place.

Dispense tablets in a light container.

Keep this and all medications out of the reach of children.

### 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the risk-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide) that accompanies each prescription dispensed.

**Additional Medication Guides can be obtained by calling Unichem at 1-866-562-4616.**

**Inform patients, families or their caregivers of the following information before initiating therapy with an NSAID and periodically during the course of ongoing therapy:**

#### Cardiovascular Thrombotic Events

Advise patients to be alert for the symptoms of cardiovascular thrombotic events, including chest pain, shortness of breath, weakness, or slurring of speech, and to report any of these symptoms to their healthcare provider immediately [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ].

#### Gastrointestinal Bleeding, Ulceration, and Perforation

Advise patients to report symptoms of ulceration and bleeding, including epigastric pain, dyspepsia, melena, and hematemesis to their healthcare provider. In the setting of concurrent use of low-dose aspirin for cardiac prophylaxis, inform patients of the increased risk for the signs and symptoms of GI bleeding [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ].

#### Hemostasis

Inform patients of the warning signs and symptoms of hemostasis (e.g., nausea, fatigue, lethargy, diarrhea, pruritus, jaundice, right upper quadrant tenderness, and "flu-like" symptoms). If these occur, instruct patients to stop Meloxicam tablets and seek immediate medical therapy [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ].

#### Heart Failure and Edema

Advise patients to be alert for the symptoms of congestive heart failure including shortness of breath, unusual weight gain, or edema and to contact their healthcare provider if such symptoms occur [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ].

#### Angioid Keratosis

Inform patients of the signs of an angioid keratosis (e.g., difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat). Instruct patients to seek immediate emergency help if these occur [ see Contraindications ( 4) and Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ].

#### Serum SALT Levels

Advise patients to stop Meloxicam tablets immediately if they develop any type of rash and to contact their healthcare provider as soon as possible [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.3) ].

#### Contraception

Advise females of reproductive potential who desire pregnancy that NSAIDs, including Meloxicam tablets, may be associated with a reversible delay in ovulation [ see Use in Specific Populations ( 8.6) ].

#### Fetal Toxicity

Inform pregnant women to avoid use of Meloxicam tablets and other NSAIDs starting at 30 weeks gestation because of the risk of the premature closing of the fetal ductus arteriosus [ see Warnings and Precautions and Use in Specific Populations ( 8.6) ].

#### Avoid Concurrent Use of NSAIDs

Inform patients that the concurrent use of Meloxicam tablets with other NSAIDs or salicylates (e.g., ibuprofen, salicylate) is not recommended due to the increased risk of gastrointestinal toxicity, and that it may increase the efficacy [ see Warnings and Precautions ( 5.2) and Drug Interactions ( 7) ]. Advise patients that NSAIDs may be present in "over the counter" medications for treatment of colds, fever, or sinusitis.

#### Use of NSAIDs and Low-Dose Aspirin

Inform patients not to use low-dose aspirin concurrently with Meloxicam tablets until they talk to their healthcare provider [ see Drug Interactions ( 7) ].

#### Manufactured by:

**UNICHEM LABORATORIES LTD.**

Plano, Ind. Estate,

Plano, Bercht. Goe 40551, Indle

Manufactured by:

Hadravac Heights, NJ 07604

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Medication Guide for Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)

**What is the most important information I should know about medicines called Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)?**

**NSAIDs can cause serious side effects, including:**

• **an increased risk of a heart attack or stroke that can lead to death.** This risk may happen early in treatment and may increase:

• with increasing doses of NSAIDs

• with longer use of NSAIDs

Do not take NSAIDs right before or after a heart surgery called a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG).

**Avoid taking NSAIDs after a recent heart attack, unless your healthcare provider tells you to. How long you can take NSAIDs after a recent heart attack depends on the type of heart attack you had.**

• **an increased risk of bleeding, ulcers, and perforation of the esophagus (tube leading from the mouth to the stomach), stomach and intestines.**

• anytime during use

• without warning symptoms

• that may cause death

The risk of getting an ulcer or bleeding increases with:

• past history of stomach ulcers, or stomach or intestinal bleeding with use of NSAIDs

• taking medicines called "anticoagulants," "antiplatelets," "SSRIs," or "SNRIs"

• increasing doses of NSAIDs

• longer use of NSAIDs

• smoking

• drinking alcohol

• older age

• poor health

• advanced liver disease

• bleeding problems

Strong-NSAIDs should only be used:

• exactly as prescribed

• at the lowest dose possible for your treatment

• for the shortest time needed

What are NSAIDs?

NSAIDs are used to treat pain and redness, swelling, and heat (inflammation) from medical conditions such as different types of arthritis, menstrual cramps, and other types of short-term pain.

**Who should not take NSAIDs?**

**Do not take NSAIDs**

• if you have had an asthma attack, hives, or other allergic reaction with aspirin or any other NSAID.

- right before or after heart bypass surgery.
- Before taking NSAIDs, tell your healthcare provider about all of your medical conditions, including if you:
- have liver or kidney problems
  - have high blood pressure
  - have asthma
  - are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are considering taking NSAIDs during pregnancy. **You should not take NSAIDs after 29 weeks of pregnancy.**
  - are breastfeeding or plan to breast feed.

Tell your healthcare provider about all of the medicines you take, including prescription or over-the-counter medicines, vitamins or herbal supplements. NSAIDs and some other medicines can interact with each other and cause serious side effects. **Do not start taking any new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider first.**

**What are the possible side effects of NSAIDs?**

**NSAIDs can cause serious side effects, including:**  
**See "What is the most important information I should know about medicines called Nonsteroidal Anti-inflammatory Drugs (NSAIDs)?"**

- low or very high blood pressure
  - heart failure
  - liver problems including liver failure
  - kidney problems including kidney failure
  - low red blood cell counts
  - life-threatening skin reactions
  - life-threatening allergic reactions
- Other side effects of NSAIDs include:** stomach pain, constipation, diarrhea, gas, heartburn, nausea, vomiting, and dizziness.

Get emergency help right away if you get any of the following symptoms:

- shortness of breath or trouble breathing
- chest pain
- weakness in one part or side of your body
- slurred speech
- swelling of the face or throat

Stop taking your NSAID and call your healthcare provider right away if you get any of the following symptoms:

- nausea
- more tired or weaker than usual
- diarrhea
- itching
- your skin or eyes look yellow
- indigestion or stomach pain
- flu-like symptoms
- vomit blood
- there is blood in your stool or movement or it is black and sticky like tar
- unusual weight gain
- skin rashes or blisters with fever
- swelling of the arms, legs, hands and feet
- If you take too much of your NSAID, call your healthcare provider or get medical help right away.

These are not all the possible side effects of NSAIDs. For more information, ask your healthcare provider or pharmacist about NSAIDs.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

**Other information about NSAIDs:**

- Aspirin and blood thinners may increase the chance of a heart attack. Aspirin can cause bleeding in the brain, stomach, and intestines. Aspirin can also cause ulcers in the stomach and intestines.
- Some NSAIDs are sold in lower doses without a prescription (over-the-counter). Talk to your healthcare provider before using over-the-counter NSAIDs for more than 10 days.

General information about the safe and effective use of NSAIDs. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide. Do not use NSAIDs for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give NSAIDs to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

If you would like more information about NSAIDs, talk with your healthcare provider. You can ask your pharmacist or healthcare provider for information about NSAIDs that is written for health professionals.

**Additional Medication Guides can be obtained by calling Unichem at 1-866-952-4416.**

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Manufactured by:  
**UNICHEM LABORATORIES LTD.**  
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 Marketed by:  
 Medtrack Hughes, NJ 07604  
 US: 8-00-201-6  
 1208865

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. Revised: September 2016

**NuDroxicin Pain Relief Roll-On**

**Active Ingredients:**

- Methyl Salicylate 25.00%
- Menthol 6.00%
- Capsaicin 0.025%

**Purpose:**

Topical Analgesic

**USES:**

Use for the temporary relief of minor aches and muscle pains associated with arthritis, sprains, backaches, strains, muscle soreness and stiffness.

**WARNINGS:**

For external use only. Use only as directed. Avoid contact with eyes and mucous membranes or genital. Do not cover with tightly bandage area on wounds or damaged skin. Do not use with heating pad.

**DO NOT USE:**

On cuts or infected skin, on children less than 12 years old in large amount.

**STOP USE AND ASK A PHYSICIAN:**

For severe undiagnosed pain, if pain worsens or persists for more than 7 days, if itching or rash occurs.

**Keep out of reach of children.**

Consult physician for children under 12.

**DIRECTIONS:**

Shake before each use. Prior to first use rub small amount to check for sensitivity. Apply product directly to affected area. Dry before contact with clothes or bedding to avoid staining. Wash hands after use. Product may be used as necessary, but should not be used more than four times per day.

STORE BELOW (90°/32° C)

**OTHER INGREDIENTS:**

Alcal (Dried) Water, Anka-Montano Flower Extract, Balsamor, Balsavilla Sarrata Extract, Carboran, Celanyl Olivate, Ethylhexylglycerin, Glycerol Stearate, Ilex Paraguayanensis (Tea Tree) Extract, Magnesium Sulfate, Methylparaben (M&P), Phenylethanol, Polysorbate-20, SD-Alcohol 40B, Sorbitan Olivate, Triethanolamine

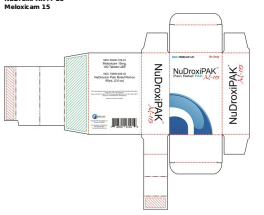
**NDC 70859-028-03**

**NuDroxicin Pain Relief Roll-On**



**NuDroxIPAK M-15**

**Meloxicam 15**



NUDROXIPAK M-15		
meloxicam_methyl_sulfate_menthylcapsaicin_15		
<b>Product Information</b>		
Product Type	Human Prescription Drug	Base Code (Source)
NDC 70859-028		
<b>Packaging</b>		
#	Base Code	Package Description   Marketing Start Date   Marketing End Date
1	NDC 70859-028	1 x 1 x 1 Carton   30 x 60 x 60
<b>Quantity of Parts</b>		
Part #	Package Quantity	Total Product Quantity
Part 1	1 x 60 x 60	60 x 60
Part 2	1 x 60 x 60	60 x 60
<b>Part 1 of 2</b>		
<b>MELOXICAM</b>		
meloxicam tablet		
<b>Product Information</b>		
Base Code (Source)	NDC 70859-028	
Route of Administration	oral	
<b>Active Ingredient/Active Moiety</b>		
Ingredient Name	Strength	Units of Strength
Meloxicam (NDC 70859-028) (MELOXICAM) (UNII:V20Z93FC02)	MELOXICAM	15 mg
<b>Inactive Ingredients</b>		
Ingredient Name	Strength	
Hydroxypropyl Cellulose (NDC 70859-028)		
Cellulose Microcrystalline (NDC 70859-028)		
Acacia (NDC 70859-028)		
Chlorobutane (NDC 70859-028)		
Lactose Monohydrate (NDC 70859-028)		
Meloxicam (NDC 70859-028)		
Polysorbate (NDC 70859-028)		
<b>Product Characteristics</b>		
Color	Shape	Score
White	Round	None
Marking	Imprint Code	
<b>Contains</b>		

