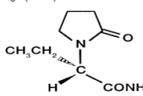


Levetiracetam Tablets, 1000 mg

Levetiracetam USP is an antiepileptic drug available as 1000 mg (blue) tablets for oral administration.

The chemical name of levetiracetam USP, a single enantiomer, is (-)-(S)- α -ethyl-2-oxo-1-pyrrolidine acetonamide. Its molecular formula is $C_8H_{14}N_2O_2$ and its molecular weight is 170.21. Levetiracetam USP is chemically related to other existing antiepileptic drugs (AEDs). It has the following structural formula:



Levetiracetam USP is a white to off-white crystalline powder with a faint odor and a bitter taste. It is very soluble in water (104 g/100 mL). It is freely soluble in chloroform (65.3 g/100 mL) and methanol (33.6 g/100 mL) and is soluble in ethanol (16.5 g/100 mL), sparingly soluble in acetonitrile (5.7 g/100 mL), and practically insoluble in n-hexane. (Solubility limits are expressed as g/100 mL solvent.)

Levetiracetam tablets contain the labeled amount of levetiracetam USP. Inactive ingredients: colloidal silicon dioxide, corn starch, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate, povidone, polyethylene glycol 6000 and opadry blue. The components of opadry blue are hypromellose 3cP, hypromellose K6F, titanium dioxide, polyethylene glycol 4000 and FD&C Blue #2/indigo carmine aluminum lake.

Mechanism Of Action

The precise mechanism(s) by which levetiracetam exerts its antiepileptic effect is unknown. The antiepileptic activity of levetiracetam was assessed in a number of animal models of epileptic seizures. Levetiracetam did not inhibit simple seizures induced by maximal stimulation with electrical current or different chemoconvulsants and showed only minimal activity in submaximal stimulation and in threshold tests. Protection was observed, however, against secondarily generalized activity from focal seizures induced by pilocarpine and kainic acid, two chemoconvulsants that induce seizures for which some levetiracetam patients experience a protective effect. In a generalization model, levetiracetam also displayed inhibitory properties in the kindling model in rats, another model of human complex partial seizures, both during kindling development and in the fully kindled state. The predictive value of these animal models for specific types of human epilepsy is uncertain.

In vitro and *in vivo* recordings of epileptiform activity from the hippocampus have shown that levetiracetam inhibits burst firing without affecting normal neuronal excitability, suggesting that levetiracetam may selectively prevent hypersynchronization of epileptiform burst firing and propagation of seizure activity.

Levetiracetam at concentrations of up to 10 micromoles did not demonstrate binding affinity for a variety of known receptors, such as those associated with benzodiazepine GABA_A (gamma-aminobutyric acid), glycine, NMDA (N-methyl-D-aspartate), r-1 (gamma-glutamyl) systems. Furthermore, *in vitro* studies have failed to find an effect of levetiracetam on neuronal voltage-gated sodium or H -type calcium currents and levetiracetam does not appear to directly facilitate neurotransmission. However, *in vitro* studies have demonstrated that levetiracetam opposes the activity of negative modulators of GABA- and glycine-gated currents and partially inhibits H -type calcium currents in neuronal cells.

A saturable and stereoselective neuronal binding site in rat brain tissue has been described for levetiracetam. Experimental data indicate that this binding site is the synaptic vesicle protein SV2A, thought to be involved in the regulation of vesicle exocytosis. Although the molecular significance of levetiracetam binding to synaptic vesicle protein SV2A is not understood, levetiracetam and related analogs showed a rank order of affinity for SV2A which correlated with the potency of their antiseizure activity in audiogenic seizure-prone mice. These findings suggest that the interaction of levetiracetam with the SV2A protein may contribute to the antiepileptic mechanism of action of the drug.

Pharmacokinetics

The pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam have been studied in healthy adult subjects, adults and pediatric patients with epilepsy, elderly subjects and subjects with renal and hepatic impairment.

Levetiracetam is rapidly and almost completely absorbed after oral administration. The pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam are linear and time-invariant, with low intra- and inter-subject variability. The extent of bioavailability of levetiracetam is not affected by food. Levetiracetam is not significantly protein-bound (<10% bound) and its volume of distribution is close to the volume of intracellular and extracellular water. Sixty-six percent (66%) of the dose is renally excreted unchanged. The major metabolic pathway of levetiracetam (24% of dose) is an enzymatic hydrolysis of the acetamide group. It is not a substrate of cytochrome P450 dependent metabolites. The metabolites have no known pharmacological activity and are renally excreted. Plasma half-life of levetiracetam across studies is approximately 6 to 8 hours. It is increased in the elderly (primarily due to impaired renal clearance) and in subjects with renal impairment.

Absorption and Distribution

Absorption of levetiracetam is rapid, with peak plasma concentrations occurring in about an hour following oral administration in fasted subjects. The oral bioavailability of levetiracetam tablets is 100%. The oral bioavailability of oral solution is bioequivalent in rate and extent of absorption. Food does not affect the extent of absorption of levetiracetam but it decreases C_{max} by 20% and delays T_{max} by 1.5 to 1.8 hours. The pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam are linear over the dose range of 500 to 5000 mg. Steady state is achieved after 2 days of multiple twice-daily dosing. Levetiracetam and its major metabolite are less than 10% bound to plasma proteins; clinically significant interactions with other drugs through competition for protein binding sites are therefore unlikely.

Metabolism

Levetiracetam is not extensively metabolized in humans. The major metabolic pathway is the enzymatic hydrolysis of the acetamide group, which produces the carboxylic acid metabolite, *ub* L057 (24% of dose) and is not dependent on any liver cytochrome P450 isoenzymes. The major metabolite is inactive in animal seizure models. Two minor metabolites were identified: the product of hydroxylation of the 2-oxoethyl ring (2% of dose) and opening of the 2-oxo-pyrrolidine ring in position 5 (1% of dose). There is no enantiomeric interconversion of levetiracetam or its major metabolite.

Elimination

Levetiracetam plasma half-life in adults is $\approx 7 \pm 1$ hour and is unaffected by either dose or repeated administration. Levetiracetam is eliminated from the systemic circulation by renal excretion as unchanged drug which represents 66% of administered dose. The total body clearance is 0.96 mL/min/kg and the renal clearance of levetiracetam is 0.6 mL/min/kg. The mechanism of renal excretion with subsequent partial tubular reabsorption. The metabolite *ub* L057 is excreted by glomerular filtration and active tubular secretion with a renal clearance of about 1.6 mL/min/kg. The mechanism of renal excretion is creatinine clearance. Levetiracetam clearance is reduced in patients with impaired renal function (see Special Populations, Renal Impairment and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adult Patients with Impaired Renal Function).

Pharmacokinetic Interactions

In vitro data on metabolic interactions indicate that levetiracetam is unlikely to produce, or be subject to, pharmacokinetic interactions. Levetiracetam and its major metabolite, at concentrations well above C_{max} levels achieved within the therapeutic dose range, are neither inhibitors of, nor high affinity substrates for, human liver cytochrome P450 isoenzymes, epoxide hydrolase or UDP-glucuronidation enzymes. In addition, levetiracetam does not affect the *in vitro* glucuronidation of valproic acid.

Potential pharmacokinetic interactions of or with levetiracetam were assessed in clinical pharmacokinetic studies (phenytoin, valproate, warfarin, digoxin, oral contraceptive, probenecid) and through pharmacokinetic screening in the placebo-controlled clinical studies in epilepsy patients (see PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions).

Special Populations

Elderly
Pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam were evaluated in 16 elderly subjects (age 61 to 88 years) with creatinine clearance ranging from 30 to 74 mL/min. Following oral administration of twice-daily dosing for 10 days, total body clearance decreased by 38% and the half-life was 2.5 hours longer in the elderly compared to younger adults. This is most likely due to the decrease in renal function in these subjects.

Pediatric Patients

Pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam were evaluated in 24 pediatric patients (age 6 to 12 years) after single dose (20 mg/kg). The body weight adjusted apparent clearance of levetiracetam was approximately 40% higher than in adults.

A repeat dose pharmacokinetic study was conducted in pediatric patients (age 4 to 12 years) at doses of 20 mg/kg/day, 40 mg/kg/day, and 60 mg/kg/day. The evaluation of the pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam and its metabolite (*ub* L057) in 14 pediatric patients demonstrated rapid absorption of levetiracetam at all doses with a T_{max} of about 1 hour and a $T_{1/2}$ of 5 hours across the three dosing levels. The pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam and its metabolite were linear over the dose range of 20 to 60 mg/kg/day. The interaction of levetiracetam with other AEDs was also evaluated in these patients (see PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions). Levetiracetam had no significant effect on the plasma concentrations of carbamazepine, valproic acid, topiramate, or lamotrigine. However, there was about a 22% increase of apparent clearance of levetiracetam when it was co-administered with an enzyme-inducing AED (e.g. carbamazepine). Population pharmacokinetic analysis showed that body weight was significantly correlated to clearance of levetiracetam in pediatric patients; clearance increased with an increase in body weight.

Gender

Levetiracetam C_{max} and AUC were 20% higher in women (N=11) compared to men (N=2). However, clearances adjusted for body weight were comparable.

Race

Formal pharmacokinetic studies of the effects of race have not been conducted. Cross study comparisons involving Caucasians (N=12) and Asians (N=12), however, show that pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam were comparable between the two races. Because levetiracetam is primarily renally excreted and there are no important racial differences in creatinine clearance, pharmacokinetic differences due to race are not expected.

Renal Impairment

The disposition of levetiracetam was studied in adult subjects with varying degrees of renal function. Total body clearance of levetiracetam is reduced in patients with impaired renal function by 40% in the mild group ($Cl_{CR} = 50$ to 80 mL/min), 50% in the moderate group ($Cl_{CR} = 30$ to 50 mL/min) and 60% in the severe renal impairment group ($Cl_{CR} < 30$ mL/min). Clearance of levetiracetam is correlated with creatinine clearance.

In anuric (end stage renal disease) patients, the total body clearance decreased 70% compared to normal subjects ($Cl_{CR} > 80$ mL/min). Approximately 50% of the dose of levetiracetam in the body is removed during a standard 4 hour hemodialysis procedure.

Dosage should be reduced in patients with impaired renal function receiving levetiracetam, and supplemental doses should be given to patients after dialysis (see PRECAUTIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adult Patients with Impaired Renal Function).

Hepatic Impairment

In subjects with mild (Child-Pugh A) to moderate (Child-Pugh B) hepatic impairment, the pharmacokinetics of levetiracetam were unchanged. In subjects with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh C), total body clearance was 50% that of normal subjects, but decreased renal clearance accounted for most of the decrease. No dose adjustment is needed for patients with hepatic impairment.

CLINICAL STUDIES

In the following studies, statistical significance versus placebo indicates a p value < 0.05.

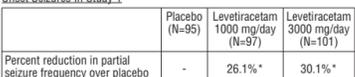
Effectiveness in Partial Onset Seizures in Adults With Epilepsy

The effectiveness of levetiracetam as adjunctive therapy (added to other antiepileptic drugs) in adults was established in three multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled clinical studies in patients who had refractory partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalization. The tablet formulation was used in all of these studies. In these studies, 904 patients were randomized to placebo, 1000 mg, 2000 mg, or 3000 mg/day. Patients enrolled in Study 1 or Study 2 had refractory partial onset seizures for at least two years and had taken two or more classical AEDs. Patients enrolled in Study 3 had refractory partial onset seizures for at least 1 year and had taken one classical AED. At the time of the study, patients were taking a stable dose regimen of at least one and could take a maximum of two AEDs. During the baseline period, patients had to have experienced at least two partial onset seizures during each 4 week period.

Study 1

Study 1 was a double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study conducted at 41 sites in the United States comparing levetiracetam 1000 mg/day (N=97), levetiracetam 3000 mg/day (N=101), and placebo (N=95) given in equally divided doses twice daily. After a prospective baseline period of 12 weeks, patients were randomized to one of the three treatment groups described above. The 16 week treatment period consisted of a 6 week titration period, followed by a 12 week fixed dose evaluation period, during which concomitant AED regimens were held constant. The primary measure of effectiveness was a between group comparison of the percent reduction in weekly partial seizure frequency relative to placebo over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period). Secondary outcome variables included the responder rate (incidence of patients with $\geq 50\%$ reduction from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency) and the percentage of patients who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 1.

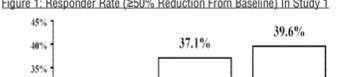
Figure 1: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 1



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the three treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 1.

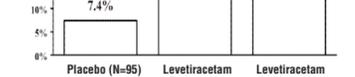
Figure 1: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 1



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 4.

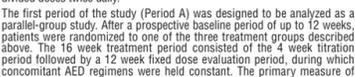
Figure 4: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 4



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

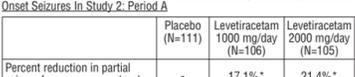
Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

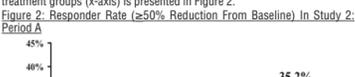
Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

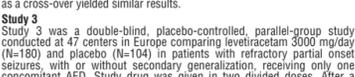
Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

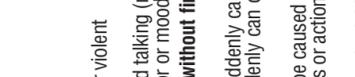
Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 2.

Figure 2: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 2; Period A



two treatment groups described above. The 16 week treatment period consisted of a 4 week titration period, followed by a 12 week fixed dose evaluation period, during which concomitant AED doses were held constant. The primary measure of effectiveness was a between group comparison of the percent reduction in weekly seizure frequency relative to placebo over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period). Secondary outcome variables included the responder rate (incidence of patients with $\geq 50\%$ reduction from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency). Table 3 displays the results of the analysis of Study 3.

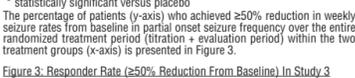
Table 3: Reduction In Mean Over Placebo In Weekly Frequency Of Partial Onset Seizures In Study 3

Treatment Group	Reduction (%)
Placebo (N=104)	-
Levetiracetam 3000 mg/day (N=180)	23%

* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 3



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 3.

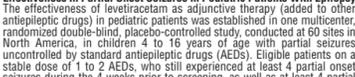
Figure 3: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 3



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 4.

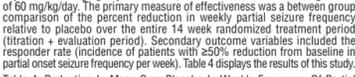
Figure 4: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 4



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 4.

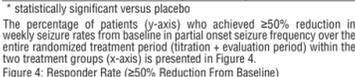
Figure 4: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 4



* statistically significant versus placebo

The percentage of patients (y-axis) who achieved $\geq 50\%$ reduction in weekly seizure rates from baseline in partial onset seizure frequency over the entire randomized treatment period (titration + evaluation period) within the two treatment groups (x-axis) is presented in Figure 4.

Figure 4: Responder Rate ($\geq 50\%$ Reduction From Baseline) in Study 4



Drug Interactions
In vitro data on metabolic interactions indicate that levetiracetam is unlikely to produce, or be subject to, pharmacokinetic interactions. Levetiracetam and its major metabolite, at concentrations well above C_{max}, levels achieved within the therapeutic dose range, are not substrates for any of the high affinity substrates for human liver cytochrome P450 isoforms, epoxide hydrolase or UDP-glucuronidation enzymes. In addition, levretiracetam does not affect the *in vitro* glucuronidation of valproic acid.

Levetiracetam circulates largely unbound (<10% bound) to plasma proteins; clinically significant interactions with other drugs through competition for protein binding sites are therefore unlikely.

Potential pharmacokinetic interactions were assessed in clinical pharmacokinetic studies (phenytoin, valproate, oral contraceptive, digoxin, warfarin, probenecid) and through pharmacokinetic screening in the placebo-controlled clinical studies in epilepsy patients.

Drug-Drug Interactions Between Levetiracetam And Other Antiepileptic Drugs (AEDs)
Phenytoin
Levetiracetam (3000 mg daily) had no effect on the pharmacokinetic disposition of phenytoin in patients with refractory epilepsy. Pharmacokinetics of levretiracetam were also not affected by phenytoin.

Valproate
Levetiracetam (1500 mg twice daily) did not alter the pharmacokinetics of valproate in healthy volunteers. Valproate 500 mg twice daily did not modify the rate or extent of levretiracetam absorption or its plasma clearance or urinary excretion. There also was no effect on exposure and on the excretion of the primary metabolite, ucb L057.

Potential drug interactions between levretiracetam and other AEDs (carbamazepine, gabapentin, lamotrigine, phenobarbital, phenytoin, primidone and valproate) were also assessed by evaluating the serum concentrations of levretiracetam and these AEDs during placebo-controlled clinical studies. These data indicate that levretiracetam does not influence the plasma concentration of other AEDs and that these AEDs do not influence the pharmacokinetics of levretiracetam.

Effect of AEDs in Pediatric Patients
There was about a 22% increase of apparent total body clearance of levretiracetam when it was co-administered with enzyme-inducing AEDs. Dose adjustment is not recommended. There was no effect on plasma concentrations of carbamazepine, valproate, topiramate, or lamotrigine.

Other Drug Interactions

Oral Contraceptives

Levetiracetam (500 mg twice daily) did not influence the pharmacokinetics of an oral contraceptive containing 0.03 mg ethinyl estradiol and 0.15 mg levonorgestrel, or of the luteinizing hormone and progesterone levels, indicating that impairment of contraceptive efficacy is unlikely. Coadminis-tration of this oral contraceptive did not influence the pharmacokinetics of levretiracetam.

Digoxin
Levetiracetam (1000 mg twice daily) did not influence the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics (ECG) of digoxin given as a 0.25 mg dose every day. Coadministration of digoxin did not influence the pharmacokinetics of levretiracetam.

Warfarin
Levetiracetam (1000 mg twice daily) did not influence the pharmacokinetics of R and S warfarin. Prothrombin time was not affected by levretiracetam. Coadministration of warfarin did not affect the pharmacokinetics of levretiracetam.

Probenecid
Probenecid, a renal tubular secretion blocking agent, administered at a dose of 500 mg four times a day, did not change the pharmacokinetics of levretiracetam 1000 mg twice daily. C_{max} of the metabolite, ucb L057, was approximately doubled in the presence of probenecid while the fraction of ucb L057 excreted unchanged in the urine remained the same. Renal clearance of ucb L057 was also doubled in the presence of probenecid decreased 60%, probably related to competitive inhibition of tubular secretion of ucb L057. The effect of levretiracetam on probenecid was not studied.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment Of Fertility

Carcinogenesis
Rats were dosed with levretiracetam in the diet for 104 weeks at doses of 50, 300 and 1800 mg/kg/day. The highest dose corresponds to 6 times the maximum recommended daily human dose (MRHD) of 3000 mg on a mg/m² basis and it also provided systemic exposure (AUC) approximately 6 times that achieved in humans receiving the MRHD. There was no evidence of carcinogenicity. A study was conducted in which mice received levretiracetam in the diet for 60 weeks at doses of 50, 240 and 860 mg/kg/day (high dose is equivalent to 2 times the MRHD on a mg/m² or exposure basis). Although no evidence for carcinogenicity was seen, the potential for a carcinogenic response has not been fully evaluated in that species because adequate doses have not been studied.

Mutagenesis
Levetiracetam was not mutagenic in the Ames test or in mammalian cells *in vitro* in the Chinese hamster ovary/HGPRT locus assay. It was not mutagenic in an *in vitro* analysis of metaphase chromosomes obtained from Chinese hamster ovary cells or in an *in vivo* mouse micronucleus assay. The hydrolysis product and major human metabolite of levretiracetam (ucb L057) was not mutagenic in the Ames test or the *in vitro* mouse lymphoma assay.

Impairment Of Fertility
No adverse effects on male or female fertility or reproductive performance were observed in rats at doses up to 1800 mg/kg/day (approximately 6 times the maximum recommended human dose on a mg/m² or exposure basis).

Pregnancy

Teratogenic Effects: Pregnancy Category C

In animal studies, levretiracetam produced evidence of developmental toxicity at doses similar to or greater than human therapeutic doses.

Administration to female rats throughout pregnancy and lactation was associated with increased incidences of minor fetal skeletal abnormalities and retarded offspring growth pre- and/or postnatally at doses ≥350 mg/kg/day (approximately equivalent to the maximum recommended human dose of 3000 mg [MRHD] on a mg/m² basis) and with increased pup mortality and offspring behavioral alterations at a dose of 1800 mg/kg/day (6 times the MRHD on a mg/m² basis). The developmental no effect dose was 70 mg/kg/day (0.2 times the MRHD on a mg/m² basis). There was no overt maternal toxicity at the doses used in this study.

Treatment of pregnant rabbits during the period of organogenesis resulted in increased embryofetal mortality and increased incidences of minor fetal skeletal abnormalities at doses ≥800 mg/kg/day (approximately 4 times MRHD on a mg/m² basis) and in decreased fetal weights and increased incidences of fetal malformations at a dose of 1800 mg/kg/day (12 times the MRHD on a mg/m² basis). The developmental no effect dose was 200 mg/kg/day (1/3 times the MRHD on a mg/m² basis). Maternal toxicity was also observed at 1800 mg/kg/day.

When pregnant rats were treated during the period of organogenesis, fetal weights were decreased and the incidence of fetal skeletal variations was increased at a dose of 3600 mg/kg/day (12 times the MRHD), 1200 mg/kg/day (4 times the MRHD) was a developmental no effect dose. There was no evidence of maternal toxicity in this study.

Treatment of rats during the last third of gestation and throughout lactation produced no adverse effects at doses up to 1800 mg/kg/day (6 times the MRHD on a mg/m² basis).

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Levetiracetam should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Pregnancy Registry

To provide information regarding the effects of in utero exposure to levretiracetam, physicians are advised to recommend that pregnant patients taking levretiracetam enroll in the North American Antiepileptic Drug (NAAED) pregnancy registry. This can be done by calling the toll free number 1-888-233-2334, and must be done by the patients themselves. Information on the registry can also be found at the website http://www.aedpregnancyregistry.org.

Labor And Delivery

The effect of levretiracetam on labor and delivery in humans is unknown.

Nursing Mothers

Levetiracetam is excreted in breast milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from levretiracetam, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness in patients below 4 years of age have not been established.

Studies of levretiracetam in juvenile rats (dosing from day 4 through day 52 of age) and dogs (dosing from week 3 through week 7 of age) at doses of up to 1800 mg/kg/day (approximately 7 and 24 times, respectively, the maximum recommended pediatric dose of 60 mg/kg/day on a mg/m² basis) did not indicate a potential for age-specific toxicity.

Geriatric Use

Of the total number of subjects in clinical studies of levretiracetam, 347 were 65 and over. No overall differences in safety were observed between these subjects and younger subjects. There were insufficient numbers of elderly subjects in controlled trials of epilepsy to adequately assess the effectiveness of levretiracetam in these patients.

A study in 16 elderly subjects (age 61 to 88 years) with oral administration of single dose and multiple twice-daily doses for 10 days showed no pharmacokinetic differences related to age alone.

Levetiracetam is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of adverse reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function.

Use In Patients With Impaired Renal Function

Clearance of levretiracetam is decreased in patients with renal impairment and is correlated with creatinine clearance. Caution should be taken in dosing patients with moderate and severe renal impairment and in patients undergoing hemodialysis. The dosage should be reduced in patients with

impaired renal function receiving levretiracetam and supplemental doses should be given to patients after dialysis (see CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Adult Patients with Impaired Renal Function).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The prescriber should be aware that the adverse event incidence figures in the following tables, obtained when levretiracetam was added to concurrent AED therapy, cannot be used to predict the frequency of adverse experiences in the course of usual medical practice where patient characteristics and other factors may differ from those prevailing during clinical studies. Similarly, the cited frequencies cannot be directly compared with figures obtained from other clinical investigations involving different treatments, uses, or investigators. An inspection of these frequencies, however, does provide the prescriber with one basis to estimate the relative contribution of drug and non-drug factors to the adverse event incidences in the population studied.

Partial Onset Seizures
In well-controlled clinical studies in adults with partial onset seizures, the most frequently reported adverse events associated with the use of levretiracetam in combination with other AEDs, not seen at an equivalent frequency among placebo-treated patients, were somnolence, asthenia, infection and dizziness. In the well-controlled pediatric clinical study in children 4 to 16 years of age with partial onset seizures, the adverse events most frequently reported with the use of levretiracetam in combination with other AEDs, not seen at an equivalent frequency among placebo-treated patients, were somnolence, accidental injury, hostility, nervousness, and asthenia.

Table 8 lists treatment-emergent adverse events that occurred in at least 1% of adult epilepsy patients treated with levretiracetam participating in placebo-controlled studies and were numerically more common than in patients treated with placebo. Table 9 lists treatment-emergent adverse events that occurred in at least 2% of pediatric epilepsy patients (ages 4 to 16 years) treated with levretiracetam participating in the placebo-controlled study and were numerically more common than in pediatric patients treated with placebo. In these studies, either levretiracetam or placebo was added to concurrent AED therapy. Adverse events were usually mild to moderate in intensity.

Table 8: Incidence (%) Of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events In Placebo-Controlled, Add-On Studies In Adults Experiencing Partial Onset Seizures By Body System (Adverse Events Occurred In At Least 1% Of Levretiracetam-Treated Patients And Occurred More Frequently Than Placebo-Treated Patients)

Body System/ Adverse Event	Levetiracetam (N=769) %	Placebo (N=439) %
Body as a Whole		
Asthenia	15	9
Headache	14	13
Infection	13	8
Pain	7	6
Digestive System		
Anorexia	3	2
Nervous System		
Somnolence	15	8
Dizziness	9	4
Depression	4	2
Nervousness	4	2
Azasia	3	1
Vertigo	3	1
Annesia	3	1
Anxiety	2	1
Hostility	2	1
Paresthesia	2	1
Emotional Lability	2	0
Respiratory System		
Pharyngitis	6	4
Rhinitis	4	3
Cough Increased	2	1
Sinusitis	2	1
Special Senses		
Diplopia	2	1

Other events reported by at least 1% of adult levretiracetam-treated patients but as or more frequent in the placebo group were the following: abdominal pain, accidental injury, amblyopia, arthralgia, back pain, bronchitis, chest pain, confusion, constipation, convulsion, diarrhea, drug level increases, dyspepsia, ecchymosis, fever, flu syndrome, fungal infection, gastroenteritis, gingivitis, grand mal convulsion, insomnia, nausea, otitis media, rash, thinking abnormal, tremor, urinary tract infection, vomiting and weight gain.

Table 9: Incidence (%) Of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events In A Placebo-Controlled, Add-On Study In Pediatric Patients Ages 4 to 16 Years Experiencing Partial Onset Seizures By Body System (Adverse Events Occurred In At Least 2% Of Levretiracetam-Treated Patients And Occurred More Frequently Than Placebo-Treated Patients)

Body System/ Adverse Event	Levetiracetam (N=107) %	Placebo (N=17) %
Body as a Whole		
Accidental Injury	17	10
Asthenia	9	3
Pain	6	3
Flu Syndrome	3	2
Face Edema	2	1
Neck Pain	2	1
Viral Infection	2	1
Digestive System		
Vomiting	15	13
Anorexia	13	8
Diarrhea	8	7
Gastroenteritis	4	2
Constipation	3	1
Hemic and Lymphatic System		
Ecchymosis	4	1
Metabolic and Nutritional		
Dehydration	2	1
Nervous System		
Somnolence	23	11
Hostility	12	6
Nervousness	10	2
Personality Disorder	8	7
Dizziness	7	2
Emotional Lability	6	4
Agitation	6	1
Depression	3	1
Vertigo	3	1
Reflexes Increased	2	1
Confusion	2	0
Respiratory System		
Rhinitis	13	8
Cough Increased	11	7
Pharyngitis	10	8
Asthma	2	1
Skin and Appendages		
Pruritus	2	0
Skin Discoloration	2	0
Vesiculobullous Rash	2	0
Special Senses		
Conjunctivitis	3	2
Amblyopia	2	0
Ear Pain	2	0
Urogenital System		
Albuminuria	4	0
Urine Abnormality	2	1

Other events occurring in at least 2% of pediatric levretiracetam-treated patients but as or more frequent in the placebo group were the following: abdominal pain, allergic reaction, ataxia, convulsion, epistaxis, fever, headache, hyperkinesia, infection, insomnia, nausea, otitis media, rash, sinusitis, status epilepticus (not otherwise specified), thinking abnormal, tremor, and urinary incontinence.

Myoclonic Seizures

Body System/ MedDRA preferred term	Levetiracetam (N=769) n (%)	Placebo (N=439) n (%)
Asthenia	3 (3%)	0
Hostility	7 (6.9%)	2 (2.1%)
Somnolence	3 (3%)	3 (3.1%)

Myoclonic Seizures
In the placebo-controlled study, 8.3% of patients receiving levretiracetam and 1.7% receiving placebo either discontinued or had a dose reduction as a result of an adverse event. The adverse events that led to discontinuation or dose reduction in the well-controlled study are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Adverse Events That Resulted In Discontinuation Or Dose Reduction In The Placebo-Controlled Study In Patients With Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy

Body System/ MedDRA preferred term	Levetiracetam (N=60) n (%)	Placebo (N=60) n (%)
Anxiety	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.7%)
Depressed mood	1 (1.7%)	0
Depression	1 (1.7%)	0
Diplopia	1 (1.7%)	0
Hypersomnia	1 (1.7%)	0
Insomnia	1 (1.7%)	0
Irritability	1 (1.7%)	0
Nervousness	1 (1.7%)	0
Somnolence	1 (1.7%)	0

Primary Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures
In the placebo-controlled study, 5.1% of patients receiving levretiracetam and 8.3% receiving placebo either discontinued or had a dose reduction during the treatment period as a result of a treatment-emergent adverse event.

This study was too small to adequately characterize the adverse events leading to discontinuation. It is expected that the adverse events that would lead to discontinuation in this population would be similar to those resulting in discontinuation in other epilepsy trials (see tables 12 to 14).

from that seen in patients with partial seizures, this is likely due to the much smaller number of patients in this study compared to partial seizure studies. The adverse event pattern for patients with JME is expected to be essentially the same as for patients with partial seizures.

In the well-controlled clinical study that included both adolescent (12 to 16 years of age) and adult patients with myoclonic seizures, the most frequently reported adverse events associated with the use of levretiracetam in combination with other AEDs, not seen at an equivalent frequency among placebo-treated patients, were somnolence, neck pain, and pharyngitis. Table 10 lists treatment-emergent adverse events that occurred in at least 5% of juvenile myoclonic epilepsy patients experiencing myoclonic seizures treated with levretiracetam and were numerically more common than in patients treated with placebo. In this study, either levretiracetam or placebo was added to concurrent AED therapy. Adverse events were usually mild to moderate in intensity.

Table 10: Incidence (%) Of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events In A Placebo-Controlled, Add-On Study In Patients 12 Years Of Age And Older With Myoclonic Seizures By Body System (Adverse Events Occurred In At Least 5% Of Levretiracetam-Treated Patients And Occurred More Frequently Than Placebo-Treated Patients)

Body System/ MedDRA preferred term	Levetiracetam (N=60) n (%)	Placebo (N=60) n (%)
Ear and labyrinth disorders		
Vertigo	5	3
Infections and infestations		
Pharyngitis	7	0
Influenza	5	2
Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders		
Neck pain	8	2
Nervous system disorders		
Somnolence	12	2
Psychiatric disorder		
Depression	5	2

Other events occurring in at least 5% of levretiracetam-treated patients with myoclonic seizures but as or more frequent in the placebo group were the following: fatigue and headache.

Primary Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures

Although the pattern of adverse events in this study seems somewhat different from that seen in patients with partial seizures, this is likely due to the much smaller number of patients in this study compared to partial seizure studies. The adverse event pattern for patients with PGTCS seizures is expected to be essentially the same as for patients with partial seizures.

In the well-controlled clinical study that included patients 4 years of age and older with primary generalized tonic-clonic (PGTC) seizures, the most frequently reported adverse event associated with the use of levretiracetam in combination with other AEDs, not seen at an equivalent frequency among placebo-treated patients, was nasopharyngitis.

Table 11 lists treatment-emergent adverse events that occurred in at least 5% of idiopathic generalized epilepsy patients experiencing PGTCS seizures treated with levretiracetam and were numerically more common than in patients treated with placebo. In this study, either levretiracetam or placebo was added to concurrent AED therapy. Adverse events were usually mild to moderate in intensity.

Table 11: Incidence (%) Of Treatment-Emergent Adverse Events In A Placebo-Controlled, Add-On Study In Patients 4 Years Of Age And Older With PGTC Seizures By MedDRA System Organ Class (Adverse Events Occurred In At Least 5% Of Levretiracetam-Treated Patients And Occurred More Frequently Than Placebo-Treated Patients)

MedDRA System Organ Class/Preferred Term	Levetiracetam (N=79) %	Placebo (N=84) %
Gastrointestinal disorders		
Diarrhea	8	7
General disorders and administration site conditions		
Fatigue	10	8
Infections and infestations		
Nasopharyngitis	14	5
Psychiatric disorders		
Irritability	6	2
Mood swings	5	1

Other events occurring in at least 5% of levretiracetam-treated patients with PGTCS seizures but as or more frequent in the placebo group were the following: dizziness, headache, influenza, and somnolence.

Time Course Of Onset Of Adverse Events For Partial Onset Seizures

Of the most frequently reported adverse events in adults experiencing partial onset seizures, asthenia, somnolence and dizziness appeared to occur predominantly during the first 4 weeks of treatment with levretiracetam.

Discontinuation Or Dose Reduction In Well-Controlled Clinical Studies

Partial Onset Seizures
In the placebo-controlled clinical studies, 15% of patients receiving levretiracetam and 11.6% receiving placebo either discontinued or had a dose reduction as a result of an adverse event. Table 12 lists the most common (>1%) adverse events that resulted in discontinuation or dose reduction.

Table 12: Adverse Events That Most Commonly Resulted In Discontinuation Or Dose Reduction In Placebo-Controlled Studies In Adult Patients Experiencing Partial Onset Seizures

	Number (%)	
	Levetiracetam (N=769)	Placebo (N=439)
Asthenia	10 (1.3%)	3 (0.7%)
Convulsion	23 (3%)	15 (3.4%)
Dizziness	11 (1.4%)	0
Rash	0	5 (1.1%)
Somnolence	34 (4.4%)	7 (1.6%)

In the well-controlled pediatric clinical study, 16.8% of patients receiving levretiracetam and 20.6% receiving placebo either discontinued or had a dose reduction as a result of an adverse event. The adverse events most commonly associated (≥2% in patients receiving levretiracetam) with discontinuation or dose reduction in the well-controlled study are presented in Table 13.

Table 13: Adverse Events Most Commonly Associated With Discontinuation Or Dose Reduction In The Placebo-Controlled Study In Pediatric Patients Ages 4 to 16 Years Experiencing Partial Onset Seizures

	Number (%)	
	Levetiracetam (N=74)	Placebo (N=97)
Asthenia	3 (3%)	0
Hostility	7 (6.9%)	2 (2.1%)
Somnolence	3 (3%)	3 (3.1%)

Myoclonic Seizures
In the placebo-controlled study, 8.3% of patients receiving levretiracetam and 1.7% receiving placebo either discontinued or had a dose reduction as a result of an adverse event. The adverse events that led to discontinuation or dose reduction in the well-controlled study are presented in Table 14.

Table 14: Adverse Events That Resulted In Discontinuation Or Dose Reduction In The Placebo-Controlled Study In Patients With Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy

Body System/ MedDRA preferred term	Levetiracetam (N=60) n (%)	Placebo (N=60) n (%)
Anxiety	2 (3.3%)	1 (1.7%)
Depressed mood	1 (1.7%)	0
Depression	1 (1.7%)	0
Diplopia	1 (1.7%)	0
Hypersomnia	1 (1.7%)	0
Insomnia	1 (1.7%)	0
Irritability	1 (1.7%)	0
Nervousness	1 (1.7%)	0
Somnolence	1 (1.7%)	0

Primary Generalized Tonic-Clonic Seizures
In the placebo-controlled study, 5.1% of patients receiving levretiracetam and 8.3% receiving placebo either discontinued or had a dose reduction during the treatment period as a result of a treatment-emergent adverse event.

This study was too small to adequately characterize the adverse events leading to discontinuation. It is expected that the adverse events that would lead to discontinuation in this population would be similar to those resulting in discontinuation in other epilepsy trials (see tables 12 to 14).

Comparison Of Gender, Age And Race

The overall adverse experience profile of levretiracetam was similar between females and males. There are insufficient data to support a statement regarding the distribution of adverse experience reports by age and race.

Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse events have been identified during postapproval use of levretiracetam. Because these events are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

In addition to the adverse experiences listed above, the following have been reported in patients receiving placebo-treated levretiracetam worldwide. The listing is alphabetized: abnormal liver function test, hepatic failure, hepatitis, leukopenia, neutropenia, pancreatitis, pancytopenia (with bone marrow suppression identified), prothrombotic events, thrombocytopenia, and weight loss. Alopecia has been reported with levretiracetam use; recovery was observed in majority of cases where levretiracetam was discontinued. These adverse experiences have not been listed above, and data are insufficient to support an estimate of their incidence or to establish causation.