

# Citin®

Cetirizine Hydrochloride

## Description

Cetirizine Hydrochloride (Citin®) is a piperazine derivative, which is potent H<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist used in the treatment of allergy.

## Composition

**Citin® Tablet:** Each film-coated tablet contains Cetirizine Hydrochloride BP 10 mg.

**Citin® Syrup:** Each 5 ml syrup contains Cetirizine Hydrochloride BP 5 mg.

## Mode of action

Cetirizine Hydrochloride (Citin®) is competitive H<sub>1</sub> receptor antagonist that is considerably more polar and therefore, less likely to cross the so-called blood-brain barrier and causes less sedation than its parent compound.

## Pharmacokinetics

Cetirizine Hydrochloride (Citin®) is rapidly absorbed and is eliminated mainly by renal excretion as unchanged drug, although there is a small amount of metabolism in the liver. Approximately 70% of the dose is excreted in the urine over 5 days, 60% over the first 24 hrs, with only 10% in the faeces over 5 days.

## Indications

Seasonal allergic rhinitis, Perennial allergic rhinitis, Chronic idiopathic urticaria, Atopic dermatitis.

## Dosage & administration

The maximum recommended dose is 20 mg daily.

**Tablet:** Adults and children over 6 years: 10 mg (1 tablet) once daily or half tablet twice daily. Children 2 to 6 years: 5 mg (1/2 tablet) once daily or 2.5 mg (1/4 tablet) twice daily.

**Syrup:** Adults and children over 6 years: 10 mg (2 teaspoonfuls) once daily, or 5 mg (1 teaspoonful) twice daily.

Children 2 to 6 years: 5 mg (1 teaspoonful) once daily, or 2.5 mg (half teaspoonful) twice daily.

## Side effects

Cetirizine hydrochloride is well tolerated. It does not produce anticholinergic effects. Lower incidence of sedation, headache, dry mouth and gastrointestinal disturbances may occur.

## Contraindications

Hypersensitivity or idiosyncrasy to cetirizine hydrochloride or its parent compound, hydroxyzine.

## Use in pregnancy & lactation

There is inadequate information about the safety of cetirizine during pregnancy. It should be used only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk of the foetus.

Nursing mothers are advised not to take cetirizine hydrochloride.

## Precautions

Caution should be exercised when driving a car or operating potentially dangerous machinery. Concurrent use of cetirizine hydrochloride with alcohol or other CNS depressants should be avoided.

## Drug interactions

No clinically important interactions have been reported.

## Overdosage

In patients taking a massive intentional overdose (150 - 300 mg), sedation has been the only adverse effect and complete recovery has been ensured.

## Storage

Store in a cool and dry place, protected from light.

## Packaging

**Citin® Tablet:** Each carton contains 10X10 tablets in blister pack.

**Citin® Syrup:** Each carton contains a bottle having 60 ml syrup.

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