21 March 2019
EMA/192797/2019
Veterinary Medicines Division

Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use

CVMP assessment report for Afoxolaner MERIAL (EMEA/V/C/005126/0000)

Name of active substance: afoxolaner

Assessment report as adopted by the CVMP with all information of a commercially confidential nature deleted.

Official address Domenico Scarlattilaan 6 ● 1083 HS Amsterdam ● The Netherlands
Address for visits and deliveries Refer to www.ema.europa.eu/how-to-find-us
Send us a question Go to www.ema.europa.eu/contact **Telephone** +31 (0)88 781 6000 An agency of the European Union

Introduction

The applicant MERIAL submitted on 20 December 2018 an application for a marketing authorisation to the European Medicines Agency (the Agency) for Afoxolaner MERIAL through the centralised procedure under Article 3(2)a of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004. The eligibility to the centralised procedure was agreed upon by the CVMP on 19 July 2018.

The legal basis for this application refers to Article 13c of Directive 2001/82/EC, relating to informed consent from a marketing authorisation holder for a centrally authorised veterinary medicinal product: NexGard chewable tablets for dogs (EU/2/13/159/001-016). The marketing authorisation holder of the originator product is the same as the applicant. A letter of consent granting access to Parts II, III & IV of the dossier of NexGard chewable tablets for dogs has been provided with this application.

This application is submitted as a multiple application of the centrally authorised product NexGard in accordance with Article 82(1) of Regulation (EC) No 726/2004.

The applicant applied for the following indications:

- treatment of flea infestation in dogs (*Ctenocephalides felis* and *C. canis*) for at least 5 weeks. The product can be used as part of a treatment strategy for the control of flea allergy dermatitis (FAD);
- treatment of tick infestation in dogs (*Dermacentor reticulatus*, *Ixodes ricinus*, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*). One treatment kills ticks for up to one month;
- treatment of demodicosis (caused by *Demodex canis*);
- treatment of sarcoptic mange (caused by *Sarcoptes scabiei* var. *canis*).

The active substance of Afoxolaner MERIAL is afoxolaner, an insecticide and acaricide belonging to the isoxazoline family, which acts at ligand-gated chloride channels, in particular those gated by the neurotransmitter gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA), thereby blocking pre- and post-synaptic transfer of chloride ions across cell membranes. This results in uncontrolled activity of the central nervous system and death of insects or acarines. The target species is dogs.

Afoxolaner MERIAL is presented as chewable tablets containing 11.3, 28.3, 68 or 136 mg of afoxolaner, and is available in cardboard boxes containing one blister of 1, 3 or 6 chewable tablets or 15 blisters of 1 chewable tablet.

The rapporteur appointed is Peter Hekman and the co-rapporteur is Jeremiah Gabriel Beechinor.

The dossier has been submitted in line with the requirements for submissions under Article 13c of Directive 2001/82/EC – an informed consent application from the marketing authorisation holder for NexGard chewable tablets for dogs (EU/2/13/159/001-016).

On 21 March 2019, the CVMP adopted an opinion and CVMP assessment report.

On 20 May 2019, the European Commission adopted a Commission Decision granting the marketing authorisation for Afoxolaner MERIAL.

Scientific advice

Not applicable.

MUMS/limited market status

Not applicable.

Part 1 - Administrative particulars

Detailed description of the pharmacovigilance system

The applicant has provided a detailed description of the pharmacovigilance system (dated September 2017) which fulfils the requirements of Directive 2001/82/EC. Based on the information provided, the applicant has the services of a qualified person responsible for pharmacovigilance and the necessary means for the notification of any adverse reaction occurring either in the Union or in a third country.

Manufacturing authorisations and inspection status

Manufacture of the active substance takes place within the EEA. GMP declarations for the active substance manufacturing sites were provided from the Qualified Person (QP) at the EU batch release site. GMP certificates are available for the active substance sites issued by The French National Agency for Medicines and Health Products Safety (ANSM) and the Swiss Agency for Therapeutic Products (Swissmedic) following inspection.

Manufacturing of the finished product, primary and secondary packaging and testing takes place at a site outside of the EEA. Additional secondary packaging sites are located within the EU. Batch release within the EU takes place at Merial, Toulouse, France. All sites have valid GMP certificates issued by the relevant French authorities confirming GMP compliance.

Overall conclusions on administrative particulars

The detailed description of the pharmacovigilance system was considered in line with legal requirements.

The GMP status of both the active substance and finished product manufacturing sites has been satisfactorily established and are in line with legal requirements.

Part 2 - Quality

This application is an informed consent of NexGard chewable tablets for dogs.

The quality data in support of this application are identical to the up-to-date quality data of the dossier for NexGard chewable tablets for dogs, which has already been assessed and approved by the CVMP (including any post-marketing procedures).

Therefore, no quality data have been submitted. This is considered acceptable given the legal basis of this application (informed consent).

Part 3 – Safety

This application is an informed consent of NexGard chewable tablets for dogs.

The safety data in support of this application are identical to the up-to-date safety data of the dossier for NexGard chewable tablets for dogs, which has already been assessed and approved by the CVMP (including any post-marketing procedures).

Therefore, no safety data have been submitted. This is considered acceptable given the legal basis of

this application (informed consent).

To ensure comprehensive adverse event surveillance and to benefit from the possibility of aligning periodic safety update report (PSUR) submissions for informed consent products as foreseen in the legislation, PSUR submissions should be synchronised and common PSURs should be submitted for the informed consent product, Afoxolaner MERIAL, and the reference product, NexGard, which is currently on a three-yearly reporting cycle; the next data lock point (DLP) is 31 August 2021.

It is noted that the MAH submits all adverse event reports electronically, in line with the revised Recommendation for the basic surveillance of Eudravigilance veterinary data (EMA/CVMP/PhVWP/171122/2016). Surveillance of the data in EudraVigilance Veterinary (EVVet) will also be synchronised for signal detection of the two products.

Part 4 – Efficacy

This application is an informed consent of NexGard chewable tablets for dogs.

The efficacy data in support of this application are identical to the up-to-date efficacy data of the dossier for NexGard chewable tablets for dogs, which has already been assessed and approved by the CVMP (including any post-marketing procedures).

Therefore, no efficacy data have been submitted. This is considered acceptable given the legal basis of this application (informed consent).

Part 5 – Benefit-risk assessment

This marketing authorisation application for Afoxolaner MERIAL chewable tablets for dogs has been submitted by MERIAL as an informed consent application in accordance with Article 13c of Directive 2001/82/EC.

As a consequence, the quality, safety and efficacy of Afoxolaner MERIAL are identical to the up-to-date quality, safety and efficacy profile of NexGard. The application for Afoxolaner MERIAL concerns the identical strengths to those approved for NexGard and consists of only Part 1. Information on the scientific discussion can be found in the European Public Assessment Report (EPAR) for NexGard published on the EMA website.

Consequently, and in line with the assessment of data undertaken in the framework of the initial marketing authorisation application as well as within all post-authorisation procedures for NexGard chewable tablets for dogs, the CVMP considers that the benefit-risk balance for Afoxolaner MERIAL is positive.

To ensure comprehensive adverse event surveillance, signal detection and PSUR submissions will be synchronised with those for NexGard.

Conclusion

Based on the data presented on quality, safety and efficacy which is identical to that already reviewed and accepted for the authorised product NexGard chewable tablets for dogs, the Committee for Medicinal Products for Veterinary Use (CVMP) concluded that the application for Afoxolaner MERIAL is approvable since these data satisfy the requirements for an authorisation set out in the legislation (Regulation (EC) No 726/2004 in conjunction with Directive 2001/82/EC).

The CVMP considers that the benefit-risk balance is positive and, therefore, recommends the granting of the marketing authorisation for the above mentioned medicinal product.