EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY
SCIENCE MEDICINES HEALTH

31 January 2024
EMA/HMPC/572846/2009 Corr[1]
Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC)

European Union herbal monograph on *Symphytum officinale* L., radix

Final

Discussion in Working Party on Community monographs and Community list (MLWP)	November 2009 July 2010 November 2010 January 2011 March 2011 May 2011
Adoption by Committee on Herbal Medicinal Products (HMPC) for release for consultation	12 July 2011
End of consultation (deadline for comments).	15 November 2011
Rediscussion in MLWP	November 2011 March 2015
Adoption by HMPC	5 May 2015

Keywords	Herbal medicinal products; HMPC; European Union herbal monographs; traditional use; *Symphytum officinale* L., radix; Symphyti radix; comfrey root

[1] Correction to include the pyrrolizidine alkaloids limits of the final "Public statement on the use of herbal medicinal products containing toxic, unsaturated pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) including recommendations regarding contamination of herbal medicinal products with PAs" (EMA/HMPC/893108/2011 Rev. 1) in sections 5.3 and 6.

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

BG (bălgarski): Черен оман, корен CS (čeština): kostivalový kořen DA (dansk): Kulsukkerrod DE (Deutsch): Beinwellwurzel EL (elliniká): ρίζα συμφύτου EN (English): Comfrey Root ES (espanol): Consuelda mayor, raíz de ET (eesti keel): varemerohujuur FI (suomi): rohtoraunioyrtti, juuri FR (français): Grande consoude (racine de) HR (hrvatska): gavezov korijen HU (magyar): Feketenadálytő gyökér IT (italiano): Consolida maggiore radice	LT (lietuvių kalba): LV (latviešu valoda): Tauksaknes saknes MT (malti): Widnet il-Għomor NL (nederlands): Smeerwortel PL (polski): Korzeń żywokostu PT (português): Consolda-maior, raiz RO (română): rădăcină de tătăneasă SK (slovenčina): Koreň kostihoja SL (slovenščina): korenina navadnega gabeza SV (svenska): Valörtsrot *IS (íslenska)*: *NO (norsk): Valurtrot*

European Union herbal monograph on *Symphytum officinale* L., radix

1. Name of the medicinal product

To be specified for the individual finished product.

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition[2,3]

Well-established use	Traditional use
	With regard to the registration application of Article 16d(1) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended *Symphytum officinale* L., radix (comfrey root) i) Herbal substance Not applicable. ii) Herbal preparations Liquid extract prepared by extraction with ethanol 65% (V/V) followed by partial evaporation and adjustment to a DER 2:1

3. Pharmaceutical form

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Herbal preparations in semi-solid dosage forms for cutaneous use. The pharmaceutical form should be described by the European Pharmacopoeia full standard term.

4. Clinical particulars

4.1. Therapeutic indications

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Traditional herbal medicinal product used for the symptomatic relief of minor sprains and bruises. The product is a traditional herbal medicinal product for use in the specified indication exclusively based upon long-standing use.

[2] The declaration of the active substance(s) for an individual finished product should be in accordance with relevant herbal quality guidance.
[3] Detailed specification for the herbal substance shall be given by refences to bibliographic sources in absence of a monograph in the European Pharmacopoeia.

4.2. Posology and method of administration

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Posology *Adults and elderly:* Single dose for semi-solid dosage forms (10% liquid extract): apply a thin layer, 2 times a daily The use in children and adolescents under 18 years of age is not recommended (see section 4.4 'Special warnings and precaution for use'). **Duration of use** Not to be used for more than 10 days. If the symptoms persist during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a qualified health care practitioner should be consulted. **Method of administration** Cutaneous use.

4.3. Contraindications

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Hypersensitivity to the active substance(s).

4.4. Special warnings and precautions for use

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Not to be applied to broken or irritated skin. Avoid contact with the eyes or mucous membranes. If the symptoms worsen during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a qualified health care practitioner should be consulted. The use in children and adolescents under 18 years of age has not been established due to lack of adequate data.

4.5. Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Well-established use	Traditional use
	None reported.

4.6. Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Safety during pregnancy and lactation has not been established. Studies with isolated pyrrolizidine alkaloids from the plant part in animals have shown reproductive toxicity (see section 5.3 'Preclinical safety data'). In the absence of sufficient data, the use during pregnancy and lactation is not recommended. No fertility data available.

4.7. Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Not relevant.

4.8. Undesirable effects

Well-established use	Traditional use
	None known. If adverse reactions occur, a doctor or a qualified health care practitioner should be consulted.

4.9. Overdose

Well-established use	Traditional use
	No case of overdose has been reported.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1. Pharmacodynamic properties

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Not required as per Article 16c(1)(a)(iii) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended.

5.2. Pharmacokinetic properties

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Not required as per Article 16c(1)(a)(iii) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended.

5.3. Preclinical safety data

Well-established use	Traditional use
	Not required as per Article 16c(1)(a)(iii) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, unless necessary for the safe use of the product. Adequate tests on reproductive toxicity, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity have not been performed. Animal studies suggest that pyrrolizidine alkaloids are hepatotoxic after oral administration. Several pyrrolizidine alkaloids and pyrrolizidine alkaloid derivatives have been shown to produce genotoxic effects in cell cultures after metabolic activation. In rats, after oral administration appropriately low repeated doses of several alkaloids have been shown to induce tumours and in some studies, a single dose has been carcinogenic. In rats, after oral application of the pyrrolizidine alkaloid lasiocarpine given at doses of 35 mg/kg during pregnancy, foetal hepatotoxicity was observed. Until now only rudimentary data concerning absorption of pyrrolizidine alkaloids through the skin exist. The amount of pyrrolizidine alkaloids within the daily dose should be limited to below 1 µg/day for adults.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

Well-established use	Traditional use
	The amount of pyrrolizidine alkaloids has to be specified in the given product. The daily exposure has to be below 1 µg. For more details see the "Public statement on the use of herbal medicinal products containing toxic, unsaturated pyrrolizidine alkaloids (PAs) including

Well-established use	Traditional use
	recommendations regarding contamination of herbal medicinal products with PAs" (EMA/HMPC/893108/2011 Rev. 1).

7. Date of compilation/last revision

31 January 2024