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Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products

## Public summary of opinion on orphan designation

### Trientine dihydrochloride for the treatment of Wilson's disease

First publication	26 April 2004
Rev.1: sponsor's change of address	16 February 2010
Rev.2: transfer of sponsorship	13 September 2013
Rev.3: sponsor's change of address	1 October 2014
<b>Disclaimer</b> Please note that revisions to the Public Summary of Opinion are purely administrative updates. Therefore, the scientific content of the document reflects the outcome of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP) at the time of designation and is not updated after first publication.	

On 24 October 2003, orphan designation (EU/3/03/172) was granted by the European Commission to Univar Limited, United Kingdom, for trientine dihydrochloride for the treatment of Wilson's disease.

The sponsorship was transferred to Univar BV, The Netherlands, in July 2013.

#### What is Wilson's disease?

Wilson's disease is a genetic disorder that causes excessive copper accumulation in the liver or brain. The liver of a person who has Wilson's disease does not release copper into the bile, as it should. Bile is a liquid produced by the liver that helps with digestion. In Wilson disease, the copper absorbed from the food by the intestines builds up in the liver and injures liver tissue. Eventually, the damage causes the liver to release the copper directly into the bloodstream, which carries the copper throughout the body. The copper accumulated and transported by the bloodstream can then cause damage in other organs like the kidneys, brain, and eyes. If not treated, Wilson's disease can be chronically debilitating and life threatening.

#### What is the estimated number of patients affected by the condition?

At the time of designation, Wilson's disease affected approximately 0.6 in 10,000 people in the European Union (EU). This was equivalent to a total of around 23,000 people\*, and is below the

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\*Disclaimer: For the purpose of the designation, the number of patients affected by the condition is estimated and assessed on the basis of data from the European Union.  
At the time of designation, this represented a population of 382,800,000 (Eurostat 2003).



threshold for orphan designation, which is 5 people in 10,000. This is based on the information provided by the sponsor and the knowledge of the Committee for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP).

### **What treatments are available?**

Treatment of Wilson's disease generally consists of anti-copper agents to remove excess copper from the body and to prevent it from re-accumulating. Several medicinal products were authorised for Wilson's disease in the Community at the time of submission of the application for orphan drug designation.

Trientine dihydrochloride could be of potential significant benefit for the treatment of Wilson's disease, by making it available over the whole Community. In addition, trientine dihydrochloride may have a different safety profile for the treatment of the condition from that of medicinal products authorised today. This assumption will have to be confirmed at the time of marketing authorisation. This will be necessary to maintain the orphan status.

### **How is this medicine expected to work?**

Trientine dihydrochloride binds to the free copper in blood and increases copper excretion in the urine. It might also act by blocking intestinal copper absorption, but this possible mechanism remains to be fully demonstrated.

### **What is the stage of development of this medicine?**

The active substance, trientine dihydrochloride is authorised in the United Kingdom, in Wilson's patients who are intolerant of penicillamine therapy.

The product authorised in the United Kingdom is exported to Germany, France, Greece, Norway, Switzerland, Austria and Ireland, however supply is restricted to named patients only.

Trientine dihydrochloride has been granted marketing authorisation in the United States for treatment of Wilson's disease in patients who are intolerant of penicillamine.

In accordance with Regulation (EC) No 141/2000 of 16 December 1999, the COMP adopted a positive opinion on 10 September 2003 recommending the granting of this designation.

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Opinions on orphan medicinal product designations are based on the following three criteria:

- the seriousness of the condition;
- the existence of alternative methods of diagnosis, prevention or treatment;
- either the rarity of the condition (affecting not more than 5 in 10,000 people in the European Union) or insufficient returns on investment.

Designated orphan medicinal products are products that are still under investigation and are considered for orphan designation on the basis of potential activity. An orphan designation is not a marketing authorisation. As a consequence, demonstration of quality, safety and efficacy is necessary before a product can be granted a marketing authorisation.

## For more information

Sponsor's contact details:

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Tel.: +31 10 275 7840  
E-mail: [trientine@univareurope.com](mailto:trientine@univareurope.com)

For contact details of patients' organisations whose activities are targeted at rare diseases see:

- [Orphanet](#), a database containing information on rare diseases, which includes a directory of patients' organisations registered in Europe;
- [European Organisation for Rare Diseases \(EURORDIS\)](#), a non-governmental alliance of patient organisations and individuals active in the field of rare diseases.

## Translations of the active ingredient and indication in all official EU languages<sup>1</sup>, Norwegian and Icelandic

Language	Active ingredient	Indication
English	Trientine dihydrochloride	Treatment of Wilson's disease
Bulgarian	Триентин дихидрохлорид	Лечение на болест на Уилсон
Croatian	Trientindiklorid	Liječenje Wilsonove bolesti
Czech	Trientine dihydrochlorid	Léčba Wilsonovy choroby
Danish	Trientine dihydrochlorid	Behandling af Wilson's sygdom
Dutch	Trientine dihydrochloride	Behandeling van de ziekte van Wilson
Estonian	Trientiindihüdrokloriid	Wilsoni haiguse ravi
Finnish	Trientiini dihydrokloridi	Wilsonin taudin hoito
French	Dichlorhydrate de trientine	Traitement de la maladie de Wilson
German	Trientine dihydrochloride	Behandlung der Wilson Krankheit
Greek	Διυδροχλωρική Τριεντίνη	Θεραπεία της νόσου του Wilson
Hungarian	Trientin dihidroklorid	Wilson-kór kezelése
Italian	Trientine diidrocloreuro	Trattamento della malattia di Wilson
Latvian	Trientīna dihidrohlorīds	Vilsona slimības ārstēšana
Lithuanian	Trientino dihidrochloridas	Vilsono ligos gydymas
Maltese	Trientine dihydrochloride	Kura tal-marda ta' Wilson
Polish	Trietylenotetraaminy dichlorowodorek	Leczenie choroby Wilsona
Portuguese	Di-hidrocloroeto de trientina	Tratamento da doença de Wilson
Romanian	Trientină diclorhidrat	Tratamentul bolii Wilson
Slovak	Trientín dihydrochlorid	Liečba Wilsonovej choroby
Slovenian	Trientin dihidroklorid	Zdravljenje Wilsonove bolezni
Spanish	Dihidrocloruro de trientina	Tratamiento de la enfermedad de Wilson
Swedish	Trientindihydroklorid	Behandling av Wilsons sjukdom

<sup>1</sup> At the time of transfer of sponsorship