

**B. PACKAGE LEAFLET**

## PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

### Defitelio 80 mg/mL concentrate for solution for infusion

Defibrotide

▼ This medicine is subject to additional monitoring. This will allow quick identification of new safety information. You can help by reporting any side effects you may get. See the end of section 4 for how to report side effects.

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

#### **What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Defitelio is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you are administered Defitelio
3. How you will be given Defitelio.
4. Possible side effects.
5. How to store Defitelio.
6. Contents of the pack and other information.

#### **1. What Defitelio is and what it is used for**

Defitelio is a medicine that contains the active substance defibrotide.

It is used to treat a condition called hepatic veno-occlusive disease, in which the blood vessels in the liver become damaged and obstructed by blood clots. This can be caused by medicines that are given prior to a stem cell transplantation.

Defibrotide works by protecting the cells of the blood vessels and preventing or breaking down the blood clots.

This medicine can be used in adults, and in adolescents, children and infants over one month of age.

#### **2. What you need to know before you take Defitelio**

##### **Do not use Defitelio**

- if you are allergic to defibrotide or other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you are using other medicines to break down blood clots such as tissue plasminogen activator

##### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor before using Defitelio:

- if you have heavy bleeding and need a blood transfusion
- if you are undergoing surgery
- if you have problems with blood circulation because your body cannot maintain a constant blood pressure.

##### **Children and adolescents**

Defitelio is not recommended in children less than 1 month of age.

##### **Other medicines and Defitelio**

Tell your doctor if you are taking medicines to prevent blood clotting such as acetylsalicylic acid, heparins, warfarin, dabigatran, rivaroxaban or apixaban or if you are taking anti-inflammatory medicines (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines)

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

Do not use Defitelio if you are pregnant unless your disease requires treatment with Defitelio.

If you are sexually active and you or your partner could become pregnant, you both must use effective contraception during treatment with Defitelio and for 1 week after stopping the treatment.

### **Driving and using machines**

It is not expected that Defitelio will affect your ability to drive and operate machinery.

### **Important information about some of the ingredients of Defitelio**

This medicine contains less than 23 mg of sodium, which means it is essentially “sodium-free”.

### **3. How you will be given Defitelio**

The treatment with Defitelio can be initiated and continuously supervised only by an experienced doctor in an hospital or in a specialised centre for stem cells transplantation.

It will be slowly injected (over a 2-hour period) into one of your veins. This is called and ‘intravenous infusion’ or drip.

You will receive this treatment four times a day for at least 21 days or until your symptoms resolve. The recommended dose in children from one month to 18 years of age is the same as in adults.

### **If a dose of Defitelio has been forgotten:**

As you will be given this medicine by a doctor or a nurse it is unlikely that a dose will be missed. However, tell your doctor or healthcare professional if you think that a dose has been forgotten. You must not be given a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

### **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, Defitelio can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

#### **Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)**

- bleeding in general
- bleeding from the nose
- bleeding in the brain
- bleeding in the gut
- bleeding in the lungs
- bleeding from the infusion line
- blood in the urine
- coagulopathy (disturbance of blood clotting)
- vomiting
- low blood pressure.

If you experience any of these events, you should **contact your doctor immediately**.

#### **Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)**

- bleeding from the eye

- vomiting blood
- blood in the stool
- bleeding from the mouth
- bleeding at the site of injection
- localized blood collection out of the vessel (hematoma) in the brain
- Diarrhoea
- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Haemothorax (accumulation of blood in the area between the heart and the lung)
- Rash
- Itching
- Bruising
- Red spots on the body caused by broken blood vessels in skin
- Fever
- Severe allergic reaction (you might experience swelling of the hands, face, lips, tongue or throat, difficulty in breathing).

### **Children and adolescents**

Side effects in children (1 month to 18 years old) are expected to be similar in type, severity and frequency and no other special precautions are needed.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via [the national reporting system listed in Appendix V](#). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Defitelio**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use Defitelio after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not freeze.

Once diluted for use the infusion storage should not exceed 24 hours at 2-8°C unless dilution has taken place in controlled and validated aseptic conditions.

Defitelio should not be used if the solution is cloudy or contains particles.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Defitelio contains**

- The active substance is defibrotide. Each 2.5 mL vial contains 200 mg defibrotide and each mL solution contains 80 mg defibrotide.
- The other ingredients are sodium citrate dihydrate, hydrochloric acid and sodium hydroxide (both for pH-adjustment) and water for injections.

### **What Defitelio looks like and contents of the pack**

Defitelio is a clear light yellow to brown concentrate for solution for infusion, free from particulate matter or turbidity.

Carton containing 10 glass vials with 2.5 mL of concentrate.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

Gentium Srl  
 Piazza XX Settembre 2  
 Villa Guardia  
 22079 Italy  
 P:+39 031 5373200

F: +39 031 5373241

[info@gentium.it](mailto:info@gentium.it)

For any information about this medicine, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder:

**BE – DE – ES – FR – IE– IT –  
LU – MT – NL – AT – PT – UK**  
Jazz Pharmaceuticals Ireland Limited  
5th Floor  
Waterloo Exchange  
Waterloo Road  
IRL - Dublin 4  
Tel: + 353 1 634 7800  
Fax: +353 1 634 7850

**Lietuva**

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum International AB  
c/o CentralPharma Communications OÜ  
J. Savickio g. 4-1  
LT-01108 Vilnius  
Tel: +370 5 2430444  
centralpharma@centralpharma.lt

**България**

Фармасуис ЕООД  
ж.к. Лагера, ул.Троянски проход 16  
BG-1612 София  
Тел.: + 359 2 895 21 10  
PharmaSwissBulgariaInfo@valeant.com

**Magyarország**

Valeant Pharma Magyarország Kft.  
Csatárka u. 82-84, H-1025 Budapest  
Hungary  
Tel: +36-1-345-5900  
Fax: +36-1-345-5918

**Česká republika**

PharmaSwiss ČR s.r.o.  
Jankovcova 1569/2c  
17000 Praha 7  
Tel.: +420-234 719 600  
czech.info@valeant.com

**Norge**

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AS  
Østensjøveien 18, Bryn  
N-0661 OSLO  
Tlf: + 47 66 82 34 00  
mail.no@sobi.com

**Danmark/Ísland**

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum A/S  
Sorgenfrivej 17  
DK-2800 Lyngby  
Tlf: + 45 32 96 68 69  
mail.dk@sobi.com

**Polska**

Valeant Pharma Poland sp. z o.o.  
ul. Przemysłowa 2, 35-959 Rzeszow  
Polska  
Tel.: +48 17 865 51 00  
ICN\_Polfa@valeant.com

**Eesti**

Swedish Orphan Biovitrum International AB  
c/o CentralPharma Communications OÜ  
Selise 26-11  
EE-13522 Tallinn  
Tel: + 372 6 015 540  
centralpharma@centralpharma.ee

**România**

Valeant Pharma S.R.L  
Str.Maria Rosetti, nr.6, Etaj 7  
20485, Sector 2, Bucureşti, RomâniaTel.: +40  
374 102 600  
Romania.info@valeant.com

**Slovenija**

PharmaSwiss d.o.o.  
Brodišče 32  
1236 Trzin  
Slovenia  
Tel: +386 1 236 47 00  
slovenia.info@regulatory@valeant.com

**Ελλάδα, Κύπρος**  
Pharmaswiss Hellas A.E.  
Λ. Πεντέλης 53, 15235 Βριλήσσια  
Ελλάδα  
Τηλ.: +30-2108108460

**Slovenská republika**  
Valeant Slovakia s.r.o.  
Galvaniho 7/B,  
821 04 Bratislava  
Slovakia  
Tel : + 421 2 3233 4900  
Fax : + 421 2 3233 4920

**Hrvatska**  
PharmaSwiss d.o.o.  
Miramarska 23  
10000 Zagreb  
Hrvatska  
Tel: +385 1 6311 833  
croatia.info@valeant.com

**Suomi/Finland**  
Oy Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB  
Äyritie 18  
FIN-01510 Vantaa  
Puh/Tel: + 358 201 558 840  
mail.fi@sobi.com

**Latvija**  
Swedish Orphan Biovitrum International AB  
c/o CentralPharma Communications OÜ  
Baložu iela 28-13  
Rīga, LV-1048-13  
Tel: + 371 67 450 497  
centralpharma@centralpharma.lv

**Sverige**  
Swedish Orphan Biovitrum AB (publ)  
S-112 76 Stockholm  
Tel: + 46 8 697 20 00  
mail.se@sobi.com

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This medicine has been authorised under ‘exceptional circumstances’. This means that because of the rarity of this disease and for ethical reasons it has been impossible perform a placebo-controlled clinical trials and to get complete information on this medicine.

The European Medicines Agency will review any new information on this medicine every year and this leaflet will be updated as necessary.

Detailed information on this medicine is available on the European Medicines Agency web site:

<http://www.ema.europa.eu>

There are also links to other websites about rare diseases and treatments.

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