

## RIZAMELT

---

### 1. Product Name

---

Rizamelt 10 mg orodispersible tablet

---

### 2. Qualitative and Quantitative Composition

---

Each orodispersible tablets contains 10 mg of rizatriptan (corresponding to 14.53 mg of rizatriptan benzoate).

Excipient with known effect: Contains aspartame.

For the full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

---

### 3. Pharmaceutical Form

---

The 10 mg RIZAMELT orodispersible tablet is a white to off-white coloured, round, flat faced bevelled edged tablet, debossed with "M" on one side and "RN2" on the other side.

---

### 4. Clinical Particulars

---

#### **4.1 Therapeutic indications**

RIZAMELT is indicated for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura.

#### **4.2 Dose and method of administration**

##### **Dose**

Clinical experience has shown that the 10 mg rizatriptan dose provides the optimal clinical benefit. Onset of relief (i.e., reduction of headache pain to mild or none) can occur within 30 minutes after dosing.

Do not halve the orodispersible tablets.

##### **Re-dosing**

Doses should be separated by at least 2 hours; no more than 30 mg should be taken in any 24-hour period.

##### **For headache recurrence within 24 hours**

If headache returns after relief of the initial attack, further doses may be taken. The above dosing limits should be observed.

##### **After non-response**

The effectiveness of a second dose for treatment of the same attack, when an initial dose is ineffective, has not been examined in controlled trials.

Clinical studies have shown that patients who do not respond to treatment of an attack are still likely to respond to treatment for subsequent attacks.

### ***Special populations***

#### **Patients receiving propranolol**

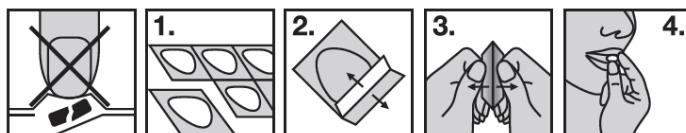
Plasma concentrations of rizatriptan may be increased by concomitant administration of propranolol (see section 4.5). The 10 mg dose is not appropriate for these patients. The physician should consider alternative therapies for these patients, for example, other 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonists that do not have this drug interaction.

### **Method of administration**

In clinical trials rizatriptan was administered without regard to food.

The orodispersible tablets are packaged in blister strips. Patients should be instructed not to remove the tablet from the blister strip until just prior to dosing.

The blister pack should be peeled open with dry hands and the orodispersible tablet placed on the tongue, where it will dissolve and be swallowed with the saliva. Administration with liquid is not necessary.



### **4.3 Contraindications**

RIZAMELT is contraindicated in patients with:

- hypersensitivity to rizatriptan or any of the excipients (see section 6.1).
- concurrent administration of monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs), or use within 2 weeks of discontinuation of MAOI therapy (see section 4.5).

Based on the mechanism of action of this class of compounds, RIZAMELT is also contraindicated in patients with:

- moderately severe or severe hypertension, or untreated mild hypertension
- established coronary artery disease, including ischaemic heart disease (angina pectoris, history of myocardial infarction, or documented silent ischaemia), signs and symptoms of ischaemic heart disease, or Prinzmetal's angina
- history of cerebrovascular accident (CVA) or transient ischaemic attack (TIA)
- peripheral vascular disease, including (but not limited to) ischaemic bowel disease
- severe hepatic or severe renal insufficiency
- concomitant use of rizatriptan and ergotamine, ergot derivatives (including methysergide), or other 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonists (see section 4.4).

### **4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use**

RIZAMELT should only be administered to patients in whom a clear diagnosis of migraine has been established. RIZAMELT should not be administered to patients with basilar or hemiplegic migraine.

RIZAMELT should not be used to treat "atypical" headaches, i.e., those that might be associated with potentially serious medical conditions (e.g., CVA, ruptured aneurysm) in which cerebrovascular vasoconstriction could be harmful.

The potential for interaction should be considered when rizatriptan is administered to patients taking CYP 2D6 substrates (see section 4.5).

## **Patients at risk for coronary artery disease**

There have been rare reports of serious coronary events with this class of medicines including rizatriptan (see section 4.8). Prior to prescribing this medicine, cardiovascular assessment should be considered in patients at risk for coronary artery disease (CAD) [e.g., patients with hypertension or diabetes, smokers, and those with strong family history for CAD]. Those in whom CAD is established should not be given RIZAMELT (see section 4.3).

## **Other 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonists**

Other 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonists (e.g., sumatriptan) should not be used concomitantly with RIZAMELT.

As with other 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonists, rizatriptan should not be given, without prior evaluation, to patients in whom unrecognised cardiac disease is likely or to patients at risk for coronary artery disease (CAD) [e.g. patients with hypertension, diabetics, smokers or users of nicotine substitution therapy, men over 40 years of age, post-menopausal women, patients with bundle branch block, and those with strong family history for CAD]. Cardiac evaluations may not identify every patient who has cardiac disease and, in very rare cases, serious cardiac events have occurred in patients without underlying cardiovascular disease when 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists have been administered. Those in whom CAD is established should not be given RIZAMELT (see section 4.3).

5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonists have been associated with coronary vasospasm. In rare cases, myocardial ischaemia or infarction have been reported with 5- HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor agonists including Rizatriptan (see section 4.8).

## **Ergotamine-type medications**

It is advised to wait at least six hours following use of rizatriptan before administering ergotamine-type medications (e.g., ergotamine, dihydro-ergotamine or methysergide). At least 24 hours should elapse after the administration of an ergotamine-containing preparation before rizatriptan is given. Although additive vasospastic effects were not observed in a clinical pharmacology study in which 16 healthy males received oral rizatriptan and parenteral ergotamine, such additive effects are theoretically possible (see section 4.3).

## **Serotonin syndrome**

Cases of life-threatening serotonin syndrome have been reported during combined use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs)/serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and triptans. These reactions can be severe. If concomitant treatment with RIZAMELT and an SSRI (e.g., sertraline, escitalopram oxalate, and fluoxetine) or SNRI (e.g., venlafaxine, duloxetine) is clinically warranted, careful observation of the patient is advised, particularly during treatment initiation, dose increases or with addition of another serotonergic medication. Other serotonin syndrome symptoms may include mental status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia), neuromuscular aberrations (e.g., hyperreflexia, incoordination) and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea) (see section 4.5).

## **Angioedema**

Angioedema (e.g. facial oedema, tongue swelling and pharyngeal oedema) may occur in patients treated with triptans, among which is rizatriptan. If angioedema of the tongue or pharynx occurs, the patient should be placed under medical supervision until symptoms have resolved. Treatment should promptly be discontinued and replaced by an agent belonging to another class of drugs.

## **Medication overuse headache**

Overuse of acute migraine medications may lead to exacerbation of headache (medication overuse headache). Medication overuse headache may present as migraine-like daily headaches or as a marked increase in frequency of migraine attacks. Detoxification of patients, including withdrawal of the overused medications, and treatment of withdrawal symptoms (which often includes a transient worsening of headache) may be necessary.

## **Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (thunderclap headache)**

Reversible cerebral vasoconstriction syndrome (thunderclap headache) has been rarely associated with serotonergic agents such as SSRIs or triptans.

## **Use by gender or in individuals of various ethnic origins**

There is no evidence that gender or ethnic origin has any influence on the efficacy or adverse effects of rizatriptan. In controlled trials, there were no apparent differences in overall adverse experience rates or efficacy of treatment between males and females, or between various ethnic groups.

## **Phenylketonurics**

Phenylketonuric patients should be informed that RIZAMELT orodispersible tablets contain phenylalanine (a component of aspartame). Each 10mg RIZAMELT orodispersible tablet contains 10 mg of aspartame (5.6 mg phenylalanine).

## **Paediatric use**

### ***Children (under 12 years of age)***

There are no data available on the use of rizatriptan in children under 12 years of age. Therefore, its use in this age group is not recommended.

### ***Adolescents (12-17 years of age)***

In placebo-controlled study, the efficacy of rizatriptan tablets (5 mg) was not established. Adverse events observed in this clinical trial were similar in nature to those reported in clinical trials in adults. The use of RIZAMELT in patients under 18 years of age is not recommended.

## **Use in the elderly**

The pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan were similar in elderly (aged  $\geq$  65 years) and in younger adults. Because migraine occurs infrequently in the elderly, clinical experience with rizatriptan is limited in such patients. In clinical trials, there were no apparent differences in efficacy or in overall adverse experience rates between patients under 65 years of age and those 65 and above (n = 17).

## **Effect on laboratory tests**

In long-term controlled clinical trials, there were no clinically relevant, medicine-related changes in laboratory parameters.

## ***4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction***

### **Pharmacokinetic interactions**

Pharmacokinetic interaction studies were carried out with the MAO-A inhibitor, moclobemide; the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI), paroxetine; propranolol and two other beta-blockers, nadolol and metoprolol; and oral contraceptives. Significant interactions were seen with the MAO-A inhibitor and propranolol.

### **Cytochrome P450 isoforms**

Rizatriptan is not an inhibitor of the activities of human liver cytochrome P450 isoforms 3A4/5, 2C9, 2C19, or 2E1; however, rizatriptan is a competitive inhibitor ( $K_i$ =1400 nM) of cytochrome P450 2D6, ( $C_{max}$  after a 10 mg dose was 74 nM). The activity of CYP1A2 was slightly inhibited by very high (10  $\mu$ M) concentrations of rizatriptan. The potential for interaction should be considered when rizatriptan is administered to patients taking cytochrome P450 2D6 substrates.

### **Monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs)**

Rizatriptan is principally metabolised via monoamine oxidase, 'A' subtype (MAO-A). Plasma concentrations of rizatriptan and its active N-monodesmethyl metabolite were increased by concomitant administration of a selective, reversible MAO-A inhibitor. Similar or greater effects are

expected with non-selective, irreversible MAO inhibitors. Due to a risk of coronary artery vasoconstriction and hypertensive episodes, administration of RIZAMELT to patients taking MAOIs is contraindicated (see section 4.3).

## Beta-blockers

Plasma concentrations of rizatriptan may be increased by concomitant administration of propranolol. This increase is most probably due to first-pass metabolic interaction between the two medicines, since MAO-A plays a role in the metabolism of both rizatriptan and propranolol. This interaction leads to a mean increase in AUC and  $C_{max}$  of 70-80%. In patients receiving propranolol, 5 mg of rizatriptan should be used.

In patients receiving propranolol, alternative therapy should be considered (see section 4.2). No pharmacokinetic interaction was observed between rizatriptan and the beta-blockers nadolol or metoprolol. Based on *in vitro* data, no pharmacokinetic interaction is expected with timolol or atenolol.

In a drug interaction study, nadolol and metoprolol did not alter plasma concentration of rizatriptan.

## Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors / serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors

Cases of life-threatening serotonin syndrome (including altered mental status, autonomic instability and neuromuscular abnormalities) have been reported during combined use of selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) and triptans (see section 4.4).

## Paroxetine

In a study of concurrent administration of the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) paroxetine 20 mg/day for two weeks, with a single dose of rizatriptan 10 mg, neither the plasma concentrations of rizatriptan nor its safety profile were affected by paroxetine.

## Oral contraceptives

In a study of concurrent administration of an oral contraceptive during 6 days of administration of rizatriptan (10-30 mg/day), rizatriptan did not affect plasma concentrations of ethinyl estradiol or norethindrone. In clinical trials, the efficacy and incidences of adverse experiences were comparable in patients taking and those not taking oral contraceptives.

## Experience in migraine patients

In clinical trials, concomitant administration of medications commonly used for migraine prophylaxis did not alter the efficacy or incidences of adverse effects of rizatriptan. The overall adverse experience rates were comparable for patients on rizatriptan 5 or 10 mg who were receiving the following concomitant drugs: calcium channel blockers (n=72); tricyclic antidepressants (n=112); SSRIs (n=90); propranolol (n=108); other beta-blockers (n=175); valproic acid (n=20); opiate analgesics (n=572); oral contraceptives/estrogen replacement (n=304) as compared to those who did not receive such medications.

## St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

St John's Wort may have pharmacodynamic interactions with medicines which effect serotonin, including 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> agonists such as rizatriptan, used to treat migraines. These interactions may result in a variety of symptoms such as mental state change, autonomic dysfunction, and motor effects consistent with increased CNS serotonin. Therefore, RIZAMELT should be used with caution when taking St. John's Wort.

## **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

### **Pregnancy**

#### **Category B1**

*Medicines which have been taken by only a limited number of pregnant women and women of childbearing age, without an increase in the frequency of malformation or other direct or indirect harmful effects on the human foetus having been observed. Studies in animals have not shown evidence of an increased occurrence of foetal damage.*

There are no adequate and well controlled studies of rizatriptan in pregnant women.

Rat pup birth weight was reduced when maternal animals were treated orally throughout gestation with rizatriptan at approximately 10 times the MRDD based on AUC.

In developmental studies, no teratogenic effects were observed when pregnant rats and rabbits were administered doses achieving maternal exposure approximately 215 and 115 times human exposure at the maximum recommended daily dose (MRDD), respectively, during organogenesis. Foetal weights were decreased in conjunction with decreased maternal weight gain at the highest doses. The developmental no-effect dose in these studies was at maternal exposures approximately 15 times human exposure at the MRDD in both rats and rabbits. Kinetic studies demonstrated placental transfer in both species.

Because animal reproductive and developmental studies are not always predictive of human response, RIZAMELT should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

### **Breast-feeding**

Two hours after oral administration of rizatriptan to lactating rats, the rizatriptan concentration in milk was 6 times higher than in maternal plasma. When rizatriptan was administered to lactating rats at 10 mg/kg PO (approx. 10 times anticipated maximum clinical exposure based on AUC), there was a significant reduction in pup body weight gain during lactation.

It is not known whether rizatriptan is excreted in human milk. However, caution should be exercised when RIZAMELT is administered to women who are breast-feeding. Infant exposure should be minimized by avoiding breast feeding for 24 hours after treatment.

### **Fertility**

Effects on human fertility have not been investigated. For pre-clinical fertility data refer to section 5.3.

## **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines**

Migraine or treatment with rizatriptan may cause somnolence in some patients. Dizziness has also been reported in some patients receiving rizatriptan. Patients should, therefore, evaluate their ability to perform complex tasks during migraine attacks and after administration of RIZAMELT.

## **4.8 Undesirable effects**

Rizatriptan (as the tablets and oral lyophilisate formulation) was evaluated in 8360 adult patients for up to one year in controlled clinical studies. The most common side effects evaluated in clinical studies were dizziness, somnolence and asthenia/fatigue. The following side effects have been evaluated in clinical studies and/or reported in post-marketing experience:

(*Very common [≥1/10]; Common [≥1/100, <1/10]; Uncommon [≥1/1000, <1/100]; Rare [≥1/10,000 <1/1,000]; Very rare [<1/10000], not known [cannot be estimated from the available data]*).

### **Immune system disorders:**

*Rare: hypersensitivity reaction, anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reaction.*

## **Psychiatric disorders:**

*Common:* insomnia

*Uncommon:* disorientation, nervousness.

## **Nervous system disorders:**

*Common:* dizziness, somnolence, paraesthesia, headache, hypoaesthesia, decreased mental acuity.

*Uncommon:* ataxia, vertigo, dysgeusia/bad taste, tremor, syncope.

*Not known:* seizure, serotonin syndrome.

## **Eye disorders:**

*Uncommon:* blurred vision.

## **Cardiac disorders:**

*Common:* palpitation.

*Uncommon:* arrhythmia, ECG abnormalities, tachycardia

*Rare:* cerebrovascular accident (most of these adverse reactions have been reported in patients with risk factor predictive of coronary artery disease), bradycardia.

*Not known:* myocardial ischemia or infarction (most of these adverse reactions have been reported in patients with risk factors predictive of coronary artery disease).

## **Vascular disorders:**

*Uncommon:* hypertension, hot flushes/flashes.

*Not known:* peripheral vascular ischaemia.

## **Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:**

*Common:* pharyngeal discomfort.

*Uncommon:* dyspnoea.

*Rare:* wheezing.

## **Gastrointestinal disorders:**

*Common:* nausea, dry mouth, vomiting, diarrhoea, dyspepsia.

*Uncommon:* thirst.

*Not known:* ischemic colitis

## **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:**

*Common:* flushing

*Uncommon:* pruritus, urticaria, angioedema (e.g. facial oedema, tongue swelling, pharyngeal oedema) (for angioedema see also section 4.4), rash, sweating.

*Not known:* toxic epidermal necrolysis.

## **Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:**

*Common:* regional heaviness, neck pain, stiffness

*Uncommon:* regional tightness, muscle weakness, facial pain, myalgia.

## **General disorders and administration site conditions:**

*Common:* asthenia/fatigue, pain in abdomen or chest.

### **Reporting of suspected adverse reactions**

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicine is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicine. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting/>

## **4.9 Overdose**

No overdoses of rizatriptan were reported during clinical trials.

Rizatriptan 40 mg (administered as either a single dose or as two doses with a 2-hour interdose interval) was generally well tolerated in over 300 patients; dizziness and somnolence were the most common medicine-related adverse effects.

In a clinical pharmacology study in which 12 subjects received rizatriptan, at total cumulative doses of 80 mg (given within four hours), two subjects experienced syncope and/or bradycardia. One subject, a female aged 29 years, developed vomiting, bradycardia, and dizziness beginning three hours after receiving a total of 80 mg rizatriptan (administered over two hours). A third degree AV block, responsive to atropine, was observed an hour after the onset of the other symptoms. The second subject, a 25 year old male, experienced transient dizziness, syncope, incontinence, and a 5-second systolic pause (on ECG monitor) immediately after a painful venipuncture. The venipuncture occurred two hours after the subject had received a total of 80 mg rizatriptan (administered over four hours).

In addition, based on the pharmacology of rizatriptan, hypertension, angina or other more serious cardiovascular symptoms could occur after overdosage.

### **Treatment**

Gastrointestinal decontamination (e.g., gastric lavage followed by activated charcoal) should be considered in patients suspected of an overdose with RIZAMELT. Clinical and electrocardiographic monitoring should be continued for at least 12 hours, even if clinical symptoms are not observed.

The effects of haemo- or peritoneal dialysis on serum concentrations of rizatriptan are unknown.

For further advice on management of overdose please contact the National Poisons Information Centre (**0800 POISON** or **0800 764 766**).

---

## **5. Pharmacological Properties**

---

### **5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties**

Pharmacotherapeutic group: antimigraine preparations, selective serotonin (5HT1) agonists, ATC code: N02CC04

### **Mechanism of action**

Rizatriptan is a potent, orally active serotonergic agonist that has been shown in radioligand binding assays and functional pharmacological bioassays to act selectively at 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> and 5-HT<sub>1D</sub> receptors. Rizatriptan has no clinically significant activity at 5-HT<sub>2</sub> or 5-HT<sub>3</sub> receptor subtypes, nor at alpha- and beta-adrenergic, dopaminergic, histaminergic, muscarinic or benzodiazepine receptors.

Rizatriptan acts at craniovascular 5-HT<sub>1B</sub> receptors to cause selective constriction of the extracerebral, intracranial arteries that are thought to be dilated during a migraine attack. Vasodilatation of these arteries and stimulation of trigeminal sensory nervous pain pathways have been postulated to be the most important underlying mechanisms in migraine pathogenesis. In anaesthetised dogs, rizatriptan reduces carotid artery blood flow selectively and has much lesser effects on blood flow in the coronary and pulmonary artery vasculature.

Rizatriptan also inhibits cranial sensory pathways, possibly by acting at peripheral and central inhibitory 5-HT<sub>1D</sub> receptors that are present in animals and humans on trigeminal nerves. When stimulated, these trigeminal nerves release peptides (e.g., substance P, calcitonin gene related peptide and neurokinin A) that can produce vasodilation and inflammation around blood vessels in sensitive tissues, and which relay nociceptive information into the central nervous system. In animals, activation of trigeminal 5-HT<sub>1D</sub> receptors by rizatriptan prevents the release of these peptides, leading to decreased dilation of sensitive blood vessels, decreased inflammation in the dura mater and reduced central pain transmission. These actions may also contribute to the clinical efficacy of rizatriptan in the relief of migraine.

Rizatriptan has only weak partial agonist constrictor effects on human isolated coronary artery segments *in vitro*. This finding is consistent with its lack of activity at 5-HT<sub>2A</sub> receptors, which are known to mediate contraction in these blood vessels.

### **Pharmacodynamic effects**

In healthy young male and female subjects who received maximal doses of rizatriptan (10 mg every 2 hours for three doses), slight increases in blood pressure (approximately 2-3 mmHg) were observed. These small, transient increases in blood pressure were not clinically significant. During long-term monitoring of migraine patients in controlled studies, no consistent effects on blood pressure or heart rate were observed.

At an oral dose of 40 mg, rizatriptan did not alter regional cerebral blood flow or middle cerebral artery blood velocity in healthy male subjects.

In a study in healthy male subjects, rizatriptan 10 mg produced slight, transient peripheral vasoconstriction (measured as a 5.1 mmHg increase in toe-arm systolic blood pressure gradient). In contrast, intravenous ergotamine (0.25 mg) produced a 14.6 mmHg increase in toe-arm systolic blood pressure gradient. When ergotamine and rizatriptan were given together, the increase in toe-arm systolic blood pressure gradient was similar to that when ergotamine was given alone.

Electrocardiographic effects of two 10 mg doses of rizatriptan, separated by 2 hours, were studied in 157 migraine patients (age range 18 to 72 years) during a migraine attack. No evidence of myocardial ischaemia was observed, as defined by standard ECG criteria. No clinically relevant ECG effects were observed.

In a study in healthy male subjects, the effects of rizatriptan, 10 and 15 mg, in a battery of tests of sympathetic reflexes were investigated in comparison to placebo and the sympatholytic drug, clonidine. No effects of rizatriptan on sympathetic reflexes were demonstrated.

## **5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties**

### **Absorption**

Rizatriptan is rapidly and completely absorbed following oral administration. The mean oral bioavailability is approximately 40-45%, and mean peak plasma concentrations (C<sub>max</sub>) are reached in approximately 1 – 1.5 hours (T<sub>max</sub>).

Administration of a 40 mg dose with a high-fat breakfast increased the extent of absorption of rizatriptan (approx.19%), but delayed the absorption by approx. 1 hour. In clinical trials rizatriptan was administered without regard to food with no apparent effect on efficacy. For rizatriptan tablets, T<sub>max</sub> is delayed by approximately 1 hour when the tablets are administered in the fed state. A further delay in the absorption of rizatriptan may occur when the oral lyophilizate is administer after meals.

## Distribution

Rizatriptan is minimally bound (14%) to plasma proteins. The volume of distribution is approximately 140 litres in male subjects, and 110 litres in female subjects.

Studies in rats indicate that rizatriptan crosses the blood-brain barrier to a limited extent.

## Biotransformation

The primary route of rizatriptan metabolism is via oxidative deamination by monoamine oxidase-A (MAO-A) to the indole acetic acid metabolite, which is not pharmacologically active. N-monodesmethyl-rizatriptan, a metabolite with activity similar to that of parent compound at the 5HT<sub>1D</sub> receptor, is formed to a minor degree, but does not contribute significantly to the pharmacodynamic activity of rizatriptan. Plasma concentrations of N-monodesmethyl-rizatriptan are approximately 14% of those of parent compound, and it is eliminated at a similar rate.

Other minor metabolites include the N-oxide, the 6-hydroxy compound, and the sulfate conjugate of the 6-hydroxy metabolite. None of these minor metabolites is pharmacologically active. Following oral administration of <sup>14</sup>C-labelled rizatriptan, rizatriptan accounts for about 17% of circulating plasma radioactivity.

## Elimination

The plasma half-life of rizatriptan in males and females averages 2-3 hours. The pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan are linear in males and nearly linear in females following intravenous doses ≤ 60 mcg/kg. The plasma clearance of rizatriptan averages about 1000-1500 mL/min in males and about 900-1100 mL/min in females; about 20-30% of this is renal clearance. Following an oral dose of <sup>14</sup>C-labelled rizatriptan, about 80% of the radioactivity is excreted in urine, and about 10% of the dose is excreted in faeces. This shows that the metabolites are excreted primarily via the kidneys.

After oral doses of 2.5 to 10 mg, the pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan are nearly linear. Consistent with its first pass metabolism, approximately 14% of an oral dose is excreted in urine as unchanged rizatriptan while 51% is excreted as the indole acetic acid metabolite. No more than 1% is excreted in urine as the active N-monodesmethyl metabolite.

When rizatriptan 10 mg was administered every 2 hours for three doses on four consecutive days, the plasma concentrations of rizatriptan increased within each day, consistent with its  $t_{\frac{1}{2}}$ , but no plasma accumulation of the medicine occurred from day to day.

## Characteristics in patients

**Gender:** The AUC of rizatriptan (10 mg orally) was about 25% lower in males as compared to females;  $C_{max}$  was 11% lower, and  $T_{max}$  occurred at approximately the same time. This apparent pharmacokinetic difference was of no clinical significance.

**Elderly:** The plasma concentrations of rizatriptan observed in elderly subjects (age range 65 to 77 years) were similar to those observed in the young.

**Paediatric population:** A pharmacokinetics study of rizatriptan (as the oral lyophilisates formulation) was conducted in paediatric migraineurs 6 to 17 years of age. The mean exposure following a single dose administration of 5 mg rizatriptan oral lyophilisates to paediatric patients weighing 20 – 39 kg or 10 mg rizatriptan oral lyophilisates to paediatric patients weighing ≥40 kg were respectively 15% lower and 17% higher compared to the exposure observed following single dose administration of 10 mg rizatriptan oral lyophilisates to adults. The clinical relevance of these differences is unclear.

**Hepatic impairment:** Following oral administration in patients with hepatic impairment caused by mild to moderate alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver, plasma concentrations of rizatriptan were similar to those seen in young male and female subjects. A significant increase in AUC (50%) and  $C_{max}$  (25%) was observed in patients with moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh's score 7). Pharmacokinetics were not studied in patients with Child-Pugh's score > 7 (severe hepatic impairment.)

**Renal impairment:** In patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance 10 – 60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>), the AUC of rizatriptan was not significantly different from that in healthy subjects. In haemodialysis patients (creatinine clearance <10 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>), the AUC for rizatriptan was approximately 44% greater than that in patients with normal renal function. The maximal plasma concentration of rizatriptan in patients with all degrees of renal impairment was similar to that in healthy subjects.

**Patients with a migraine attack:** A migraine attack does not affect the pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan.

### 5.3 Preclinical safety data

#### Effects on fertility

In a fertility study in rats, altered oestrus cyclicity and delays in time to mating were observed in females treated orally with 100 mg/kg/day rizatriptan. Plasma drug exposure (AUC) at this dose was approximately 215 times the exposure in humans receiving the maximum recommended daily dose (MRDD) of 30 mg. The no-effect dose was 10 mg/kg/day (approximately 15 times the human exposure at the MRDD). There were no other fertility related effects in the female rats. There was no impairment of fertility or reproductive performance in male rats treated with up to 250 mg/kg/day (approximately 530 times the human exposure at the MRDD).

#### Genotoxicity

Rizatriptan, with and without metabolic activation, was neither genotoxic, mutagenic, nor clastogenic in all *in vitro* and *in vivo* genetic toxicity studies, including: microbial mutagenesis, *in vitro* chromosome aberration assays, *in vitro* V-79 mammalian cell mutagenesis assays, an *in vitro* alkaline elution/rat hepatocyte assay, and an *in vivo* chromosome aberration assay in mouse bone marrow.

#### Carcinogenicity

The carcinogenic potential of rizatriptan was evaluated in a 106 week study in rats and a 100 week study in mice at oral doses of up to 125 mg/kg/day. Exposure data were not obtained in those studies, but plasma AUC's of the parent drug were measured in other studies and indicate that exposures to the parent drug at the highest dose level would have been approximately 150 times (mice) and 240 times (rats) average AUC's measured in humans after three 10 mg doses, the maximum recommended daily dose. There was no evidence of an increase in tumour incidence related to rizatriptan in either species.

---

## 6. Pharmaceutical Particulars

---

### 6.1 List of excipients

Rizamelt 10 mg orodispersible tablets also contain:

- colloidal anhydrous silica
- crospovidone
- mannitol
- microcrystalline cellulose
- magnesium stearate
- guar gum
- aspartame
- peppermint flavour.

Contains aspartame.

### 6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

2 years

### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Store at or below 25°C.

### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

RIZAMELT 10 mg orodispersible tablets are available in:

Cold form blister strips. Pack size of 12 and 30 tablets.

HDPE bottle with PP cap and silica desiccant. Pack of 30 tablets.

DO NOT EAT the desiccant or the cotton wool ball contained in the bottle pack.

Not all pack types or pack sizes may be marketed.

### **6.6 Special precautions for disposal**

Not applicable.

---

## **7. Medicines Schedule**

---

Prescription Medicine

---

## **8. Sponsor Details**

---

Viatris Ltd  
PO Box 11-183  
Ellerslie  
AUCKLAND  
[www.viatris.co.nz](http://www.viatris.co.nz)  
Telephone 0800 168 169

---

## **9. Date of First Approval**

---

21 October 2010

---

## **10. Date of Revision of the Text**

---

08 December 2022

---

<b>Section Changed</b>	<b>Summary of new information</b>
Header	Updated sponsor name and logo.
2, 6.4	Minor editorial change.
4.2	Updated pictogram.
6.1	Removed lactose and gluten free statement. Added statement: Contains aspartame. Minor editorial change.
8	Updated sponsor details.