

Rx This drug should be used only under prescription

# HYMNON Hard capsule

## Hydroxyurea 500 mg



Keep out of reach of children  
Read Usage & Administration carefully before using.  
For any more information, please consult your doctor.

### COMPOSITION

Each hard capsule contains:

Hydroxyurea

Excipients: Dibasic sodium phosphate, anhydrous citric acid, silicon dioxide, sodium lauryl sulfate, magnesium stearate.

### PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Hard capsule.

Each hard capsule, with pink-colored cap and green-colored body, imprinted with "UT" and "H500" is filled with white to off-white powder.

### INDICATIONS

The treatment of chronic myeloid leukaemia.  
The treatment of cancer of the cervix in conjunction with radiotherapy.

### DOSEAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### Dosage

##### Adults

Treatment regimens can be continuous or intermittent. The continuous regimen is particularly suitable for chronic myeloid leukaemia, while the intermittent regimen, with its diminished effect on the bone marrow, is more satisfactory for the management of cancer of the cervix.  
Hydroxyurea should be started 7 days before concurrent irradiation therapy. If hydroxyurea is used concomitantly with radiotherapy, adjustment of radiation dosage is not usually necessary.

An adequate trial period for determining the antineoplastic effect of hydroxyurea is six weeks. Where there is a significant clinical response therapy may be continued indefinitely, provided that the patient is kept under adequate observation and shows no unusual or severe reactions. Therapy should be interrupted if the white cell count drops below  $2.5 \times 10^9/L$  or the platelet count below  $100 \times 10^9/L$ . In these cases, the counts should be reevaluated after three days and therapy resumed when the counts return to acceptable levels. Hematopoietic rebound is usually rapid. If rapid rebound has not occurred during combined hydroxyurea and irradiation therapy, irradiation may also be interrupted. Anaemia, even if severe, can be managed without interrupting hydroxyurea therapy.

Severe gastric distress, such as nausea, vomiting, and anorexia, resulting from combined therapy may usually be controlled by interruption of hydroxyurea administration. Pain or discomfort from inflammation of the mucous membranes at the irradiated site (mucositis) is usually controlled by measures such as topical anaesthetics and orally administered analgesics. If the reaction is severe, hydroxyurea therapy may be temporarily interrupted; if it is extremely severe, irradiation dosage may, in addition, be temporarily postponed.

##### Continuous therapy

Hydroxyurea 20-30 mg/kg should be given daily in single doses. Dosage should be based on the patient's actual or ideal weight, whichever is the less. Therapy should be monitored by repeat blood counts.

##### Intermittent therapy

Hydroxyurea 80 mg/kg in single doses should be given every third day. Using the intermittent regimen the likelihood of WBC depression is diminished, but if low counts are produced, 1 or more doses of hydroxyurea should be omitted.

Concomitant use of hydroxyurea with other myelosuppressive agents may require adjustment of dosages.

### Special Populations

#### Children

Because of the rarity of these conditions in children, dosage regimens have not been established.

#### Elderly

Elderly patients may be more sensitive to the effects of hydroxyurea, and may require a lower dosage regimen.

#### Renal Impairment

Since renal excretion is a pathway of elimination, consideration should be given to decreasing the dosage of hydroxyurea in this population.

### Method of administration

#### For oral use.

If the patient prefers, or is unable to swallow capsules, the contents of the capsules may be emptied into a glass of water and taken immediately. The contents of capsules should not be inhaled or allowed to come into contact with the skin or mucous membranes. Spillages must be wiped immediately.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity to hydroxyurea or to any of the excipients.  
Marked leucopenia ( $<2.5 \times 10^9/L$ ), thrombocytopenia ( $<100 \times 10^9/L$ ), or severe anaemia.

### SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

The complete status of the blood, including bone marrow examination, if indicated, as well as kidney function and liver function should be determined prior to, and repeatedly during, treatment. If bone marrow function is depressed, treatment with hydroxyurea should not be initiated. The determination of haemoglobin level, total leucocyte counts, and platelet counts should be performed at least once a week throughout the course of hydroxyurea therapy. If WBC falls below  $2.5 \times 10^9/L$  or platelet count to  $<100 \times 10^9/L$ , therapy should be interrupted. Counts should be rechecked after 3 days and treatment resumed when they rise significantly towards normal.

Hydroxyurea may produce bone marrow suppression, and leucopenia is generally its first and most common manifestation. Thrombocytopenia and anaemia occur less often and are seldom seen without a preceding leucopenia. Bone marrow depression is more likely in patients who have previously received radiotherapy or cytotoxic cancer chemotherapeutic agents; use hydroxyurea cautiously in such patients. The recovery from myelosuppression is usually rapid when therapy is interrupted.

Severe anaemia must be corrected before initiating therapy with hydroxyurea. If, during treatment, anaemia occurs, correct without interrupting hydroxyurea therapy. Erythrocytic abnormalities, megaloblastic erythropoiesis, which is self-limiting, is often seen early in the course of hydroxyurea therapy. The morphologic change resembles pernicious anaemia, but is not related to vitamin B12 or folic acid deficiency. The macrocytosis may mask the incidental development of folic acid deficiency; require determination of serum folic acid and replacement. Hydroxyurea may also decrease folic acid levels and reduce the rate of folic acid utilization by erythrocytes but it does not appear to alter the red blood cell survival time.

Patients who have received irradiation therapy in the past may have an exacerbation of postirradiation erythema.

Hydroxyurea should be used with caution in patients with marked renal dysfunction.

Hydroxyurea is not licensed for use in combination with antiretroviral agents for HIV disease and it may cause treatment failure and toxicities (in some cases fatal) in HIV patients.

In patients receiving long-term therapy with hydroxyurea for myeloproliferative disorders, such as polycythemia, secondary leukaemia has been reported. It is unknown whether this leukemogenic effect is secondary to hydroxyurea or associated with the patient's underlying disease. Skin cancer has also been reported in patients receiving long-term hydroxyurea. Patients should be advised to protect skin from sun exposure, conduct self-inspection of the skin and be screened for secondary malignancies during routine follow-up visits.

Cutaneous vasculitic toxicities including vasculitic ulcerations and gangrene have occurred in patients with myeloproliferative disorders during therapy with hydroxyurea. The risk of vasculitic toxicities is increased in patients who receive prior or concomitant interferon therapy. Due to potentially severe clinical outcomes for the cutaneous vasculitic ulcers reported in patients with myeloproliferative disorders, hydroxyurea should be discontinued if cutaneous vasculitic ulcerations develop and alternative cytoreductive agents should be initiated.

The possibility of an increase in serum uric acid, resulting in the development of gout or, at worst, uric acid nephropathy, should be borne in mind in patients treated with hydroxyurea, especially when used with other cytotoxic agents. It is therefore important to monitor uric acid levels regularly and maintain a high fluid intake during treatment.

Vaccinations: Concomitant use of hydroxyurea with a live virus vaccine may potentiate the replication of the vaccine virus and/or may increase some of the adverse reactions of the vaccine virus because normal defence mechanisms may be suppressed by hydroxyurea. Vaccination with a live vaccine in a patient taking hydroxyurea may result in severe infection. The patient's antibody response to vaccines may be decreased. The use of live vaccines should be avoided during treatment and for at least six months after treatment has finished.

### USE IN PREGNANCY AND BREAST-FEEDING WOMEN

#### Pregnancy

Drugs which affect DNA synthesis, such as hydroxyurea, may be potential mutagenic agents. The physician should carefully consider this possibility before administering this drug to male or female patients who may contemplate conception. Hydroxyurea is a known teratogenic agent in animals. Therefore, hydroxyurea should not be used in women who are or may become pregnant unless in the judgement of the physician the potential benefits outweigh the possible hazards.

#### Lactation

Hydroxyurea is distributed into the milk. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions to hydroxyurea in nursing infants, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug to avoid the possibility of breast-feeding the infant.

When appropriate both male and female patients should be counselled concerning the use of contraceptive measures before and during treatment with hydroxyurea.

### EFFECTS ON THE ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINERY

Hydroxyurea may cause drowsiness. Patients receiving it should not drive or operate machinery unless it has been shown not to affect physical or mental ability.

### DRUG INTERACTIONS

The myelosuppressive activity may be potentiated by previous or concomitant radiotherapy or cytotoxic therapy. Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis has occurred in HIV-infected patients during therapy with hydroxyurea and didanosine, with or without stavudine. Hepatotoxicity and hepatic failure resulting in death were reported during post-marketing surveillance in HIV-infected patients treated with hydroxyurea and other antiretroviral agents. Fatal hepatic events were reported most often in patients treated with the combination of hydroxyurea, didanosine and stavudine. This combination should be avoided. Peripheral neuropathy, which was severe in some cases, has been reported in HIV-infected patients receiving hydroxyurea in combination with antiretroviral agents, including didanosine, with or without stavudine.

Studies have shown that there is an analytical interference of hydroxyurea with the enzymes (urease, uricase, and lactic dehydrogenase) used in the determination of urea, uric acid and lactic acid, rendering falsely elevated results of these in patients treated with hydroxyurea. Vaccinations: There is an increased risk of severe fatal infections with the concomitant use of live vaccines. Live vaccines are not recommended in immunosuppressed patients.

### ADVERSE REACTIONS (ADR)

Bone marrow suppression is the major toxic effect of hydroxyurea.  
Cutaneous vasculitic toxicities including vasculitic ulcerations and gangrene have occurred in patients with myeloproliferative disorders during therapy with hydroxyurea. The risk of vasculitic toxicities is increased in patients who receive prior or concomitant interferon therapy.

In some patients, hypopigmentation, atrophy of skin and nails, scaling, violet papules and alopecia have been observed following several years of long-term daily maintenance therapy with hydroxyurea.

Cases of fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis and hepatotoxicity and severe peripheral neuropathy have been observed in HIV-infected patients when hydroxyurea was administered with antiretroviral agents, particularly didanosine plus stavudine. Patients treated with hydroxyurea in combination with didanosine, stavudine and indinavir showed a median decline in CD4 cells of approximately 100/mm<sup>3</sup>.

Adverse reactions observed with combined hydroxyurea and irradiation therapy were similar to those reported with the use of hydroxyurea alone, primarily bone marrow depression (leucopenia and anaemia) and gastric irritation. Near all patients receiving an adequate course of combined hydroxyurea and irradiation therapy will develop leucopenia. Decreased platelet counts ( $<100,000/mm^3$ ) have occurred rarely and usually in the presence of marked leucopenia. Hydroxyurea may potentiate some adverse reactions usually seen with irradiation alone, such as gastric distress and mucositis.

#### Very common (ADR: $>1/10$ )

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Bone marrow failure, CD4 lymphocytes decreased, leucopenia, thrombocytopenia, platelet count decreased, anaemia, Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders: Anaemia

Gastrointestinal Disorders: Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomatitis, constipation, mucositis, stomach discomfort, dyspepsia, abdominal pain, melana

Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Cutaneous vasculitis, dermatomyositis, alopecia, rash maculo-papular, rash papular, skin exfoliation, skin atrophy, skin ulcer, erythema, skin hypopigmentation, nail disorder

Renal and Urinary Disorders: Dysuria, blood creatinine increased, blood urea increased, blood uric acid increased

General Disorders: Pyrexia, asthenia, chills, malaise Reproductive system: azoospermia, oligospermia

Common (1/100 to ADR:  $<1/10$ )

Neoplasms Benign and Malignant (including cysts and polyps): Skin cancer

Psychiatric Disorders: Hallucinations, disorientation

Nervous System Disorders: Convulsion, dizziness, peripheral neuropathy, somnolence, headache

Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Pulmonary fibrosis, pulmonary oedema, lung

Inflammation, dyspnoea

Hepatobiliary Disorders: Hepatotoxicity, hepatic enzyme increased, cholestasis, hepatitis

Rare (1/1000 to ADR:  $<1/1000$ )

Infections and Infestations: Gangrene

\*Fatal and non-fatal pancreatitis and hepatotoxicity and severe peripheral neuropathy have been reported in HIV-infected patients who received hydroxyurea in combination with antiretroviral agents, in particular didanosine plus stavudine.

Inform your doctor in case of any adverse reactions related to the drug use.

### OVERDOSE AND TREATMENT

Symptoms: Acute mucocutaneous toxicity has been reported in patients receiving hydroxyurea at dosages several times the therapeutic dose. Sores, violet erythema, edema on palms and soles followed by scaling of hands and feet, severe generalized hyperpigmentation of the skin, and stomatitis have also been observed.

Treatment: Immediate treatment consists of gastric lavage, followed by supportive therapy for the cardiorespiratory systems if required. In the long term, careful monitoring of the haemopoietic system is essential and, if necessary, blood should be transfused.

### PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES

Hydroxyurea is the first clinically available derivative of urea to show antineoplastic activity. Hydroxyurea inhibits the synthesis of DNA without interfering with the synthesis of RNA or protein. The main mechanism of its action is the inhibition of the incorporation of thymidine into DNA. In addition, it may directly damage DNA.

Hydroxyurea destroys the tyrosyl free radical that is formed as the catalytic center of ribonucleoside diphosphate reductase. This enzyme catalyzes the reductive conversion of ribonucleosides to deoxyribonucleosides; this conversion is a critical and probably rate-limiting step in the synthesis of DNA. The drug as a 5-phosphate inhibitor may cause cells to arrest at the G1-S border, decrease the rate of cell progression into the S phase, and/or cause cells to accumulate in the S phase as a result of inhibiting DNA synthesis.

The cytotoxic effects of hydroxyurea are limited to those tissues with high rates of cellular proliferation and the effects are evident only in those cells that are actively synthesizing DNA. Hydroxyurea can stimulate production and increase concentration of fetal hemoglobin (Hb F) and thus potentially reduce sickling of red blood cells. This drug neither cures nor has any role in the treatment of progressive painful crises; it only has the palliative treatment of polyphlebotomy veins, including use as an adjunct to intermittent phlebotomy, because this drug has effects to inhibit the bone marrow and to reduce the excess production of platelets and red blood cells.

### PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTIES

Hydroxyurea is readily absorbed from the GI tract, peak serum concentrations are attained within 1-4 hours following oral administration. Blood concentrations decline rapidly and there is no cumulative effect with repeated administration.

Hydroxyurea distributed rapidly throughout the body and concentrates in leukocytes, erythrocytes. The estimated volume of distribution of the drug approximates total body water. Hydroxyurea crosses the blood-brain barrier; peak hydroxyurea CSF concentrations are attained within 3 hours following oral administration. The drug distributes into ascites fluid, resulting in drug concentrations in ascites fluid of 2-7.5 times less than plasma drug concentrations. The drug is also distributed in milk.

Up to 50% of an orally administered dose of hydroxyurea is metabolized in the liver. A minor metabolic pathway may involve degradation of the drug by urease, an enzyme produced by intestinal bacteria, acetylhydroxamic acid, possibly resulting from the breakdown of hydroxyurea by urease. Studies with 14C-labelled hydroxyurea indicate that about one-half of an orally administered dose is degraded in the liver and is excreted as respiratory carbon dioxide and in urine as urea. The remaining portion of the drug is excreted intact in urine. Mean cumulative urinary excretion of 62% of the administered dose at 8 hours and 80% of the administered dose at 12 hours. Elimination of hydroxyurea may be impaired in patients with renal and/or hepatic dysfunction.

### PACKAGE

10 Hard capsules/ Blister x 10 Blister/ Al-Foil Bag/ Box.

### STORAGE

Store at room temperature not exceeding 30°C, protected from light.

### SHELF-LIFE

36 months from manufacturing date.

Do not exceed the expired date for use printed on the box.

### SPECIFICATION

#### USE

#### NAME, ADDRESS OF MANUFACTURER.

Manufactured by:

YSSSEI LIMITED PHARM, INC.

