

Kliogest®

Film-coated tablets

Each film-coated tablet contains:
Estradiol 2 mg (as estradiol hemihydrate).

Norethisterone acetate 1 mg.

Tablet core contains:

Lactose monohydrate, maize starch, hydroxypropylcellulose, talc and magnesium stearate.

Film-coating:

Hypromellose, triacetin and talc. The tablets are white, film-coated, biconvex tablets and engraved with NOVO 281. Diameter 6 mm.

Manufacturer

Novo Nordisk A/S
Novo Allé
DK-2880 Bagsværd, Denmark

Therapeutic indications

Hormone Replacement Therapy (HRT) for oestrogen deficiency symptoms in postmenopausal women with more than 1 year since last menses.

Prevention of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women at high risk of future fractures who are intolerant of, or contraindicated for, other medicinal products approved for the prevention of osteoporosis (see also *Special warnings and precautions for use*).

The experience treating women older than 65 years is limited.

Posology and method of administration

Kliogest® is a continuous combined hormone replacement product intended for use in women with an intact uterus. One tablet should be taken orally once a day without interruption, preferably at the same time every day.

For initiation and continuation of treatment of postmenopausal symptoms, the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration (see also *Special warnings and precautions for use*) should be used.

In women with amenorrhoea and not taking HRT or women transferring from another continuous combined HRT product, treatment with Kliogest® may be started on any convenient day. In women transferring from sequential HRT regimen, treatment should start right after their withdrawal bleeding has ended.

If the patient has forgotten to take a tablet, the tablet should be taken as soon as possible within the next 12 hours. If more than 12 hours have passed, the tablet should be discarded. Forgetting a dose may increase the likelihood of breakthrough bleeding and spotting.

Contraindications

- Known, past or suspected breast cancer
- Known, past or suspected oestrogen-dependent malignant tumours (e.g. endometrial cancer)
- Undiagnosed genital bleeding
- Untreated endometrial hyperplasia
- Previous or current venous thromboembolism (deep venous thrombosis, pulmonary embolism)
- Known thrombophilic disorders (e.g. protein C, protein S or antithrombin deficiency (see *Special warnings and precautions for use*))
- Active or previous arterial thromboembolic disease (e.g. angina, myocardial infarction)
- Acute liver disease or a history of liver disease as long as liver function tests have failed to return to normal
- Known hypersensitivity to the active substances or to any of the excipients
- Porphyria.

Special warnings and precautions for use

For the treatment of postmenopausal symptoms, HRT should only be initiated for symptoms that adversely affect quality of life. In all cases, a careful appraisal of the risks and benefits should be undertaken at least annually and HRT should only be continued as long as the benefit outweighs the risk.

Medical examination/follow-up
Before initiating or reinstating HRT, a complete personal and family medical history should be taken.

Physical (including pelvic and breast) examination should be guided by this and by the contraindications and warnings for use. During treatment, periodic check-ups are recommended of a frequency and nature adapted to the individual woman. Women should be advised what changes in their breasts should be reported to their doctor or nurse (see *Breast cancer* below). Investigations, including appropriate imaging tools, e.g. mammography,

should be carried out in accordance with currently accepted screening practices and modified to the clinical needs of the individual.

Conditions which need supervision

If any of the following conditions are present, have occurred previously, and/or have been aggravated during pregnancy or previous hormone treatment, the patient should be closely supervised. It should be taken into account that these conditions may recur or be aggravated during treatment with Kliogest®, in particular:

- Leiomyoma (uterine fibroids) or endometriosis
- Risk factors for thromboembolic disorders (see below)
- Risk factors for oestrogen dependent tumours, e.g. 1st degree heredity for breast cancer
- Hypertension
- Liver disorders (e.g. liver adenoma)
- Diabetes mellitus with or without vascular involvement
- Cholelithiasis
- Migraine or (severe) headache
- Systemic lupus erythematosus
- A history of endometrial hyperplasia (see below)
- Epilepsy
- Asthma
- Otosclerosis.

Reasons for immediate withdrawal of therapy
Therapy should be discontinued in case a contraindication is discovered and in the following situations:

- Jaundice or deterioration in liver function
- Significant increase in blood pressure
- New onset of migraine-type headache
- Pregnancy.

Endometrial hyperplasia and carcinoma

In women with an intact uterus, the risk of endometrial hyperplasia and carcinoma is increased when oestrogens are administered alone for prolonged periods. The reported increase in endometrial cancer risk among oestrogen-only users varies from 2- to 12-fold greater compared with non-users, depending on the duration of the treatment and oestrogen dose (see *Undesirable effects*).

After stopping treatment, the risk may remain elevated for a number of years. In some studies the risk remained elevated more than 10 years off oestrogen.

The addition of a progestagen cyclically for at least 12 days per month/28 day cycle or continuous combined oestrogen-progestagen therapy in non-hysterectomised women prevents the excess risk associated with oestrogen-only HRT. Breakthrough bleeding and spotting may occur during the first months of treatment. If breakthrough bleeding or spotting continues after the first months of treatment, appears after some time during therapy, or continues after treatment has been discontinued, the reason should be investigated, which may include endometrial biopsy to exclude endometrial malignancy.

Breast cancer

The overall evidence suggests an increased risk of breast cancer in women taking combined oestrogen-progestagen, and possibly also oestrogen-only HRT that is dependent on the duration of taking HRT. The randomised placebo-controlled trial, the Women's Health Initiative study (WHI), and epidemiological studies are consistent in finding an increased risk of breast cancer in women taking combined oestrogen-progestagen HRT, (see *Undesirable effects*).

The excess risk becomes apparent after about 3 years of use, but returns to baseline within a few (at most 5) years after stopping treatment. HRT, especially oestrogen-progestagen combined treatment, increases the density of mammographic images which may adversely affect the radiological detection of breast cancer.

Ovarian cancer

Ovarian cancer is much rarer than breast cancer. Long-term (at least 5-10 years) use of oestrogen-only HRT products has been associated with a slightly increased risk of ovarian cancer (see *Undesirable effects*). Some studies, including the WHI trial, suggest that the long-term use of combined HRTs may confer a similar or slightly smaller risk (see *Undesirable effects*).

8-2850-00-002-1

Venous thromboembolism

HRT is associated with a 1.3- to 3-fold risk of developing venous thromboembolism (VTE), i.e. deep vein thrombosis or pulmonary embolism. The occurrence of such an event is more likely in the first year of HRT than later (see *Undesirable effects*).

Patients with known thrombophilic states have an increased risk of VTE and HRT may add to this risk. HRT is therefore contraindicated in these patients (see *Contraindications*). Generally recognised risk factors for VTE include use of oestrogens, older age, major surgery, prolonged immobilisation, obesity (BMI > 30 kg/m²), pregnancy/postpartum period, systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) and cancer. There is no consensus about the possible role of varicose veins in VTE.

As in all postoperative patients, prophylactic measures need to be considered to prevent VTE following surgery. If prolonged immobilisation is to follow elective surgery, temporarily stopping HRT 4 to 6 weeks earlier is recommended. Treatment should not be restarted until the woman is completely mobilised.

In women with no personal history of VTE but with a first degree relative with a history of thrombosis at a young age, screening may be offered after careful counselling regarding its limitations (only a proportion of thrombophilic defects are identified by screening). If a thrombophilic defect is identified which segregates with thrombosis in family members or if the defect is 'severe' (e.g. antithrombin, protein S or protein C deficiencies or a combination of defects), HRT is contraindicated.

Women already on chronic anticoagulant treatment require careful consideration of the benefit-risk of use of HRT.

If VTE develops after initiating therapy, the drug should be discontinued.

Patients should be told to contact their doctors immediately when they are aware of a potential thromboembolic symptom (e.g. painful swelling of a leg, sudden pain in the chest, dyspnoea).

Coronary artery disease (CAD)

There is no evidence from randomised controlled trials of protection against myocardial infarction in women with or without existing CAD who received combined oestrogen-progestagen or oestrogen-only HRT.

The relative risk of CAD due to use of combined oestrogen-progestagen HRT is slightly increased. As the baseline absolute risk of CAD is strongly dependent on age, the number of extra cases of CAD due to oestrogen-progestagen use is very low in healthy women close to menopause, but will rise with more advanced age.

Ischaemic stroke
Combined oestrogen-progestagen and oestrogen-only therapy are associated with an up to 1.5-fold increase in risk of ischaemic stroke. The relative risk does not change with age or time since menopause.

However, as the baseline risk of stroke is strongly age-dependent, the overall risk of stroke in women who use HRT will increase with age (see *Undesirable effects*).

Other conditions

Oestrogens may cause fluid retention, and therefore patients with cardiac or renal dysfunction should be carefully observed.

Women with pre-existing hypertriglyceridaemia should be followed closely during oestrogen replacement or hormone replacement therapy, since rare cases of large increases of plasma triglycerides leading to pancreatitis have been reported with oestrogen therapy in this condition.

Oestrogens increase thyroid binding globulin (TBG), leading to increased circulating total thyroid hormone, as measured by protein-bound iodine (PBI), T4 levels (by column or by radioimmunoassay) or T3 levels (by radioimmunoassay). T3 resin uptake is decreased, reflecting the elevated TBG.

Free T4 and free T3 concentrations are unaltered.

Other binding proteins may be elevated in serum, i.e. corticoid binding globulin (CBG), sex-hormone-binding globulin (SHBG) leading to increased circulating corticosteroids and sex steroids, respectively. Free or biological active hormone concentrations are unchanged.

Other plasma proteins may be increased (angiotensinogen/renin substrate, alpha₁-antitrypsin, ceruloplasmin).

HRT use does not improve cognitive function. There is some evidence of increased risk of probable dementia in women who start using continuous combined or oestrogen-only HRT after the age of 65.

Kliogest® tablets contain lactose monohydrate. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency, or glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take this medicine.

Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

The metabolism of oestrogens and progestagens may be increased by concomitant use of substances known to induce drug-metabolising enzymes, specifically cytochrome P450 enzymes, such as anticonvulsants (e.g. phenobarbital, phenytoin, carbamazepin) and anti-infectives (e.g. rifampicin, rifabutin, nevirapine, efavirenz).

Ritonavir and nelfinavir, although known as strong inhibitors, by contrast exhibit inducing properties when used concomitantly with steroid hormones. Herbal preparations containing St John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*) may induce the metabolism of oestrogens and progestagens.

Clinically, an increased metabolism of oestrogens and progestagens may lead to decreased effect and changes in the uterine bleeding profile.

Drugs that inhibit the activity of hepatic microsomal drug metabolising enzymes e.g. ketoconazole, may increase circulating levels of the active substances in Kliogest®.

Concomitant administration of cyclosporine may cause increased blood levels of cyclosporine, creatinine and transaminases due to decreased metabolism of cyclosporine in the liver.

Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Kliogest® is not indicated during pregnancy.

If pregnancy occurs during medication with Kliogest®, treatment should be withdrawn immediately.

Clinically data on a limited number of exposed pregnancies indicate adverse effects of norethisterone on the foetus. At doses higher than normally used in OC and HRT formulations, masculinisation of female foetuses was observed.

The results of most epidemiological studies to date relevant to inadvertent foetal exposure to combinations of oestrogens and progestagens indicate no teratogenic or foetotoxic effect.

Lactation

Kliogest® is not indicated during lactation.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Kliogest® has no known effect on the ability to drive or use machines.

Undesirable effects

Clinical experience

The most frequently reported adverse events in the clinical trials with Kliogest® were vaginal bleedings and breast pain/tenderness, reported in approximately 10% to 30% of patients. Vaginal bleedings usually occurred in the first months of treatment. Breast pain usually disappeared after a few months of therapy. All adverse events observed in the randomised clinical trials with a higher frequency in patients treated with Kliogest® or similar HRT products as compared to placebo and which on an overall judgement are possibly related to treatment are presented in the table below.

Very common: ≥1/10

Reproductive system and breast disorders:

- Breast pain or breast tenderness
- Vaginal haemorrhage

Common: ≥1/100; <1/10

Infections and infestations:

- Genital candidiasis or vaginitis (see also *Reproductive system and breast disorders*)

Metabolism and nutrition disorders:

- Fluid retention (see also *General disorders and administration site conditions*)

Psychiatric disorders:

- Depression or depression aggravated

Nervous system disorders:

- Headache, migraine or migraine aggravated

Gastrointestinal disorders:

- Nausea
- Abdominal pain
- Abdominal distension or abdominal discomfort

Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders:

- Back pain
- Leg cramps



