TAVANIC® 500 mg

levofloxacin

Film-coated scored tablet

sanofi aventis

IDENTIFICATION OF THE MEDICINE

Composition

Active substance:

1 film-coated tablet contains 512.5 mg of levofloxacin hemihydrate, equivalent to 500 mg of levofloxacin.

Other ingredients:

crospovidone, hypromellose, microcrystalline cellulose, sodium stearyl fumarate, macrogol 8000, talc; colorants: titanium dioxide (E 171), iron oxide hydrate (E 172) and red iron oxide (E 172).

Pharmaceutical form and presentation

The film-coated tablets for oral use are available in packs with 5,7, and 10 units and in hospital packs with 200 units (20 x 10).

Pharmaco-therapeutic class

Tavanic is a broad-spectrum antibiotic in the quinolone group. Its active substance is levofloxacin. Tavanic is active in destroying many types of bacteria.

WHEN THIS MEDICINE SHOULD BE USED?

Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablets are taken in adults to treat mild to moderate bacterial infections caused by levofloxacin-sensitive bacteria, such as:

- acute sinusitis (inflammation of one or more paranasal sinuses),
- inflammation of the lower airways: acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis or community-acquired pneumonia,
- complicated urinary tract infections (including kidney infections),
- chronic bacterial inflammation of the prostate (prostatitis),
- skin and soft tissue infections.

ATTENTION!

WHEN THIS MEDICINE SHOULD NOT BE USED

IF IN DOUBT, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST FOR ADVICE

Do not take Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablets if you have any of the following disorders or if you are in one of the following patient categories, since the drug would probably do more harm than good:

- patients with hypersensitivity (allergy) to levofloxacin, to any other quinolone, or to any of the other ingredients,
- patients who suffer from seizures, (epilepsy),
- patients who have experienced tendon disorders after using quinolones,
- children or growing adolescents,
- patients who are pregnant,
- patients who are breast-feeding.

Special warnings and special precautions for use

IF IN DOUBT, IT IS ESSENTIAL TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST FOR ADVICE.

In patients with very severe pneumococcal lung inflammation, Tavanic may not be the best treatment. In hospital-acquired infections caused by certain agents (P.aeruginosa), combination therapy may be required.

In rare cases, Tavanic can cause tendinitis. The Achilles tendon is most frequently affected and tendon rupture may occur. The risk of tendinitis or tendon rupture is higher in the elderly and in patients receiving corticosteroids ("cortisone drugs"). If you have any suspicion of tendinitis (e.g. tendon pain), immediately seek medical advice, stop Tavanic treatment, and treat the affected tendon appropriately, for example by resting (see also "Contraindications" and "Undesirable effects").

The risk of seizures may be higher during Tavanic treatment in patients with a history of brain damage, for example due to stroke or severe injury. You should therefore fully inform your doctor of any previous diseases you have had. If you have epilepsy, you must not be treated with Tavanic.

Seizures are more likely during concomitant treatment with fenbufen or similar nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, or with theophyllin (see also "Interactions with other medicinal products").

Although photosensitization (hypersensitivity to light with sunburn-like reactions) has only been reported very rarely while using levofloxacin, patients should avoid unnecessary exposure to sunlight or artificial UV rays (e.g. sunlamp, sunbed), to prevent photosensitization.

Inform your doctor immediately if you experience severe, persistent, and/or bloody diarrhea during or following Tavanic treatment. This could indicate severe inflammation of the intestine (enterocolitis) induced by the antibiotic treatment. If pseudomembranous colitis is suspected, Tavanic must be stopped immediately and appropriate treatment begun. In such cases, drugs that inhibit intestine contractions must not be used. The dose must be adjusted in patients with impaired kidney function.

Patients with glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (a hereditary metabolic disorder) may show a breakdown of red blood cells (hemolysis) when treated with quinolones. Levofloxacin should therefore be used with caution in these patients.

Coagulation parameters and the tendency to bleed may be increased in patients receiving simultaneous treatment with oral anticoagulants (such as warfarin). Coagulation parameters should therefore be monitored (see also "Interaction with other medicinal products").

Psychotic reactions have been reported during treatment with quinolones, including levofloxacin. Very rarely they may result in suicidal thoughts and self-destructive behavior, occasionally even after a single dose of levofloxacin. If such reactions occur, stop the treatment and inform your doctor, who will take suitable measures and decide on further treatment. Special care should be taken if levofloxacin is used in psychotic patients or those with a history of psychiatric disorders.

Drug interactions and other interactions

IN ORDER TO PREVENT POSSIBLE INTERACTIONS BETWEEN SEVERAL MEDICINES, YOU MUST SYSTEMATICALLY INFORM YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST IF YOU ARE TAKING ANY OTHER MEDICINES.

A significant increase in the tendency for seizures has been reported when quinolones are taken at the same time as substances that lower the cerebral seizure threshold (e.g. theophyllin). This also applies to concomitant administration of quinolones and fenbufen or comparable nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs (agents used to treat rheumatic diseases and pain). The effect of Tavanic is significantly decreased if you are taking sucralfate (drug that protects stomach mucosa) at the same time. This is also true if you take antacids containing magnesium or aluminum (drugs used to treat heartburn or stomach pain) or iron salts (to treat anemia). Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablets should be taken at least two hours before or after taking such drugs. The elimination (kidney clearance) of levofloxacin is slightly reduced by cimetidine and probenecid. However, these interactions are unlikely to be clinically significant. Nevertheless, caution is required if levofloxacin is taken together with drugs that inhibit a particular excretion route (tubular secretion), such as probenecid and cimetidine. This is particularly true in patients with kidney failure. The half-life of cyclosporine was found to be slightly longer during concomitant administration of levofloxacin. In patients treated with Tavanic at the same time as certain anticoagulants (oral anticoagulants such as warfarin), longer coagulation times and/or bleeding were observed. This bleeding may also be severe. Consequently, coagulation parameters (INR or prothrombin time) should be monitored in patients treated with oral anticoagulants.

Pregnancy-Lactation

As there are no relevant data in human subjects and due to possible damage by quinolone to joint cartilage during growth, Tavanic must not be taken when pregnant or breast-feeding. If you discover you are pregnant during Tavanic treatment, inform your doctor.

Children and the elderly

Tavanic must not be used in children or adolescents, since damage to joint cartilage cannot be ruled out. Special care should be taken in elderly patients, since they often have impaired kidney function (see "Dosage, method and duration of administration").

Drivers and machine operators

Some of the side effects of Tavanic, such as light-headedness/dizziness, drowsiness, visual disorders (see also "Undesirable effects"), may affect your ability to concentrate and react. This may be a risk in situations where this ability is particularly important (e.g. driving, using machines, or working without a safe footing). These effects are stronger in combination with alcohol.

HOW TO USE THIS MEDICINE?

Dosage

Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablets are taken once or twice daily. The dosage depends on the type and severity of the infection and the susceptibility of the suspected causative agents. The dosage must not be changed without your doctor's approval. Please follow the instructions for use, because otherwise Tavanic might not work properly. The following dosages are recommended for patients with normal kidney function (creatinine clearance more than 50 ml/min):

- **sinusitis (inflammation of the paranasal sinuses):** one Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once daily (equivalent to 500 mg of levofloxacin).
- **acute exacerbation of chronic bronchitis:** 1/2 Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once daily (equivalent to 250 mg of levofloxacin) or one Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once daily (equivalent to 500 mg of levofloxacin).
- **pneumonia:** one Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once or twice daily (equivalent to 500 to 1000 mg of levofloxacin).
- **urinary tract infections:** 1/2 Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once daily (equivalent to 250 mg of levofloxacin).
- **chronic bacterial prostatitis:** one Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once daily (equivalent to 500 mg of levofloxacin).
- **skin and soft tissue infections:** 1/2 Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once daily (equivalent to 250 mg of levofloxacin) or one Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablet once or twice daily (equivalent to 500 to 1000 mg of levofloxacin).

Precautions for patients with kidney failure

Since levofloxacin is mainly excreted in the urine, the dose should be reduced in patients with kidney failure. Relevant information is given in the following table:

	Dosage regimen		
	250 mg/ 24 h	500 mg/ 24 h	500 mg/ 12 h
Creatinine clearance	initial dose: 250 mg	initial dose: 500 mg	initial dose: 500 mg
50 - 20ml/min	then: 125 mg/24 h	then: 250 mg/24 h	then: 250 mg/12 h
19 - 10ml/min	then: 125 mg/48 h	then: 125 mg/24 h	then: 125 mg/12 h
Less than < 10 ml/min (including hemodialysis and CAPD)[1]	then: 125 mg/48 h	then: 125 mg/24 h	then: 125 mg/24 h

[1] = Additional doses are not required after hemodialysis or continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis (CAPD).

Precautions for patients with liver failure

Dose adjustment is not required, since levofloxacin is not significantly metabolized in the liver.

Method and route of administration

The film-coated tablets are swallowed whole with sufficient fluid (e.g. 1/2 to 1 glass). The film-coated tablets can be broken at the score line if dose adjustment is required. The tablets can be taken with meals or at any time between meals.

See also "Interactions".

Treatment duration

Treatment duration depends on the course of the disease. In clinical studies the duration of treatment was 10 to 14 days for acute sinusitis, 7 to 10 days for exacerbation of chronic bronchitis, 7 to 14 days for pneumonia, 7 to 10 days for complicated urinary tract infections, 28 days for prostatitis, and 7 to 14 days for skin and soft tissue infections. As with other antibiotics, Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablets should be administered for at least 48 to 72 hours after fever has abated or eradication (destruction) of the causative agent has been confirmed.

Management of overdose

The main symptoms (signs) to be expected after an accidental overdose of Tavanic are central nervous system disorders (confusion, dizziness, consciousness disorders, seizures), digestive system disorders such as nausea and mucosal damage, as well as certain changes in heart function (QT prolongation). Heart function should therefore be monitored by your doctor after an overdose. Symptomatic treatment should be given (e.g. gastric lavage or administration of stomach acid inhibitors). Levofloxacin cannot be removed by dialysis. No specific antidote is available. Taking one too many Tavanic 500 mg film-coated tablets will not cause harmful effects. You should immediately inform your doctor if you take several additional tablets.

Management in the event of omission of one or several doses

Take the dose you forgot as soon as possible, unless this is just before the next dose. Then continue taking Tavanic as your doctor prescribed.

Management in the event of treatment interruption or early stop

You should not interrupt Tavanic treatment or stop it early without your doctor's approval, since this may affect the outcome of your treatment.

UNWANTED AND UNPLEASANT EFFECTS

LIKE ANY ACTIVE PRODUCT THIS MEDICINE MAY, IN CERTAIN PERSONS, GIVE RISE TO VARYING DEGREES OF UNPLEASANT EFFECTS:

TELL YOUR DOCTOR OR PHARMACIST OF ANY UNWANTED OR UNPLEASANT EFFECT NOT MENTIONED IN THIS LEAFLET.

The frequency of side effects is classified as follows:

Very common:	more than 1 in 10 patients
Common:	fewer than 1 in 10 but more than 1 in 100 patients
Uncommon:	fewer than 1 in 100 but more than 1 in 1000 patients
Rare:	fewer than 1 in 1000 but more than 1 in 10 000 patients
Very rare:	not more than 1 in 10 000 patients, including individual cases

Skin reactions and general hypersensitivity reactions

Uncommon: itching and redness skin.

Rare: general hypersensitivity reactions (anaphylactic and anaphylactoid reactions), with signs such as hives, bronchial constriction, possibly severe shortness of breath, and, in very rare cases, swelling of the skin and mucous membranes, such as in the face and throat (angioedema).

Very rare: a sudden decrease in blood pressure and shock. Increased sensitivity to sunlight and UV rays (see also "Special precautions").

Individual cases: severe bullous skin and mucosal eruptions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis (Lyell syndrome) and exudative erythema multiforme.

General hypersensitivity reactions are sometimes preceded by mild skin reactions. The reactions mentioned above may even occur after the first dose, within minutes or hours of administration.

Digestive tract / metabolism

Common: nausea, diarrhea.

Uncommon: loss of appetite, vomiting, stomach pain, digestion disorders.

Rare: bloody diarrhea, which in very rare cases may be a sign of intestinal inflammation, including pseudomembranous colitis (see also "Special precautions").

Very rare: decreased blood sugar levels (hypoglycemia), particularly in patients with diabetes. Signs of hypoglycemia may include excessive hunger, nervousness, sweating, tremor.

Effects on the nervous system

Uncommon: headache, light-headedness/dizziness, drowsiness, insomnia.

Rare: abnormal touch sensation, such as tingling in the hands, tremor, seizures, and confusion.

Very rare: sight and hearing disorders, changes in taste and smell, reduced touch sensations.

Mental effects

Rare: anxiety, depression, psychotic reactions, agitation.

Very rare: hallucinations, psychotic reactions with self-destructive behavior, including suicidal thoughts and acts.

Cardiovascular effects

Rare: heart racing, decreased blood pressure.

Very rare: circulatory collapse and even shock (anaphylactoid shock).

Isolated cases: heart function changes (QT prolongation).

Effects on muscles, tendons, and bones

Rare: tendon disorders including tendinitis (see also "Special warnings and special precautions for use"), joint or muscle pain.

Very rare: tendon rupture (e.g. Achilles tendon rupture); this side effect may occur within 48 hours of the beginning of treatment and may affect both sides of the body (see "Special warnings and special precautions for use"). Muscle weakness, which may be particularly significant in patients with myasthenia gravis (a rare nervous system disease).

Individual cases: muscle damage (rhabdomyolysis).

Effects on liver and kidneys

Common: elevated liver enzyme values (e.g. ALT, AST).

Uncommon: increased bilirubin and serum creatinine (indicating impaired liver or kidney function).

Very rare: liver reactions such as hepatitis. Impaired kidney function and even acute kidney failure, for instance due to allergic reactions (interstitial nephritis).

Effects on blood

Uncommon: increases in particular blood cells (eosinophilia), decreased white blood cells (leukopenia).

Rare: reduction in particular white blood cells (neutropenia). Reduction in platelets (thrombocytes), which may make bruising and bleeding more likely.

Very rare: very severe reduction in particular white blood cells (agranulocytosis), which can lead to severe signs of disease (persistent or recurrent fever, sore throat, and poorer general state).

Individual cases: decreased number of red blood cells caused by blood cell destruction (hemolytic anemia). Decreased overall blood count (pancytopenia).

Other side effects

Uncommon: general weakness (asthenia); fungal proliferation and proliferation of bacteria not susceptible to the drug.

Very rare: fever, allergic reactions in the lungs (allergic pneumonitis).

Other side effects that occur with fluoroquinolones:

- movement and muscle coordination disorders
- hypersensitivity reactions in small blood vessels (vasculitis)
- episodes of porphyria in patients with preexisting porphyria (a very rare metabolic disease).

Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you experience any of the side effects mentioned above or other adverse reactions during treatment with Tavanic.

Immediately inform a doctor if a side effect suddenly occurs or becomes more severe, since certain drug reactions (e.g. pseudomembranous colitis, some blood count changes, severe anaphylactic or anaphylactoid reactions, and severe skin changes) may be life-threatening in certain circumstances. Should this occur, do not continue taking the drug without medical supervision.

STORAGE

DO NOT EXCEED THE EXPIRY DATE INDICATED ON THE OUTER PACKAGING.

It is best to store Tavanic® 500 mg film-coated tablets in the original packaging in a dry place.

Always store Tavanic® 500 mg film-coated tablets out of the reach of children.

DATE OF LEAFLET REVISION

This package leaflet was last revised in April 2011.

Packed by
Benta S.A.L., Dbayeh - Lebanon

BPI

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Sanofi-Aventis Deutschland GmbH
Germany

This is a medicament

- A medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use, and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament
- The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor
- Medicament: keep out of reach of children

Council of Arab Health Ministers
Union of Arab Pharmacists