PACKAGE LEAFLET:
INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Irinotecan Hydrochloride 20 mg/ml concentrate for solution for infusion

Irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Irinotecan Hydrochloride is and what it is used for
2. Before you use Irinotecan Hydrochloride
3. How to use Irinotecan Hydrochloride
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Irinotecan Hydrochloride
6. Further information

1. WHAT IRINOTECAN HYDROCHLORIDE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Irinotecan Hydrochloride is an anti-cancer drug and is used to treat metastatic (advanced) cancer of the colon (large bowel) or rectum (back passage). It is used in combination with other anti-cancer medicines called 5-fluorouracil (5-FU) and folinic acid (FA).

2. BEFORE YOU USE IRINOTECAN HYDROCHLORIDE

Do not use Irinotecan Hydrochloride:

- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to Irinotecan Hydrochloride or any of the other ingredients of Irinotecan Hydrochloride
- if you have any other bowel disease or history of bowel obstruction
- if you have high levels of a substance produced by the liver called bilirubin
- if you have severe bone marrow failure
- if you are pregnant, breast-feeding or think you might be pregnant

Take special care with Irinotecan Hydrochloride:

- if you suffer from fructose intolerance
- if you have any liver problems
- if you have any kidney problems
- if you are elderly
- if you are taking other medications such as muscle relaxants which are used during general anesthesia, e.g. suxamethonium (its actions may last longer)
- if you are taking drugs such as carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, phenytoin (anti-epilepsy drugs), rifampicin (a drug used in the treatment of TB) or ketoconazole (treatment of fungal infections), the effect of irinotecan may be altered

Taking other medicines

- You should not take St John's Wort whilst being treated with Irinotecan Hydrochloride as it alters the plasma levels of irinotecan, which may have an important impact on the treatment outcome

Please tell your doctor if you are taking or have recently taken, any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Driving and using machines

Since irinotecan treatment may result in an increase risk of dizziness, or visual disturbances, it may lead to an influence on your ability to drive and use machines.

Important information about some of the ingredients in Irinotecan Hydrochloride

Irinotecan Hydrochloride contains sorbitol, which is unsuitable for people who cannot tolerate fructose.

3. HOW TO USE IRINOTECAN HYDROCHLORIDE

For adults only.

Irinotecan will be prescribed by a specialist in cancer treatment. The dose depends on your age, body surface area (calculated by m^2) and your state of health. It also depends on other medicines that are used in your cancer treatment.

If you have previously been treated with other anti-cancer medicines you will normally be treated with irinotecan alone, starting with a dose of 350 mg/m^2 every 3 weeks. If you have not had previous chemotherapy you would normally receive 180 mg/m^2 irinotecan every 2 weeks. Irinotecan is diluted with e.g. 0.9% sodium chloride (salt water) or 5% glucose (sugar solution) and given by a very slow injection into a vein via a drip (intravenous infusion) over a period of 30 to 90 minutes. During treatment you will probably undergo blood tests to check the levels of cells in your blood, and to check your liver function.

If you are given more Irinotecan Hydrochloride than you should:

As this medicine is given in a hospital, it is unlikely that you will be given too little or too much, however tell your doctor if you have any concerns.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, irinotecan can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. If you experience any side effect it is important that you inform your doctor before your next treatment.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction – you may experience a sudden itchy rash (hives), swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips, mouth or throat (which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing), and you may feel that you are going to faint.
- Diarrhoea – there are two types of diarrhoea, which can be distinguished by when they start. "Early onset" diarrhoea starts less than 24 hours after the infusion and "delayed" diarrhoea starts more than 24 hours after the infusion. This is a very serious side effect. If you have any diarrhoea it is important that you follow these instructions carefully.

If your diarrhoea starts less than 24 hours after the infusion ("early diarrhoea") you should contact your doctor or nurse immediately and they will give you a suitable treatment.

The following information is intended for medical or healthcare professionals only

INSTRUCTIONS FOR USE, HANDLING AND DISPOSAL

As with other potentially toxic compounds, caution should be exercised when handling and preparing irinotecan solutions.

Instructions for use/handling

As with other antineoplastic agents, irinotecan must be prepared and handled with caution. The use of goggles, mask and gloves is required. If irinotecan concentrate or infusion solutions should come into contact with the skin, it must be washed off immediately and thoroughly with soap and water. If irinotecan concentrate or infusion solutions should come into contact with the mucous membranes, it must be washed off immediately with water.

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Hospira UK Limited - Draft artwork

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Artworker:	gdw, rsg, HL
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Specification

OI Template:	**88S119**
Dimensions:	118 x 513 mm (18 panels)
Template type:	Standard
Container:	vial
Supplier:	Howden Printing
Stock:	View Hi-Corona 47GSM /Teropaque 50gsm
Folded dimensions:	28.5 x 118 mm
Printed both sides:	Yes
Perforated:	No
Pharma code:	XXX (XXXXXX)
Pharma code length:	XX mm
Colour:	Black

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Do not use any anti-diarrhoeal treatment that your doctor has given you for "delayed diarrhoea". This "early diarrhoea" may be accompanied by other symptoms such as

- sweating
- abdominal cramps
- watering and/or red eyes
- visual disturbance
- dizziness
- low blood pressure
- feeling unwell
- excessive mouth watering
- rhinitis (runny nose)

This combination of symptoms may also be known as 'Acute Cholinergic Syndrome'.

Tell your doctor or nurse about all your symptoms.

If your diarrhoea starts more than 24 hours after the infusion ("delayed diarrhoea") you should IMMEDIATELY take any anti-diarrhoeal treatment that the doctor has given EXACTLY as he has told you. If you are unsure of what this is ask your doctor or nurse.

Drink large amounts of rehydration fluids IMMEDIATELY (e.g. water, soda water, fizzy drinks, soup or oral rehydration therapy.) You must tell your doctor

- if you feel sick or are sick as well as diarrhoea
- if you have any fever as well as the diarrhoea
- if you still have diarrhoea 48 hours after starting the diarrhoea treatment

If you have any fever, and particularly if you also have diarrhoea contact your doctor or nurse IMMEDIATELY so that they can give you any treatment necessary.

Irinotecan Hydrochloride may also cause a decrease in the number of your white blood cells, which play an important role in fighting infections. If you have any fever this may be an indication of infection and require immediate treatment.

If you have nausea and/or vomiting contact your doctor or nurse **IMMEDIATELY**.

If you have breathing difficulties contact your doctor or nurse **IMMEDIATELY**.

A very few patients who become dehydrated as a result of diarrhoea, vomiting or infection may have kidney problems, low blood pressure or circulatory failure.

The most common side effects (in more than 10% of patients) are:
- Neutropenia (low white cell count)
- anaemia
- diarrhoea
- nausea and vomiting
- alopecia (hair loss)
- thrombocytopenia (low number of platelets – cells involved in blood clotting)

Common side effects (in 1 to 10% of patients) are:
- fever
- dehydration
- constipation
- acute cholinergic syndrome (see the symptoms listed above under 'early diarrhoea')

Uncommon side effects (in 0.1% to 1% of patients) are:
- mild allergic reaction
- bowel obstruction (blockage in the gut)
- gastrointestinal haemorrhage (bleeding in the gut)

Rare side effects (in 0.01% to 0.1% of patients) are:
- impaired renal function (problems with your kidneys)
- hypotension (low blood pressure)
- cardiac and vascular failure (heart problems)
- interstitial pneumonia and pneumonitis (lung problems)
- pseudo-membranous colitis (abdominal pain)
- intestinal perforation
- anorexia (loss of appetite)
- abdominal pain
- mucositis (inflammation of the lining of the mouth)
- elevation of amylase (a measurement for pancreatitis which may present with severe abdominal pain)
- hypokalemia (low levels of potassium in the blood)
- mild skin reactions
- a rise in some liver enzymes (detected by blood tests)

Very rare effects (less than 1 in 10,000 patients) are:
- speech problems which are usually reversible

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not mentioned in this leaflet, please inform your doctor.

5. HOW TO STORE IRINOTECAN HYDROCHLORIDE

- Keep out of reach and sight of children. Keep container in the outer pack in order to protect from light. Do not freeze.
- Do not use after the expiry date, the last day of the month, which is stated on the carton and label.
- Once the concentrate has been diluted for infusion the solution can be kept for 24 hours in a refrigerator (2°C to 8°C).

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Irinotecan Hydrochloride contains

- The active substance is irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate. Each millilitre (ml) of solution contains 20 milligrams (mg) of irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate.
- The other ingredients are sorbitol, lactic acid, water for injections, and sodium hydroxide and hydrochloric acid used as pH adjusters.

Irinotecan Hydrochloride is in the form of a concentrate for solution for infusion (a concentrated solution which is diluted to make a solution which can be given as a slow infusion via a drip). The medicine comes in glass containers called vials, containing 40 mg (2 ml), 100 mg (5 ml) and 500 mg (25 ml) of irinotecan hydrochloride trihydrate. The vials are wrapped in a protective plastic to reduce the risk of spillage if the vials break - these are referred to as ONCO-TAIN®. The vials are available in single packs, not all presentations may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

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Manufacturer
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Preparation for the intravenous infusion administration

As with any other injectable drugs, the Irinotecan solution must be prepared using an aseptic technique.

If any precipitate is observed in the vials or in the infusion solution, the product must be discarded according to standard procedures for discarding cytotoxic agents.

Aseptically withdraw the required amount of irinotecan concentrate from the ampoule with a calibrated syringe and inject into a 250 ml infusion bag or bottle containing either 0.9% sodium chloride solution or 5% glucose solution only. The infusion should then be thoroughly mixed by manual rotation.

Disposal

All materials used for dilution and administration should be disposed of according to procedures applicable to the discarding of cytotoxic agents.

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