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Evaluation of Medicines for Human Use

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COMMITTEE ON HERBAL MEDICINAL PRODUCTS (HMPC)

DRAFT

COMMUNITY HERBAL MONOGRAPH ON *AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM* L., SEMEN

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KEYWORDS	Herbal medicinal products; HMPC; Community herbal monographs; well-established medicinal use; traditional use; *Aesculus hippocastanum* L.; Hippocastani semen; horse chestnut seed

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COMMUNITY HERBAL MONOGRAPH ON *AESCULUS HIPPOCASTANUM* L., SEMEN

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

To be specified for the individual finished product.

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION[1]

Well-established use	Traditional use
With regard to the marketing authorisation application of Article 10(a) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended *Aesculus hippocastanum* L., semen (horse chestnut seed) Herbal preparation Dry extract (4.5-5.5:1, 50 % aqueous ethanol) quantified to contain 16-20% triterpene glycosides, calculated as aescin.	With regard to the registration application of Article 16d(1) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended *Aesculus hippocastanum* L., semen (horse chestnut seed) Herbal preparations • Dry extract (4.5-5.5:1; aqueous ethanol 50 % v/v) • Tincture (1:5; extraction solvent: 50% aqueous ethanol v/v), 20% in an ointment/gel base

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Well-established use	Traditional use
Herbal preparations in prolonged release dosage forms for oral use. The pharmaceutical form should be described by the European Pharmacopoeia full standard term.	Semi-solid herbal preparations for cutaneous use. The pharmaceutical form should be described by the European Pharmacopoeia full standard term.

[1] The declaration of the active substance(s) for an individual finished product should be in accordance with relevant herbal quality guidance

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1. Therapeutic indications

Well-established use	Traditional use
Herbal medicinal product for treatment of chronic venous insufficiency, which is characterised by swollen legs, varicose veins, a feeling of heaviness, pain, tiredness, itching, tension and cramps in the calves.	A) Traditional herbal medicinal product to relieve symptoms of discomfort and heaviness of legs related to minor venous circulatory disturbances. B) Traditional herbal medicinal product for relief of symptoms of bruises, such as oedema and haematoma. The product is a traditional herbal medicinal product for use in the specified indication exclusively based upon long-standing use.

4.2. Posology and method of administration

Well-established use	Traditional use
Posology *Adults and elderly* 240-290 mg of extract (quantified to a content of 50 mg aescin) 2 times daily The product is not intended for children and adolescents under 18 years of age. **Duration of use** At least 4 weeks of treatment may be required before any beneficial effect is observed. Long-term use is possible in consultation with a doctor. **Method of administration** Oral use.	**Posology** • Dry extract (4.5-5.5:1 aqueous ethanol 50 % v/v in a strength corresponding to 0.7-1.5 % aescin in an ointment/gel base • Tincture (1:5; extraction solvent: 50% aqueous ethanol v/v), 20% in an ointment/gel base Indication A) *Adults and elderly* Apply a thin layer on the affected area 1-3 times per day. Indication B) *Adolescents, adult and elderly* Apply a thin layer on the affected area 1-3 times per day. The use in children under 12 years of age is not recommended (see section 4.4 ‘Special warnings and precautions for use’).

	Duration of use Indication A) If the symptoms persist for more than 2 weeks during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a qualified health care practitioner should be consulted. Indication B) If the symptoms persist for more than 5 days during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a qualified health care practitioner should be consulted. **Method of administration** Cutaneous use.

4.3. Contraindications

Well-established use	Traditional use
Hypersensitivity to the active substance.	Hypersensitivity to the active substance.

4.4. Special warnings and precautions for use

Well-established use	Traditional use
The diagnosis should be established by a doctor. If there is inflammation of the skin, thrombophebitis, varicosis or subcutaneous induration, ulcers, sudden swelling of one or both legs, cardiac or renal insufficiency, a doctor should be consulted.	Indication A) If there is inflammation of the skin, thrombophebitis, varicosis or subcutaneous induration, ulcers, sudden swelling of one or both legs, cardiac or renal insufficiency, a doctor should be consulted. If symptoms worsen or signs of skin infections occur during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a qualified practitioner should be consulted. Indication B) The product should not be used on broken skin, around the eyes or on mucous membranes. If symptoms worsen during the use of the medicinal product, a doctor or a qualified practitioner should be consulted. In the absence of sufficient safety data, the use in children below 12 years of age is not recommended.

4.5. Interactions with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

Well-established use	Traditional use
None reported.	None reported.

4.6. Pregnancy and lactation

Well-established use	Traditional use
Safety during pregnancy and lactation has not been established. In the absence of sufficient data, the use during pregnancy and lactation is not recommended.	Safety during pregnancy and lactation has not been established. In the absence of sufficient data, the use during pregnancy and lactation is not recommended.

4.7. Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Well-established use	Traditional use
No studies on the effect on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.	No studies on the effect on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

4.8. Undesirable effects

Well-established use	Traditional use
Gastrointestinal complaints, headache, vertigo, pruritus and allergic reactions have been reported. The frequency is not known. If other adverse reactions not mentioned above occur, a doctor or a pharmacist should be consulted.	Hypersensitivity reactions of the skin (itching and erythema) have been reported. The frequency is not known. If other adverse reactions not mentioned above occur, a doctor or a qualified health care practitioner should be consulted.

4.9. Overdose

Well-established use	Traditional use
No case of overdose has been reported.	No case of overdose has been reported.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1. Pharmacodynamic properties

Well-established use	Traditional use
Pharmacotherapeuticgroup: Vasoprotectives ATC code: C05 The exact mechanism of action is not known, but preclinical and clinical pharmacological studies indicate that an effect on venous tone and capillary filtration rate is involved. The role of aescin in this activity is not yet fully clarified. Based on a systematic review (meta analysis) of 17 clinical trials it can be concluded that horse chestnut seed extract (quantified on aescin) significantly reduces symptoms of chronic venous insufficiency, such as edema, pain and pruritus compared to placebo.	Not required as per Article 16c(1)(a)(iii) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended.

5.2. Pharmacokinetic properties

Well-established use	Traditional use
Available data on pharmacokinetic parameters for the marker substance aescin are of limited validity and not considered relevant for the dosing regimen of the herbal preparation.	Not required as per Article 16c(1)(a)(iii) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended.

5.3. Preclinical safety data

Well-established use	Traditional use
Available preclinical data indicate low toxicity following oral administration of the herbal preparation. Data on genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential and toxicity to reproduction are not available.	Not required as per Article 16c(1)(a)(iii) of Directive 2001/83/EC as amended, unless necessary for the safe use of the product. Data on genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential and toxicity to reproduction are not available.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

Well-established use	Traditional use
Not applicable.	Not applicable.

7. DATE OF COMPILATION/LAST REVISION

4 September 2008