

 Amaryl[®] <i>Glimepiride BP</i> 50001 PRESENTATION <i>Amaryl 1mg Tablet:</i> Pink oblong tablets, biplanar with score line on both sides; each tablet contains Glimepiride BP 1.0mg. <i>Amaryl 2mg Tablet:</i> Green oblong tablets, biplanar with score line on both sides; each tablet contains Glimepiride BP 2.0mg. <i>Amaryl 3mg Tablet:</i> Pale yellow oblong tablets, biplanar with score line on both sides; each tablet contains Glimepiride BP 3.0mg. <i>Amaryl 4mg Tablet:</i> Light blue oblong tablets, biplanar with score line on both sides; each tablet contains Glimepiride BP 4.0mg. MECHANISM of ACTION Glimepiride primarily lowers blood glucose by stimulating the release of insulin from pancreatic beta cells. Sulfonylureas bind to the sulfonylurea receptor in the pancreatic beta-cell plasma membrane, leading to closure of the ATP-sensitive potassium channel, thereby stimulating the release of insulin. INDICATIONS Non-insulin-dependent (type 2) diabetes mellitus, whenever blood glucose levels cannot be controlled adequately by diet, physical exercise and weight reduction alone. Amaryl may be combined with other, non-beta cytotropic, oral antidiabetics. Amaryl may also be used together with insulin. DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION GENERAL Dosage The dosage of Amaryl is governed by the desired blood glucose level. The dosage of glimepiride must be the lowest which is sufficient to achieve the desired metabolic control. During treatment with Amaryl glucose levels in blood and urine must be measured regularly. In addition, proportion of glycated haemoglobin determinations should be regularly carried out. Mistakes, e.g. forgetting to take a dose, must never be corrected by subsequently taking a larger dose. • Initial dose and dose titration Usual initial dose: 1 mg Amaryl once daily. If necessary, the daily dose can be increased guided by regular blood glucose monitoring. • Dose range in patients with well controlled diabetes	Usual daily doses in patients with well controlled diabetes are 1 to 4 mg Amaryl. Daily doses of more than 6 mg are more effective only in a minority of patients. • Distribution of doses Glimepiride requirements may fall as treatment proceeds. To avoid hypoglycaemia timely dose reduction or cessation of Amaryl therapy must therefore be considered. Correction of dosage must also be considered, whenever - the patient's weight changes. - the patient's life-style changes. - other factors arise which cause an increased susceptibility to hypoglycaemia or hyperglycaemia • Duration of treatment Treatment with Amaryl is normally a long-term therapy. The maximum recommended dose is 8 mg once daily. • Changeover from other oral antidiabetics to Amaryl There is no exact dosage relationship between Amaryl and other oral antidiabetics. Consideration must be given to the potency and duration of action of the previous antidiabetic agent. A break from medication may be required to avoid any summation of effects entailing a risk of hypoglycaemia. • Use with metformin The combination therapy should be initiated under close medical supervision. • Use with insulin The combination therapy should be initiated under close medical supervision. SPECIAL POPULATIONS Renal impairment There is limited information available on the use of Amaryl in renal insufficiency. Patients with impaired renal function may be more sensitive to the glucose-lowering effect of Amaryl. Use 1 mg starting dose and titrate slowly in patients at increased risk for hypoglycemia. ADMINISTRATION Amaryl tablets must be swallowed without chewing with sufficient amounts of liquid (approx. ½ glass). Amaryl should be administered with breakfast or the first main meal. CONTRAINDICATIONS Amaryl must not be used: • in patients hypersensitive to glimepiride, ther sulfonylureas, other sulfonamides, or any of the excipients of Amaryl. • in pregnant women. • in breast-feeding women. No experience has been gained concerning the use of Amaryl in patients with severe impairment of liver function and in dialysis patients. In	patients with severe impairment of hepatic function, change-over to insulin is indicated, not least to achieve optimal metabolic control. WARNINGS In exceptional stress situations (e.g. trauma, surgery, febrile infections) blood glucose regulation may deteriorate, and a temporary change to insulin may be necessary to maintain good metabolic control. PRECAUTIONS In the initial weeks of treatment, the risk of hypoglycaemia may be increased and necessitates especially careful monitoring. If risk factors for hypoglycaemia are present, it may be necessary to adjust the dosage of Amaryl or the entire therapy. This also applies whenever illness occurs during therapy or the patient's lifestyle changes. Hypoglycaemia can almost always be promptly controlled by immediate intake of carbohydrates (glucose or sugar). It is known from other sulfonylureas that, despite initially successful counter measures, hypoglycaemia may recur. Patients must, therefore, remain under close observation. Severe hypoglycaemia further requires immediate treatment. Treatment of patients with G6PD-deficiency with sulfonylurea agents can lead to hemolytic anaemia. Since glimepiride belongs to the class of sulfonylurea agents, caution should be used in patients with G6PD-deficiency and a non-sulfonylurea alternative should be considered. INTERACTIONS Based on experience with Amaryl and on what is known of other sulfonylureas, the following interactions must be considered: Glimepiride is metabolized by cytochrome P450 2C9 (CYP2C9). This should be taken into account when glimepiride is coadministered with inducers (e.g. rifampicin) or inhibitors (e.g. fluconazole) of CYP 2C9. Potentiation of the blood-glucose-lowering effect and, thus, in some instances hypoglycaemia may occur when one of the following drugs is taken, for example: insulin and other, oral antidiabetics; ACE inhibitors; anabolic steroids and male sex hormones; chloramphenicol; coumarin derivatives; cyclophosphamide; disopyramide; fenfluramine; fenyramidol; fibrates; fluoxetine; guanethidine; ifosfamide; MAO inhibitors; miconazole; fluconazole; para-aminosalicylic acid; pentoxifylline (high dose parenteral); phenylbutazone; azapropazone; oxyphenbutazone; probenecid; quinolones; salicylates; sulfinpyrazone; clarithromycin; sulfonamide antibiotics; tetracyclines; tritoqualine; trofosfamide.	Weakening of the blood-glucose-lowering effect and, thus raised blood glucose levels may occur when one of the following drugs is taken, for example: acetazolamide; barbiturates; corticosteroids; diazoxide; diuretics; epinephrine (adrenaline) and other sympathomimetic agents; glucagon; laxatives (after protracted use); nicotinic acid (in high doses); oestrogens and progestogens; phenothiazines; phenytoin; rifampicin; thyroid hormones. H2 receptor antagonists, beta-blockers, clonidine and reserpine may lead to either potentiation or weakening of the blood-glucose-lowering effect. Under the influence of sympatholytic drugs such as beta-blockers, clonidine, guanethidine and reserpine, the signs of adrenergic counter-regulation to hypoglycaemia may be reduced or absent. Both acute and chronic alcohol intake may potentiate or weaken the blood-glucose-lowering action of Amaryl in an unpredictable fashion. The effect of coumarin derivatives may be potentiated or weakened. Bile acid sequestrant: Colesevelam binds to glimepiride and reduces glimepiride absorption from the gastro-intestinal tract. No interaction was observed when glimepiride was taken at least 4 hours before colesevelam. Therefore glimepiride should be administered at least 4 hours prior to colesevelam. PREGNANCY Pregnancy Category C. Amaryl must not be taken during pregnancy. Otherwise there is risk of harm to the child. The patient must change over to insulin during pregnancy. Patients planning a pregnancy must inform their physician. It is recommended that such patients change over to insulin. LACTATION To prevent possible ingestion with the breast milk and possible harm to the child, Amaryl must not be taken by breast-feeding women. If necessary the patient must change over to insulin, or must stop breast-feeding. DRIVING A VEHICLE OR PERFORMING OTHER HAZARDOUS TASKS Alertness and reactions may be impaired due to hypo- or hyperglycaemia, especially when beginning or after altering treatment or when Amaryl is not taken regularly. This may, for example, affect the ability to drive or to operate machinery. ADVERSE REACTIONS • Metabolism and nutrition disorders Hypoglycaemia may occur, which based on what is known of other sulfonylureas - may also be	prolonged. The clinical picture of a severe hypoglycaemic attack may resemble that of a stroke. • Eye disorders Temporary visual impairment due to the change in blood glucose levels. • Gastrointestinal disorders Gastrointestinal symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, sensations of pressure or fullness in the epigastrium, abdominal pain and diarrhoea may occur. In isolated cases, there may be hepatitis, elevation of liver enzyme levels and/or cholestasis and jaundice, which may progress to life-threatening liver failure but can regress after withdrawal of Amaryl. Dysgeusia. • Blood and lymphatic system disorders Changes in the blood picture may occur: Rarely, thrombocytopenia and, in isolated cases, leucopenia, haemolytic anaemia, erythrocytopenia, granulocytopenia, agranulocytosis or pancytopenia may develop. Cases of severe thrombocytopenia with platelet count less than 10,000/ul and thrombocytopenic purpura have been reported in post-marketing experience (frequency not known). Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders Alopecia • General disorders Occasionally, allergic or pseudoallergic reactions may occur, e.g. in the form of itching, urticaria or rashes. Such mild reactions may develop into serious reactions with dyspnoea and a fall in blood pressure, sometimes progressing to shock. In isolated cases, a decrease in serum sodium concentration and allergic vasculitis or hypersensitivity of the skin to light may occur. • Investigations weight gain OVERDOSE SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS Acute overdose as well as long-term treatment with too high a dose of glimepiride may lead to severe life-threatening hypoglycaemia. MANAGEMENT As soon as an overdose of Amaryl has been discovered, a physician must be notified without delay. The patient must immediately take sugar, if possible in the form of glucose, unless a physician has already undertaken responsibility for treating the overdose. Careful monitoring is essential until the physician is confident that the patient is out of danger. It must be remembered that hypoglycaemia may recur	after initial recovery. Admission to hospital may sometimes be necessary even as a precautionary measure. In particular, significant overdoses and severe reactions with signs such as loss of consciousness or other serious neurological disorders are medical emergencies and require immediate treatment and admission to hospital. If, for example, the patient is unconscious, an intravenous injection of concentrated glucose solution is indicated (for adults starting with 40 ml of 20% solution, for example). Alternatively in adults, administration of glucagon, e.g. in doses of 0.5 to 1 mg i.v., s.c. or i.m., may be considered. In particular when treating hypoglycaemia due to accidental intake of Amaryl in infants and young children, the dose of glucose given must be very carefully adjusted in view of the possibility of producing dangerous hyperglycaemia, and must be controlled by close monitoring of blood glucose. Patients who have ingested life-threatening amounts of Amaryl require detoxification (e.g. by gastric lavage and medicinal charcoal). After acute glucose replacement has been completed it is usually necessary to give an intravenous glucose infusion in lower concentration so as to ensure that the hypoglycaemia does not recur. The patient's blood glucose level should be carefully monitored for at least 24 hours. In severe cases hypoglycaemia, or the danger of slipping back into hypoglycaemia, may persist for several days. PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTION • Do not store above 25°C. • Do not use later than the date of expiry. • Keep out of the reach of children. • To be dispensed only on the prescription of a registered physician. PACKAGE QUANTITY Amaryl 1mg Tablet: Box of 4 X 15's tablets in alu-alu blister pack. Amaryl 2mg Tablet: Box of 3 X 15's tablets in alu-alu blister pack. Amaryl 3mg Tablet: Box of 2 X 15's tablets in alu-alu blister pack. Amaryl 4mg Tablet: Box of 2 X 15's tablets in alu-alu blister pack. Manufactured by:  Synovia Pharma PLC., Station Road, Tongi, Gazipur. Under License From Sanofi, France. 545751
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