

Product Monograph
Including Patient Medication Information

^{Pr}**OZURDEX®**

Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant

For intravitreal injection

0.7 mg of dexamethasone

Corticosteroid

AbbVie Corporation
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St-Laurent, QC H4S 1Z1

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Recent Major Label Changes

[7 Warnings and Precautions, Ophthalmologic](#)

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Certain sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of the preparation of the most recent authorized product monograph are not listed.

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Part 1: Healthcare Professional Information

1. Indications

OZURDEX (Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant) is indicated for:

- the treatment of macular edema following central retinal vein occlusion (CRVO).
- the treatment of non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye.
- the treatment of adult patients with diabetic macular edema (DME) who are pseudophakic.

1.1. Pediatrics

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): No data are available to Health Canada; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

1.2. Geriatrics

Geriatrics (>65 years of age): No dose adjustment is required for elderly patients.

2. Contraindications

Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant is contraindicated in patients with:

- known hypersensitivity to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation, including any non-medicinal ingredient, or components of the container. For a complete listing, see [6 Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging](#).
- active or suspected ocular or periocular infections including most viral diseases of the cornea and conjunctiva, including active epithelial herpes simplex keratitis (dendritic keratitis), vaccinia, varicella, mycobacterial infections, and fungal diseases.
- advanced glaucoma.
- known hypersensitivity to other corticosteroids.
- aphakic eyes with ruptured posterior lens capsule.
- eyes with ACIOL (Anterior Chamber Intraocular Lens), iris or transscleral fixated IOLs and ruptured posterior lens capsule.

4. Dosage and Administration

4.1. Dosing Considerations

For ophthalmic intravitreal injection only.

OZURDEX must be administered by a qualified ophthalmologist experienced in intravitreal injections.

Administration to both eyes concurrently is not recommended.

Patients should be monitored following the injection to permit early treatment if an infection or increased intraocular pressure occurs.

Dosing of OZURDEX is recommended when there is evidence of macular edema or vascular leakage in the macula.

Dosing of OZURDEX is also recommended when there is evidence of non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye.

OZURDEX should not be used in patients with:

- active or suspected ocular or periocular infections (see [2 Contraindications](#)).
- advanced glaucoma.
- aphakic eyes with rupture of the posterior lens capsule
- anterior chamber intraocular lens and rupture of the posterior lens capsule
- known hypersensitivity to any components of this product or to other corticosteroids.

4.2. Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

The recommended dose for the treatment of macular edema following CRVO is one OZURDEX implant (entire contents of one single use OZURDEX 0.7 mg device).

The recommended dose for the treatment of adult patients with non-infectious uveitis of the posterior segment of the eye is 700 mcg per eye (entire contents of single use OZURDEX 0.7 mg device).

The recommended dose for the treatment of diabetic macular edema is 700 mcg per eye (entire contents of single use OZURDEX 0.7 mg device).

Reinjection of OZURDEX for diabetic macular edema is recommended when there is a presence of macular edema (see [14 Clinical Trials](#)).

There is only very limited information on repeat dosing intervals less than 6 months (see [14 Clinical Trials](#)) and there is currently more information on repeat administrations beyond 2 implants for CRVO and uveitis. A 2-year observational study has shown that the use of more than two consecutive administrations is associated with increases in some adverse reactions; therefore, no more than two consecutive OZURDEX injections should be used, and an interval of approximately 6 months should be allowed between the two injections.

Patients who experience and retain improved vision should not be retreated. Patients who experience a deterioration in vision, which is not slowed by OZURDEX, should not be retreated.

Repeat doses should only be considered when a patient experiences a response to treatment followed subsequently by a loss in visual acuity and in the physician's opinion may benefit from retreatment without being exposed to significant risk.

4.3. Administration

Single-use intravitreal implant in applicator for intravitreal use only. Each applicator can only be used for the treatment of a single eye.

The intravitreal injection procedure should be carried out under controlled aseptic conditions which include the use of sterile gloves, a sterile drape, and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent). Disinfection of the periocular skin, eyelid, and ocular surface (including drops of povidone iodine 5% solution on the conjunctiva) and administration of adequate local anesthesia are recommended prior to the injection.

Remove the foil pouch from the carton and examine for damage. Then, in a sterile field, open the foil pouch and gently place the applicator on a sterile tray. Carefully remove the cap from the applicator.

Hold the applicator in one hand and pull the safety tab straight off the applicator.

Do not twist or flex the tab. The long axis of the applicator should be held parallel to the limbus, and the sclera should be engaged at an oblique angle with the bevel of the needle up (away from the sclera) to create a shelved scleral path. The tip of the needle is advanced within the sclera for about 1 mm (parallel to the limbus), then redirected toward the centre of the eye and advanced until penetration of the sclera is completed and the vitreous cavity is entered. The needle should not be advanced past the point where the sleeve touches the conjunctiva. Slowly depress the actuator button until an audible click is noted. Before withdrawing the applicator from the eye, make sure that the actuator button is fully depressed and has locked flush with the applicator surface. Remove the needle in the same direction as used to enter the vitreous.

Immediately after injecting OZURDEX, use indirect ophthalmoscopy in the quadrant of injection to confirm successful implantation. Visualization is possible in the large majority of cases. In cases in which the implant cannot be visualized, take a sterile cotton applicator and lightly depress over the injection site to bring the implant into view.

Following the intravitreal injection, patients should be monitored for elevation in intraocular pressure and for endophthalmitis. Monitoring may consist of a check for perfusion of the optic nerve head immediately after the injection, tonometry within 30 minutes following the injection, and biomicroscopy between two and seven days following the injection.

Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis without delay.

4.4. Missed Dose

Missed dose with OZURDEX has not been reported in clinical trials and would not be expected due to its method of administration.

5. Overdose

Overdose with OZURDEX has not been reported in clinical trials and would not be expected due to its method of administration.

For the most recent information in the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669).

6. Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition, and Packaging

Table 1 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, and Composition

Route of Administration	Dosage Form/ Strength/Composition	Non-Medicinal Ingredients
Intravitreal injection	Intraocular implant/0.7 mg dexamethasone/ solid polymer drug delivery system	PLGA biodegradable polymer matrix (NOVADUR®) consisting of Resomer® RG 502, Poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide), 50:50 PLGA ester terminated; and Resomer® RG 502 H, Poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide), 50:50 PLGA acid terminated.

Description

OZURDEX is a biodegradable intravitreal implant containing 700 mcg dexamethasone in a solid polymer drug delivery system. OZURDEX is preloaded into a sterile, single-use, specially designed drug delivery system applicator to facilitate injection of the rod-shaped implant directly into the vitreous.

7. Warnings and Precautions

General

There is only very limited information on repeat dosing intervals less than 6 months and there is currently more information on repeat administrations beyond 2 implants in patients with macular edema due to CRVO. A 2-year observational study has shown that the use of more than two consecutive administrations is associated with increases in some adverse reactions; therefore, for macular edema following CRVO, no more than two consecutive OZURDEX injections should be used, and an interval of approximately 6 months should be allowed between the two injections (see [4 Dosage and Administration](#)).

In patients with posterior segment uveitis, as there is no experience with more than one OZURDEX injection, the use of a second OZURDEX injection is not recommended. Caution should be exercised if a second injection is considered in cases where the possible benefits are believed to outweigh the risk to the patient. An interval of approximately 6 months should be allowed between the two injections.

Patients who experience and retain improved vision should not be retreated. Patients who experience a deterioration in vision, which is not slowed by OZURDEX, should not be retreated.

Repeat doses should only be considered when a patient experiences a response to treatment followed subsequently by a loss in visual acuity and in the physician's opinion may benefit from retreatment without being exposed to significant risk.

OZURDEX has not been studied in patients with macular edema secondary to RVO with significant retinal ischemia, therefore OZURDEX is not recommended in these patients.

The safety and efficacy of OZURDEX administered to both eyes concurrently have not been studied, therefore administration to both eyes is not recommended.

OZURDEX has not been studied in aphakic patients. Therefore, OZURDEX should be used with caution in these patients.

Carcinogenesis and Genotoxicity

No carcinogenicity studies were performed (see [16 Non-Clinical Toxicology](#)).

Driving and Operating Machinery

Patients may experience temporary visual blurring after receiving OZURDEX by intravitreal injection. They should not drive or use machines until this has resolved.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Disturbances on the corticosteroids Hypothalamic–pituitary–adrenal (HPA) axis in humans were not evaluated for OZURDEX.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

No studies have been conducted to examine the pharmacokinetics of OZURDEX in patients with, hepatic/biliary/pancreatic impairment.

Ophthalmologic

Intravitreal Injection-related Effects:

OZURDEX must be administered by a qualified ophthalmologist experienced in intravitreal injections. Intravitreal injections have been associated with endophthalmitis, eye inflammation, increased intraocular pressure, and retinal detachments. Patients who had a tear in the posterior lens capsule (e.g., due to cataract surgery), or who had an iris opening to the vitreous cavity (e.g., due to iridectomy) are at risk of implant migration into the anterior chamber. Implant migration to anterior chamber might lead to corneal edema and/or corneal decompensation. Persistent severe corneal edema could progress to the need of corneal transplantation. Regular monitoring of such patients allows for early diagnosis and management of device migration. Proper aseptic injection techniques must always be used.

There have been reports of implant misplacement requiring surgical intervention.

Serious cases of dislocated implants moving into the anterior chamber have been reported, some of which required eye surgery (see [8.5 Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions](#)).

Several cases of hypotony of the eye (associated with vitreous leakage due to injection) were also reported, some of which were serious (see [8.5 Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions](#)).

Patients should be monitored regularly following the injection including monitoring of the perfusion of the optic nerve head immediately after the injection, tonometry within 30 minutes following the injection, and biomicroscopy between two and seven days following the injection. Patients should be instructed to report any symptoms suggestive of endophthalmitis or any of the above-mentioned events without delay (see [4 Dosage and Administration](#)).

The most common haemorrhagic adverse reaction reported in patients receiving anti-platelet therapy was conjunctival haemorrhage (24%). OZURDEX should be used with caution in patients taking anti-coagulant or anti-platelet medicinal products (see [9 Drug Interactions](#)).

Potential Steroid-related Effects:

Prolonged use of corticosteroids, including those with OZURDEX, have been associated with posterior subcapsular cataracts, increased intraocular pressure and glaucoma. Use of corticosteroids may enhance the establishment of secondary ocular infections due to bacteria, fungi, or viruses.

Corticosteroids should be used cautiously in patients with a history of ocular herpes simplex. Corticosteroids should not be used in active ocular herpes simplex.

In clinical studies, cataract was reported more frequently in patients with phakic lens receiving a second injection (see [8 Adverse Reactions](#)). Increase of Intraocular Pressure (IOP) of ≥ 10 mmHg from baseline was also reported with maximum rates at 60 days following the OZURDEX injection. Patients less than 45 years old were more likely to experience IOP increase. Therefore, regular monitoring of IOP is required and any elevation should be managed appropriately post-injection as needed.

OZURDEX is a biodegradable polymer matrix containing 700 mcg micronized dexamethasone. However, implant residuals were reported in 34% of patients treated with OZURDEX but also in 17% of patients

treated with the sham. There does not appear to be residuals accumulation following the second implant. The possible impacts of implant residuals after OZURDEX injection are unknown.

Perioperative Considerations

The intravitreal injection procedure should be carried out under controlled aseptic conditions which include the use of sterile gloves, a sterile drape, and a sterile eyelid speculum (or equivalent). Adequate anesthesia and a broad-spectrum microbicide should be given prior to the injection.

Renal

No studies have been conducted to examine the pharmacokinetics of OZURDEX in patients with renal impairment.

Reproductive Health

No reproductive and developmental toxicity data are available for OZURDEX. Dexamethasone has been shown to be teratogenic in mice and rabbits following topical ophthalmic application (Pregnancy Category C). Therefore, OZURDEX is not recommended during pregnancy unless the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the foetus (see [7.1.1 Pregnancy](#)).

7.1. Special Populations

7.1.1. Pregnancy

Topical dexamethasone has been shown to be teratogenic in mice (fetal resorptions and cleft palate) and rabbits (fetal resorptions and multiple abnormalities involving the head, ears, limbs, palate, etc.). Pregnant rhesus monkeys treated with dexamethasone intramuscularly had fetuses with cranial abnormalities (see [16 Non-Clinical Toxicology](#)).

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. OZURDEX should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

7.1.2. Breastfeeding

It is not known whether ocular administration of corticosteroids could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce detectable quantities in human milk. Systemically administered corticosteroids appear in human milk and could suppress growth, interfere with endogenous corticosteroid production, or cause other untoward effects. OZURDEX is not recommended during breast feeding unless clearly necessary.

7.1.3. Pediatrics

The safety and effectiveness of OZURDEX has not been studied in pediatric patients.

7.1.4. Geriatrics

No increased risk in the geriatric population was noted in the clinical studies with OZURDEX.

8. Adverse Reactions

8.1. Adverse Reaction Overview

Adverse reactions related to the prolonged use of ophthalmic dexamethasone include increased IOP, glaucoma with possible damage to the optic nerve, defects in visual acuity and visual field, posterior subcapsular cataract formation, secondary ocular infection from pathogens (including herpes simplex), and perforation of the globe where there is thinning of the cornea or sclera.

Indication of Macular Edema due to CRVO

In two Phase 3 studies assessing OZURDEX, the most frequently reported adverse reactions with OZURDEX were increased IOP (25.2%) and conjunctival haemorrhage (20.2%). Cataracts were also observed with OZURDEX. Other events reported infrequently and believed to be due to the procedure included vitreous hemorrhage and conjunctival edema. Overall, a total of 62.9% of patients experienced at least one adverse reaction based on the investigator's assessment.

Following the second OZURDEX injection, the adverse event profile was similar to that following the first injection, except for the overall incidence of cataracts which increased significantly after one year, with subcapsular cataract reported in 13 % of patients.

No significant differences in the safety profile were noted between patients with CRVO and those with Branch Retinal Vein Occlusion (BRVO), in relation to OZURDEX.

Indication of Posterior Segment Uveitis

In a single 6-month randomized study in adult patients with posterior segment uveitis, 76 patients received OZURDEX (with 73 completing the 6-month follow-up), and 75 patients received a sham. Fifty-seven (57) patients with OZURDEX (75%) experienced ocular adverse events, as compared to 60% of those with the sham. The most frequently reported adverse events were increased IOP (25% with OZURDEX and 7% with the sham) and conjunctival haemorrhage (30% with OZURDEX and 21% with sham). Cataract was reported in 12% of patients with OZURDEX and 5% of those with the sham. Other events included ocular discomfort, eye pain, and ocular hypertension. See Table 3 below for less common adverse events.

Indication of Diabetic Macular Edema

In two Phase 3 studies assessing OZURDEX, the most frequently reported adverse reactions with OZURDEX were cataracts (37.8%), intraocular pressure increased (30.8%), and conjunctival haemorrhage (21.0%). Incidences were generally higher with dexamethasone compared to sham, however there were no notable differences between the OZURDEX and DEX 350-mcg doses. Of note, cumulative study exposure (i.e., patient years) was shorter in the sham group (665.5 patient years) than in the OZURDEX and DEX 350 groups (853.9 and 880.2 patient years, respectively) due to more patient discontinuations after the second treatment in the sham group. Overall incidences of AEs and SAEs were similar across all three groups by exposure-adjusted analysis.

8.2. Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. Therefore, the frequencies of adverse reactions observed in the clinical trials may not reflect frequencies observed in clinical practice and should not be compared to frequencies reported in clinical trials of another drug.

Table 2 – Adverse Drug Reactions (> 2%) after 6 Months Following One OZURDEX Injection

System organ class/preferred term	Dexamethasone intravitreal injection n = 421 (%)	Sham n = 423 (%)
Ocular Reactions in the study eye		
Intraocular pressure increased	106 (25.2)	5 (1.2)
Conjunctival hemorrhage	85 (20.2)	63 (14.9)
Eye pain	31 (7.4)	16 (3.8)
Conjunctival hyperemia	28 (6.7)	20 (4.7)
Ocular hypertension	17 (4.0)	3 (0.7)
Cataract ^a	15 (3.6)	6 (1.4)
Vitreous detachment	12 (2.9)	8 (1.9)
Non-ocular Reactions		
Headache	14 (3.3)	7 (1.7)
a. Following two OZURDEX injections, cataracts were reported in 26% of patients, with subcapsular cataracts reported in 13% of patients.		

Following the first OZURDEX injection, increased IOP with OZURDEX peaked at Day 60 and returned to baseline levels by Day 180. Elevations of IOP either did not require treatment or were managed with topical IOP-lowering medications. During the initial treatment period, 0.7% (3/421) of the patients who received OZURDEX required laser or surgical procedures for management of elevated IOP in the study eye compared with 0.2% (1/423) with sham.

In 341 patients analyzed following a second injection of OZURDEX (6-month open-label phase), the increase in IOP was similar to the increase that was seen following the first injection during the initial 6-month randomized phase, and likewise returned to baseline by the end of the 6-month open-label phase. However, compared to the initial 6 months, the overall incidence of cataracts was higher after 1 year, compared to the initial 6 months with subcapsular cataract reported in 13% of patients.

The adverse event profile for BRVO patients was similar to that observed for CRVO patients. Although, the overall incidence of adverse events was higher for patients with CRVO (79.7%) than BRVO (69.1%), there was no indication that OZURDEX was more frequently associated with the occurrence of AEs in patients with CRVO than in patients with BRVO. That is, the difference in percentage of patients with AEs (overall) between OZURDEX and sham was approximately 19% for patients with CRVO, and 14% for those with BRVO.

Indication of Posterior Segment Uveitis

The following information in Table 3 is based on results from a 6-month randomized, sham-controlled study assessing the effects of a single OZURDEX injection in the treatment of patients with posterior

segment uveitis:

Table 3 – Ocular adverse events reported by ≥ 2% of patients with OZURDEX

System organ class/preferred term	Dexamethasone intravitreal injection n = 76 (%)	Sham n = 75 (%)
Eye Disorders		
Overall Ocular adverse events	57 (75.0)	45 (60.0)
IOP increased	19 (25.0)	5 (6.7)
Conjunctival Haemorrhage	23 (30.3)	16 (21.3)
Ocular Discomfort	10 (13.2)	6 (8.0)
Eye Pain	9 (11.8)	10 (13.3)
Cataract	11 (14.5)	8 (10.7)
Iridocyclitis	7 (9.2)	4 (5.3)
Ocular Hypertension	6 (7.9)	0
Myodesopsia	6 (7.9)	5 (6.7)
Uveitis	6 (7.9)	7 (9.3)
Vision Blurred	5 (6.6)	3 (4.0)
Conjunctival Hyperaemia	5 (6.6)	7 (9.3)
Blepharitis	3 (3.9)	0
Vitreous Opacities	3 (3.9)	1 (1.3)
Intermediate Uveitis	3 (3.9)	1 (1.3)
Conjunctival Oedema	3 (3.9)	3 (4.0)
Eye Irritation	3 (3.9)	3 (4.0)
Eye Pruritus	3 (3.9)	5 (6.7)
Macular Oedema	3 (3.9)	6 (8.0)
Iritis	2 (2.6)	0
Maculopathy	2 (2.6)	0
Anterior Chamber Cell	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)
Dry Eye	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)
Photopsia	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)

System organ class/preferred term	Dexamethasone intravitreal injection n = 76 (%)	Sham n = 75 (%)
Scleral Hyperaemia	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)
Visual Impairment	2 (2.6)	1 (1.3)
Abnormal sensation in eye	2 (2.6)	0
Eyelids Pruritus	2 (2.6)	0
Retinal Detachment	2 (2.6)	2 (2.7)

Rates of adverse events of increased IOP with OZURDEX peaked at Week 8 and IOP returned to baseline by Week 26. During the treatment period, 25 patients treated with OZURDEX experienced IOP increases ≥ 10 mm Hg, most of which were controlled with topical IOP-lowering medications. However, three patients with elevated IOP required laser iridotomies in the study eye (pupillary block, iris bombe, and raised IOP).

Cataract surgery was performed in one patient with OZURDEX.

Indication of Diabetic Macular Edema

The following information in Table 4 is based on the clinical safety of OZURDEX which was assessed in 2 Phase 3 randomized, masked, sham-controlled studies in patients with diabetic macular edema. In both studies, a total of 347 patients were randomized and received OZURDEX and 350 received sham.

Table 4 – Summary of Adverse Reactions in Phase 3 Studies in $\geq 2\%$ of Patients – 3 Year Studies

System organ class/preferred term	Dexamethasone intravitreal injection n = 347 (%)	Sham n = 350 (%)
Eye Disorders (Study Eye)		
Cataract	131 (37.8)	34 (9.7)
Cataract subcapsular	41 (11.8)	12 (3.4)
Cataract nuclear	18 (5.2)	8 (2.3)
Lenticular opacities	16 (4.6)	4 (1.1)
Intraocular pressure increased	107 (30.8)	12 (3.4)
Ocular hypertension	21 (6.1)	5 (1.4)
Conjunctival haemorrhage ^a	73 (21.0)	45 (12.9)
Vitreous haemorrhage ^a	24 (6.9)	25 (7.1)

System organ class/preferred term	Dexamethasone intravitreal injection n = 347 (%)	Sham n = 350 (%)
Eye pain ^a	18 (5.2)	13 (3.7)
Vitreous detachment	17 (4.9)	8 (2.3)
Vitreous floaters ^a	17 (4.9)	7 (2.0)
Conjunctival oedema ^a	15 (4.3)	4 (1.1)
Vitreous opacities ^a	11 (3.2)	3 (0.9)
a. Indicates adverse drug reactions considered to be related to the intravitreal injection procedure.		

Cataract and Intraocular Pressure

At baseline, the percentage of patients who had a phakic study eye was 75.5% (262/347) in the OZURDEX group and 71.6% (249/348) in the sham group. Among those, 87% in the OZURDEX group and 83.9% in the sham group had pre-existing lens opacification. The incidence of cataract (i.e., cataract cortical, cataract diabetic, cataract nuclear, cataract subcapsular, lenticular opacities, cataract) in patients who had a phakic study eye was higher in the OZURDEX group (67.9%) compared with sham (20.4%). 59.2% of patients who had a phakic study eye treated with OZURDEX required cataract surgery compared to 7.2% of the sham-treated patients with the majority of cataract surgeries reported in the 2nd and 3rd years.

The mean time to cataract being reported as an adverse event was approximately 16 months in the OZURDEX group and approximately 10 months in the sham group. In OZURDEX treated patients with a phakic study eye at baseline, the visual acuity achieved prior to cataract was re-established upon removal of the cataract.

In the OZURDEX group, the rate of the adverse event of increased IOP did not increase from year to year.

Mean IOP in the study eye at baseline was the same in both treatment groups (15.3 mm Hg). The mean increase from baseline did not exceed 3.2 mm Hg across all visits in the OZURDEX group, with mean IOP peaking observed at the 1.5 month visit post injection and returning to approximately baseline levels by Month 6 following each injection.

The 27.7% (96/347) of patients in the OZURDEX group, and 3.7% (13/350) patients in the sham group had a ≥ 10 mm Hg IOP increase from baseline at one or more visits during the study. At Month 6 after each treatment, $\leq 1\%$ of patients in each group had a ≥ 10 mm Hg IOP increase from baseline.

The 6.6% (23/347) of patients in the OZURDEX group, and 0.9% (3/350) patients in the sham group had IOP ≥ 35 mm Hg in the study eye at 1 or more visits during the study). At Month 6 after each treatment, no more than 1 patient in each group had IOP ≥ 35 mm Hg.

Elevations of IOP were more prevalent in the OZURDEX group than in the sham group. Overall, 3.5% of patients required IOP-lowering medication(s) at baseline. In total, the collective proportion of patients who were prescribed a topical IOP-lowering medication(s) at any given point in time during year 1 was

32.9%, decreasing to 29.5% and 28.7% throughout the study periods of year 2 and 3 respectively. Of the final visit study population, 21.5% had been prescribed IOP-lowering medication(s).

One patient in the OZURDEX group required incisional surgery (trabeculectomy) to manage the steroid-induced IOP elevation.

Three patients in the OZURDEX group and one in the sham group had concurrent procedures in the study eye for the treatment of IOP elevation. One patient had a trabeculectomy owing to anterior chamber fibrin blocking the aqueous outflow leading to increased IOP, 2 patients had an iridectomy (1 OZURDEX and 1 sham), and 1 had an iridotomy. No patient required removal of the implant by vitrectomy to control IOP.

In summary, in the OZURDEX group, the incidence of elevated intraocular pressure adverse events did not increase over time, the magnitude of the IOP elevation following OZURDEX treatment did not increase upon repeated injection, and the proportion of patients using IOP-lowering medications in the study eye remained similar from year to year. These data suggest that there is no cumulative effect of OZURDEX on IOP.

8.3. Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Indication of Macular Edema due to CRVO

Adverse drug reactions observed at an incidence of <2% in the two controlled clinical trials are provided below:

Eye Disorders: Retinal tear¹, anterior chamber flare¹, visual disturbance, photopsia¹, conjunctival edema¹, vitreous hemorrhage¹, vitreous opacities¹ (including vitreous floaters), anterior chamber cell¹.

¹. considered to be related to the intravitreal injection procedure rather than the dexamethasone implant.

Indication of Posterior Segment Uveitis

OZURDEX-related sterile endophthalmitis was reported in one patient. The following events were reported in patients treated with OZURDEX:

Eye Disorders: visual acuity reduced, choroiditis, visual field defect, hypotony of the eye, eye swelling / edema / erythema, eyelid ptosis, conjunctivitis allergic, anterior chamber flare, medical device complication (clot around an end of the study medication implant), and periorbital haematoma.

Indication of Diabetic Macular Edema

Uncommon adverse reactions included anterior chamber inflammation (1.7% - injection procedure related), endophthalmitis (0.6% - injection procedure related), glaucoma (0.9%) and necrotizing retinitis (0.3%).

8.5. Post-Market Adverse Reactions

Reports of pain on injection associated with what was considered to be a blunt needle have been received. Reports of endophthalmitis considered to be injection related have been received (see [7 Warnings and Precautions](#)).

Serious cases of implants dislocation into the anterior chamber (with or without corneal edema and/or corneal decompensation) have been reported.

Failures to insert the implant correctly (misplaced implants) with complications resulting in ocular tissue injury have been reported and may require eye surgery (cataract surgery) and to remove surgically the implant.

Several cases of temporary hypotony of the eye have been reported, some of which were serious.

Reports of serious ocular hypertension requiring surgery (including vitrectomy to remove the implant) have been reported.

One report of serious vitreous adhesions with foveal traction syndrome has been reported.

Several cases of retinal detachment have been reported, some of which were serious.

Several cases of central serous chorioretinopathy have been reported.

Post-Marketing Observational Study (CONSTANCE 206207-025)

The clinical safety of DEX 700 was assessed in a multicentre, 24-month real world observational study in the treatment of macular edema following RVO and non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye. The most frequent adverse reactions observed in this study were consistent with the most frequent adverse reactions from clinical trials. Stratifications by injection frequency revealed increases in the incidence of adverse reactions among patients who received > 2 injections compared to patients who received ≤ 2 injections. The most frequent adverse reactions for patients who received > 2 injections included cataract [(24.7%, 44/178) for cataract formation and (32.0%, 57/178) for cataract progression] based on eyes with phakic lens status at baseline, vitreous hemorrhage (6.0%, 17/283), and increased IOP (24.0%, 68/283).

9. Drug Interactions

9.2. Drug Interactions Overview

Drug interaction studies have not been conducted with OZURDEX.

Anti-coagulant therapy was used in 1.7% of patients with macular edema due to retinal vein occlusion; there were no reports of hemorrhagic adverse events in these patients. Anti-platelet medicinal products, such as clopidogrel, were used at some stage during the clinical studies in over 40% of patients. In clinical trial patients receiving anti-platelet therapy, haemorrhagic adverse events were reported in a higher proportion of patients injected with OZURDEX (27%) compared with the control group (20%). The most common haemorrhagic adverse reaction reported was conjunctival haemorrhage (24%). Anti-coagulant or anti-platelet therapy should not be used within two weeks before the injection of OZURDEX. OZURDEX should be used with great caution in patients taking anti-coagulant or anti-platelet medicinal products, and only if the expected benefits outweigh the potential risks to the patient.

Systemic drugs which induce cytochrome P450 3A4 (CYP 3A4) enzyme activity (e.g., barbiturates, phenytoin, carbamazepine, rifampin) may enhance the metabolism of corticosteroids and require that the dosage of the corticosteroid be increased. Drugs which inhibit CYP 3A4 (e.g., ketoconazole, macrolide antibiotics such as erythromycin) have the potential to result in increased plasma concentrations of corticosteroids. Dexamethasone is a moderate inducer of CYP 3A4. Co-administration with other drugs that are metabolized by CYP 3A4 (e.g., indinavir, erythromycin) may increase their clearance, resulting in decreased plasma concentration.

Plasma dexamethasone concentration following intravitreal administration of OZURDEX is expected to be significantly lower (at or below the limit of detection) compared to oral and IV administration, and therefore, is not expected to result in significant drug-drug interaction systemically.

9.3. Drug-Behaviour Interactions

Not applicable.

9.4. Drug-Drug Interactions

Interactions with other drugs have not been established.

9.5. Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food have not been established.

9.6. Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

9.7. Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

10. Clinical Pharmacology

10.1. Mechanism of Action

Dexamethasone is a glucocorticoid receptor agonist. Although the mechanism of action of dexamethasone in ocular inflammatory disease is most likely due to its potent anti-inflammatory activity, the mechanism of action in the treatment of posterior segment diseases is not completely understood. However, dexamethasone has been reported to inhibit the expression of vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), a potent promoter of vascular permeability.

10.2. Pharmacodynamics

OZURDEX is a biodegradable polymer matrix containing 700 mcg micronized dexamethasone placed directly into the posterior segment of the eye with an applicator. The polymer degrades over time, gradually releasing dexamethasone directly to the vitreous, and therefore, OZURDEX may reduce the potential for systemic effects compared with other routes of administration.

Dexamethasone is a potent glucocorticoid which is the pharmacologically-active component of OZURDEX. After releasing from the polymer matrix, it becomes available within the vitreous to diffuse to retinal target cells and bind with high affinity to the glucocorticoid receptor. The end result is the upregulation or down-regulation of multiple proteins, many of which are responsible for the potent anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressant properties of dexamethasone.

Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) is a vasoactive cytokine that has been linked to macular edema and that promotes the breakdown of the blood-retinal and blood-aqueous barriers.

Glucocorticoids, such as dexamethasone and triamcinolone acetonide, were shown to suppress the expression of VEGF protein.

10.3. Pharmacokinetics

Absorption

Plasma concentrations were obtained from a subset of 21 patients in the two 6-month RVO efficacy studies prior to dosing and on Day 7, 30, 60, and 90 following the intravitreal implant containing 700 mcg dexamethasone. Eighty-six percent of the plasma dexamethasone concentration values for the 700 mcg dose group were below the lower limit of quantitation (0.05 ng/mL). The highest plasma concentration value of 0.094 ng/mL was observed in one subject from the 700 mcg group. Plasma dexamethasone concentration did not appear to be related to age, body weight, or sex of patients.

In the Phase 3 diabetic macular edema studies, blood samples were obtained from a subgroup of patients at pre-dose, Days 1, 7, and 21, and Months 1.5 and 3 to determine plasma dexamethasone concentrations. In both studies, the majority of concentrations were below the LLOQ of 0.05 ng/mL. Plasma dexamethasone concentrations from 5 of 52 samples in the OZURDEX group and from 0 of 60 samples in the DEX 350 group were above the LLOQ, ranging from 0.0599 ng/mL to 0.102 ng/mL.

Distribution

In a 6-month monkey study following a single intravitreal injection of OZURDEX the dexamethasone vitreous humor C_{max} was 100 ng/mL at Day 42 post-injection and 5.57ng/mL at Day 91. The rank order of dexamethasone concentration was retina > iris > ciliary body > vitreous humor > aqueous humor > plasma.

In an *in vitro* melanin binding study, dexamethasone did not demonstrate any significant binding to synthetic melanin.

Metabolism

In an *in vitro* metabolism study, following the incubation of [14 C]-dexamethasone with human cornea, iris-ciliary body, choroid, retina, vitreous humor, and sclera tissues for 18 hours, no metabolites were observed.

11. Storage, Stability, and Disposal

Store at controlled room temperature 15 to 30°C and protect from excessive heat.

12. Special Handling Instructions

None.

Part 2: Scientific Information

13. Pharmaceutical Information

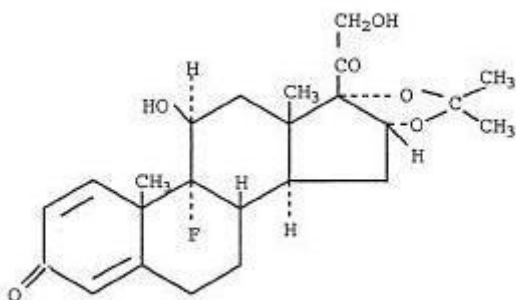
Drug Substance

Non-proprietary name of the drug substance(s): dexamethasone

Chemical name: pregna-1,4-diene-3,20-dione, 9-fluoro-11,17,21-trihydroxy-16-methyl-, (11 β ,16 α)

Molecular formula and molecular mass: C₂₂H₂₉FO₅ and 392.47 g/mol

Structure (for biologics)/Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Dexamethasone occurs as a white to cream-colored crystalline powder having not more than a slight odor and is practically insoluble in water and very soluble in alcohol.

Pharmaceutical standard: USP and Ph.Eur.

14. Clinical Trials

14.1. Clinical Trials by Indication

Indication of Macular Edema due to CRVO

Table 5 – Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials in Macular Edema due to CRVO

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
206207-008	Multicentre, masked, randomized, sham-controlled, parallel groups	OZURDEX 0.7 mg and Dexamethasone 0.35 mg applicator system; and sham needleless applicator system Intravitreal injection 6-month masked initial treatment followed by 6-month open-label extension	n = 599 OZURDEX 0.7 mg = 201 Dexamethasone 0.35 mg = 196 Sham = 202	65.5 years (32 to 91)	M 327 (54.6%) F 272 (45.4%)
206207-009	Multicentre, masked, randomized, sham-controlled, parallel groups	OZURDEX 0.7 mg and Dexamethasone 0.35 mg applicator system; and sham needleless applicator system Intravitreal injection 6-month masked initial treatment followed by 6-month open-label extension	n = 668 OZURDEX 0.7 mg = 226 Dexamethasone 0.35 mg = 218 Sham = 224	63.6 years (31 to 96)	M 350 (52.4%) F 318 (47.6%)

Demographic and baseline characteristics were not significantly different among the treatment groups. Approximately 50% of patients were over 65, and 75% were Caucasian. For the majority of patients, the duration of macular edema was between 90 and 179 days, with 17% of patients with durations less than 90 days.

In two identical Phase 3 studies (Study 206207-008 and Study 206207-009), 1267 adult patients with either CRVO (approximately 1 third of the patients) or BRVO (approximately 2 thirds of the patients) were randomized to OZURDEX 0.7 mg (n = 427), or a Sham (n = 426), or to a lower strength dexamethasone implant 0.35 mg (n = 414).

The main selection criteria were: a duration of macular edema prior to baseline of 6 weeks to 9 months for CRVO patients and of 6 weeks to 12 months for BRVO patients, Best Corrected Visual Acuity (BCVA) score was between 34 and 68 letters (EDTRS), and Central retinal thickness ≥ 300 microns by OCT. Note that patients with significant retinal ischemia were not allowed into the study.

After OZURDEX injection, patients were monitored from initial treatment through to Day 180 including scheduled visits on Days 30, 60, 90, and 180.

At the end of the first 6-month period, patients were eligible to receive a second OZURDEX implant in a 6-month open label extension if they had a BCVA < 84 letters, or a central retinal thickness > 250 microns.

Study Results

The efficacy of OZURDEX was assessed based on patients treated with OZURDEX (N = 427) as compared to sham (N = 426), using the study eye and the ITT population (with Last Observation Carried Forward for missing values). Efficacy analyses were performed separately for CRVO patients and BRVO patients. Among 570 patients with macular edema due to BRVO, 291 were randomized to OZURDEX, and 279 to sham, and among 283 patients with macular edema due to CRVO, 136 were randomized to OZURDEX, and 147 to sham.

The treatment benefits of OZURDEX were larger in patients with macular edema due to CRVO, as compared to those with BRVO. Only results in CRVO patients are presented below.

OZURDEX injection showed a statistically significantly greater proportion of patients achieving a ≥ 15 -letter improvement from baseline in BCVA at Day 30, and 60.

Table 6 - Results of primary and secondary efficacy endpoints in clinical trial studies 206207-008 and 206207-009 in Macular Edema due to CRVO

Visit	OZURDEX (n = 136)	Sham (n = 147)	Difference	p-Value
Primary Endpoint - Proportion of Patients with ≥ 15 Letters Improvement from Baseline Best Corrected Visual Acuity in the Study Eye (Pooled, CRVO Study Population)				
Day 30	21.3%	6.8%	14.5%	< 0.001
Day 60	28.7%	8.8%	19.8%	< 0.001
Day 90	17.6%	10.2%	7.4%	0.07
Day 180	18.4%	12.2%	6.1%	0.151
Proportion of Patients with ≥ 15 -letter Vision Loss from Baseline BCVA (Pooled, CRVO Study Population)				
Day 30	3.7%	6.8%	-3.1%	0.241
Day 60	3.7%	10.9%	-7.2%	0.021
Day 90	8.1%	13.6%	-5.5%	0.138
Day 180	14.0%	20.4%	-6.4%	0.153

Visit	OZURDEX (n = 136)	Sham (n = 147)	Difference	p-Value
Baseline and Mean Change from Baseline in Number of Letters Read Correctly (Pooled, CRVO Study Population)				
Baseline	52.4 letters	53.3 letters	-	
	Change from Baseline- (letters)			
Day 30	7.2	0.4	6.9	≤ 0.005
Day 60	8.7	-0.5	9.3	≤ 0.005
Day 90	4.2	-0.4	4.6	≤ 0.005
Day 180	0.1	-1.8	1.9	-

The proportion of patients with vision loss from baseline of ≥ 15-letter in BCVA was smaller with OZURDEX as compared to sham (maximum difference of 7.2% at Day 60).

The mean change from baseline BCVA was statistically significantly greater with OZURDEX compared to sham up to Day 90. The improvements peaked at Day 60 with a difference among groups of 9.3 letters (**Error! Reference source not found.**) in favour of OZURDEX as compared to the sham.

Indication of Posterior Segment Uveitis

Table 7 – Summary of patient demographics for clinical trial in Posterior Segment Uveitis

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
206207-014	Multicentre, masked, randomized, randomized patient and examiner-masked sham control	OZURDEX and 350 mcg applicator system; and sham needleless applicator system Intravitreal injection 8 weeks with an 18-week masked extension	OZURDEX n = 77 DEX 350 = 76 Sham = 76	44.8 years (18 to 82)	M 84 (36.7%) F 145 (63.3%)

In a single Phase 3, multicentre, masked, randomized study for the treatment of non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye (Study 206207-014), 229 adult patients were randomized to receive either OZURDEX (N = 77), or Sham (N = 76), or a lower strength dexamethasone implant 0.35 mg (n=76). Most patients had intermediate uveitis (80%), and only 20% had posterior uveitis.

Inclusion criteria included a best-corrected (ETDRS) visual acuity score of 10 to 75 letters inclusive

(Snellen equivalent approximately 20/640 – 20/32) in the study eye.

Main exclusion criteria were IOP > 21 mm Hg, ocular hypertension or glaucoma, use of anti-glaucoma medications ≤ 4 weeks prior to treatment, periocular corticosteroid injections ≤ 8 weeks prior to treatment, intravitreal injections ≤ 26 weeks prior to treatment, previous use of Retisert™, and intraocular surgery ≤ 90 days prior to treatment. Other exclusion criteria included history of pars plana vitrectomy or herpetic infection, and presence of active ocular infection, or scleral thinning (or ectasia), uncontrolled systemic disease or HIV infection. Women who were pregnant, nursing, or planning a pregnancy, or who were of childbearing potential and not using contraception, were also excluded.

The primary efficacy analysis was the proportion of patients with vitreous haze score of 0 at Week 8 (primary time point). Other analyses included the proportion of patients with ≥ 15-letter visual score (BCVA) improvement, and the proportion of patients with ≥ 2-unit improvement from baseline in vitreous haze score.

The mean (range) age was 44.8 (18 to 82) years, and 8.3% were over the age of 65 years. The majority of patients were female (63.3%) and Caucasian (60.7%).

Study Results

The efficacy of a single injection of OZURDEX was assessed in a 6-month single, multicentre, masked, randomized study for the treatment of non-infectious uveitis affecting the posterior segment of the eye (Study 206207-014).

Approximately 80% of patients had intermediate uveitis and 20% posterior uveitis. At baseline, 83% of patients had a vitreal haze score of +1.5 to 2, and 17% a score of +3 or +4. Over 40% of patients in each treatment group had received medications for the treatment of ocular inflammation in the study eye prior to the trial.

The efficacy analysis using the Intention To Treat population (ITT) population (with Last Observation Carried Forward for missing values), showed that after a single injection, the percent of patients reaching a vitreous haze score of 0 (where a score of 0 represents no inflammation) was statistically significantly greater for patients receiving OZURDEX versus sham at Week 8 (primary time point) and persisting through Week 26. Additionally, the proportion of patients showing ≥ 2 unit improvement from baseline in vitreous haze score, and the proportion of patients with ≥ 15 letters improvement from baseline in BCVA were statistically significantly higher with OZURDEX compared to sham throughout the 26-week period (Table 8).

Table 8 – Results of primary and secondary efficacy endpoints for clinical trial in study 206207-014 in Posterior Segment Uveitis

Study Week	OZURDEX (n = 77)	Sham (n = 76)	p-Value ^a
Primary Endpoint - Percent of patients with vitreous haze score of 0			
Week 3	23%	12%	0.061
Week 6	43%	9%	< 0.001
Week 8	47%	12%	< 0.001
Week 12	46%	13%	< 0.001

Study Week	OZURDEX (n = 77)	Sham (n = 76)	p-Value ^a
Week 16	40%	21%	0.01
Week 20	39%	20%	0.009
Week 26	31%	15%	0.014
Secondary endpoint - Percent of patients with ≥ 15-letter improvement in BCVA from baseline			
Week 3	33%	4%	< 0.001
Week 6	42%	8%	< 0.001
Week 8	43%	7%	< 0.001
Week 12	42%	13%	< 0.001
Week 16	39%	13%	< 0.001
Week 20	40%	13%	< 0.001
Week 26	38%	13%	< 0.001
Secondary endpoint - Percent of patients with ≥ 2-unit improvement from baseline in vitreous haze score			
Week 3	21%	8%	0.023
Week 6	40%	12%	< 0.001
Week 8	44%	12%	< 0.001
Week 12	42%	13%	< 0.001
Week 16	40%	17%	0.002
Week 20	42%	15%	< 0.001
Week 26	34%	12%	0.001

a. p-values were based on Pearson's chi-square or Fisher's exact test.

Indication of Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

Table 9 – Summary of Patient Demographics for clinical trials in Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex
206207-010	Multicentre, masked, randomized, sham-controlled	OZURDEX 0.7 mg and Dexamethasone 0.35 mg applicator system; and sham needleless applicator system Intravitreal injection Up to 7 treatments during the 3-year study period	OZURDEX 163/107 DEX 350 166/118 Sham 165/70	63.0 years (26 to 84)	M 304 (61.5%) F 190 (38.5%)
206207-011	Multicentre, masked, randomized, sham-controlled	OZURDEX 0.7 mg and Dexamethasone 0.35 mg applicator system; and sham needleless applicator system Intravitreal injection Up to 7 treatments during the 3-year study period	OZURDEX 188/118 DEX 350 181/112 Sham 185/82	61.9 years (25 to 88)	M 332 (59.9%) F 222 (40.1%)

The Phase 3 studies included elements necessary for a valid ascertainment of the effectiveness of treatment. A parallel group design minimized possible confounding effects that are inherent in other study designs (e.g., crossover). The studies were randomized and masked to minimize investigator and patient bias.

Patients were randomized in a 1:1:1 ratio to OZURDEX, DEX 350, or sham on Day 0, and received up to 7 treatments during the 3-year study period. Starting from the Month 6 visit, patients were evaluated for retreatment eligibility every 3 months, but the study treatment procedure was not to be performed more often than approximately every 6 months.

Patients who had confirmed 15 or more letters decrease in BCVA from baseline in the study eye attributable to macular edema (e.g., not due to cataract or media opacity) were exited from the study at the investigator's discretion and considered to be a treatment failure. Patients who had received escape therapy in the study eye were considered to be study treatment failures, were no longer eligible to receive study medication, and were withdrawn from the study based on when they last received study treatment. A patient may have been withdrawn from the study at either the patient or the investigator's discretion at any point for any reason. Patients who underwent cataract surgery were to continue in the study.

Patients were masked to the study treatment assignment which was maintained for the duration of the trial. Study treatment procedures and postinsertion safety evaluations were performed by a treating investigator at each site. Follow up investigators, site personnel including the visual acuity examiner, optical coherence tomography (OCT)/fluorescein angiography technicians, and evaluators at the central reading facility were masked, and had no knowledge of study treatment assignment.

Key inclusion criteria for the Phase 3 studies were male or female, at least 18 years of age, diagnosis of diabetes mellitus (type 1 or type 2), blood HbA1c > 10%, clinically observable macular edema involving the centre of the macula (fovea) associated with diabetic retinopathy, BCVA score between 34 and 68 letters in the study eye, and retinal thickness of ≥ 300 microns by OCT.

Further analyses were performed on 187 patients in the ITT population with a pseudophakic lens in the study eye at baseline; 86 in the DEX 700 group and 101 in the Sham group. The baseline characteristics of the pseudophakic subpopulation and the ITT population were generally similar, including mean BCVA (55.5 vs. 56.2 letters, respectively) and central retinal thickness (462.7 vs. 463.6 microns, respectively).

Study Results

The clinical efficacy of OZURDEX was assessed in 2 Phase 3 randomized, masked, sham-controlled studies (Studies 206207-010 and 206207-011) in patients with diabetic macular edema. A total of 1,048 patients (351 OZURDEX, 347 DEX 350, and 350 sham) were evaluated as the ITT population and received up to 7 treatments during the 3-year study period.

A clinical benefit was established in these two studies in the ITT population. In patients with a phakic study eye, however, vision improvement was confounded by cataract formation or progression which occurred on average during the 2nd year of the study and was not reestablished until the cataract was removed. The group which benefited from OZURDEX treatment the most were pseudophakic patients at baseline, and therefore, only the results in this patient population are presented below.

In the pooled subgroup of patients with a pseudophakic study eye at baseline, the proportion of patients with 15 or more letters improvement in BCVA from baseline was significantly higher with DEX 700 (23.3%) compared with Sham (10.9%) at the year 3/final visit, $p = 0.024$.

The mean BCVA average change from baseline during the study (AUC approach) was significantly greater with DEX 700 (6.5 letters) compared to Sham (1.7 letters), $p < 0.001$.

The mean average decrease from baseline in OCT central subfield retinal thickness during the study (AUC approach) was significantly greater with DEX 700 (131.8 microns) compared to Sham (50.8 microns), $p < 0.001$.

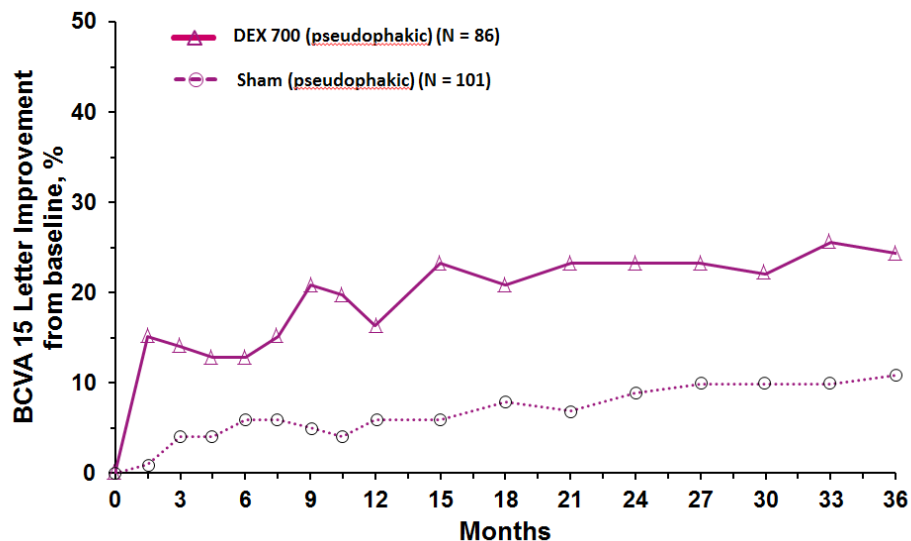
The efficacy results for the pseudophakic patients subgroup by study and pooled analyses are presented in Table 10 below.

Table 10 – Results of efficacy endpoints for clinical trials studies 206207-010, 206207-011 and Pooled Analysis in Diabetic Macular Edema (DME)

Study 206207-010			
Endpoint	OZURDEX (n = 44)	Sham (n = 50)	p-Value
BCVA $\geq$ 15-letter improvement from baseline at year 3/final visit (%)	34.1	16.0	0.042
Mean BCVA average change over 3 years, AUC approach (letters)	8.1	2.1	< 0.001
OCT retinal thickness at centre subfield mean average change over 3 years, AUC approach (microns)	-137.4	-43.3	< 0.001
Study 206207-011			
Endpoint	OZURDEX (n = 42)	Sham (n = 51)	p-Value
BCVA $\geq$ 15-letter improvement from baseline at year 3/final visit (%)	11.9	5.9	0.461
Mean BCVA average change over 3 years, AUC approach (letters)	4.9	1.3	0.018
OCT retinal thickness at centre subfield mean average change over 3 years, AUC approach (microns)	-125.9	-58.3	0.007
Pooled Analysis			
Endpoint	OZURDEX (n = 86)	Sham (n = 101)	p-Value
BCVA $\geq$ 15-letter improvement from baseline at year 3/final visit (%)	23.3	10.9	0.024
Mean BCVA average change over 3 years, AUC approach (letters)	6.5	1.7	< 0.001
OCT retinal thickness at centre subfield mean average change over 3 years, AUC approach (microns)	-131.8	-50.8	< 0.001

AUC = area under the curve; BCVA = best-corrected visual acuity; OCT = optical coherence tomography

Figure 1. Proportion of Patients With 15 or More Letters Improvement in BCVA From Baseline by Visit (Pooled Studies 206027-010 and 206207-011, Pseudophakic Patient Subpopulation)



15. Microbiology

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

16. Non-Clinical Toxicology

General toxicology

No mutagenicity, carcinogenicity, reproductive or developmental toxicity studies are available for dexamethasone intravitreal implant.

Five toxicology studies were performed with for the assessment of the toxicity of dexamethasone intravitreal implant. Three were single-dose toxicity studies in New Zealand White (NZW) rabbits (two studies with duration of 7 weeks (X7I062G and X8I310G) and one with a duration of 9 months (P0701002)). In addition, two 9-month repeat-dose studies were performed (one in NZW rabbits (TX05030), and one in Cynomolgus monkeys (TX05029)).

Lens opacities were noted in the 9-month rabbit study (Study TX05030), but were not observed in any of the other studies. In all the studies, there were no significant or unexpected other drug-related ocular adverse effects.

In one rabbit study (Study P0701002) transient systemic effects were noted: decrease in body weight, lymphoid depletion (thymus, cecal tonsils and spleen), hepatocellular swelling and degeneration, atrophy of the adrenal glands, increases in serum levels of alkaline phosphatase, alanine aminotransferase, and cholesterol. Changes in serum levels of creatinine, total protein, and globulin levels were also noted. No systemic effects were noted in the other toxicity studies. Note that these effects were transient and reversible after Day 60 or 90.

Genotoxicity

No studies of the mutagenic potential of dexamethasone intravitreal implant have been conducted. Studies evaluating the mutagenic potential of dexamethasone in bacteria and mammalian cells in vitro have been negative. An in vivo mouse micronucleus test was also negative. The polymer used in dexamethasone intravitreal implant has been widely used in implantable medical devices.

Carcinogenicity

No carcinogenicity studies on dexamethasone intravitreal implant or dexamethasone have been performed.

Reproductive and developmental toxicology

No studies of the reproductive or developmental toxicity are available for dexamethasone intravitreal implant.

Dexamethasone has been shown to be teratogenic in mice and rabbits following topical ophthalmic application. In the mouse, corticosteroids produce fetal resorptions and a specific abnormality, cleft palate. In the rabbit, corticosteroids have produced fetal resorptions and multiple abnormalities involving the head, ears, limbs, palate, etc. Pregnant rhesus monkeys treated with dexamethasone sodium phosphate intramuscularly at 1.0 mg/kg/day every other day for 28 days or at 10.0 mg/kg/day once or every other day on 3 or 5 days between gestation Days 23 and 49 had fetuses with findings limited to minor cranial abnormalities. A 1.0 mg/kg/day dose in pregnant rhesus monkeys would be approximately 85 times higher than a 700 mcg DEX PS DDS® implant in humans (assuming 60 kg body weight).

Patient Medication Information

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

Pr **OZURDEX**®

Dexamethasone Intravitreal Implant

This Patient Medication Information is written for the person who will be taking **OZURDEX**. This may be you or a person you are caring for. Read this information carefully. Keep it as you may need to read it again.

This Patient Medication Information is a summary. It will not tell you everything about this medication. If you have more questions about this medication or want more information about **OZURDEX**, talk to a healthcare professional.

What OZURDEX is used for:

OZURDEX is used in adults to treat:

- **Macular edema:** swelling in a part of the eye called the macula that is caused by a blockage of veins in the eye.
- **Non-infectious uveitis:** inflammation of the back part of the eye that is not caused by an eye infection.
- **Diabetic macular edema (DME):** swelling of the macula in patients with diabetes who have had cataract surgery and artificial lens implantation.

These conditions all cause swelling in the back part of your eye, which leads to vision changes and vision loss.

How OZURDEX works:

OZURDEX works by reducing swelling of the macula. This helps to lessen or prevent more damage to the macula. The macula is an area in the centre of the back part of the eye. It is responsible for clear vision.

OZURDEX also works by reducing inflammation in the back part of the eye.

The ingredients in OZURDEX are:

Medicinal ingredient: dexamethasone

Non-medicinal ingredients: A polymer drug delivery system that contains PLGA biodegradable polymer matrix (NOVADUR®): Resomer® RG 502, Poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide), 50:50 PLGA ester terminated; and Resomer® RG 502 H, Poly (D,L-lactide-co-glycolide), 50:50 PLGA acid terminated

OZURDEX comes in the following dosage form(s):

An intravitreal implant that contains 0.7 mg dexamethasone. Intravitreal means that this implant is placed into the eye through an injection.

Do not use OZURDEX if:

- you are allergic to dexamethasone or any of the other ingredients in OZURDEX
- you are allergic to other medicines like OZURDEX, called corticosteroids
- you have an eye infection of any kind caused by bacteria, a virus or a fungus
- you have glaucoma that is at an advanced stage
- you have aphakic eyes (eyes without natural or artificial lens) along with a tear in the posterior lens capsule of your eye
- you have a condition called Anterior Chamber Intraocular Lens (ACIOL) along with a tear in the posterior lens capsule of your eye

Ask your healthcare professional if you are not sure if you have any of the conditions listed above.

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take OZURDEX. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have aphakic eyes (eyes without natural or artificial lens)
- have a tear in the posterior lens capsule of your eye
- have had a herpes simplex infection in your eye before (an ulcer on the eye that has been there a long time, or sores on the eye)
- are taking any medication to thin the blood
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant
- are breast feeding or planning to breast feed
- had recent eye surgery, or plan to have eye surgery which may or may not cause swelling/damage of the clear part of the eye

Other warnings you should know about:

Eye problems: The following may occur or get worse after OZURDEX treatment:

- an infection inside or around the eye
- redness (inflammation) inside the eye
- glaucoma and/or increased pressure in the eye
- detachment of the layer in the back of the eye (retinal detachment)
- clouding of the lens (cataract)
- misplacement of implant that requires surgical intervention

It is important to identify and treat these conditions as soon as possible. Tell your healthcare professional immediately if you have any concerns with your eye or experience any of the following signs:

- blurred or decreased vision
- eye pain or increased discomfort
- worsening eye redness

- a feeling of spots in front of the eye (called 'floaters')
- increased sensitivity to light

In some patients the pressure in the eye may increase right after OZURDEX is implanted into the eye. This is something you may not notice, so your healthcare professional might monitor this after OZURDEX is implanted.

Driving and using machines:

After OZURDEX treatment you may experience some blurred vision for a short time. Wait until you can see clearly before driving or using machines.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with OZURDEX:

- medicines used to thin your blood called blood thinners
- sedatives and sleep-inducing medicines called barbiturates
- rifampin, which is a medicine used to treat tuberculosis
- ketoconazole, which is a medicine used to treat fungal infections
- indinavir, which is a medicine used to treat HIV infection
- medicines used to treat seizures, like phenytoin or carbamazepine
- erythromycin, which is an antibiotic

How to take OZURDEX:

- OZURDEX will be given to you by a healthcare professional, called an ophthalmologist, who has experience in giving injections into the eye.
- it will be implanted directly into your eye through an injection.
- it is not recommended that both of your eyes be injected with OZURDEX at the same time.
- after you receive the injection, your healthcare professional will check your eye.
- you may be given antibiotic eye drops to use before, during or after your injection to prevent eye infections.
- you may also be given a pain medicine on the day of your injection.
- you may hear a 'click' during the injection of OZURDEX; you should not move, as this is expected.
- follow all instructions given to you by your healthcare professional.

Usual dose:

The usual dose is one OZURDEX implant to be given by injection into your eye. Your healthcare professional will decide if you should receive another OZURDEX injection. If you need another injection, your healthcare professional will wait 6 months to give it to you.

Overdose:

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much OZURDEX, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, regional poison control centre or Health Canada's toll-free number, 1-844 POISON-X (1-844-764-7669) immediately, even if there are no signs or symptoms.

Missed dose:

If you miss your appointment to receive OZURDEX, contact your healthcare professional or hospital as soon as possible to reschedule your appointment.

Possible side effects from using OZURDEX:

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking OZURDEX. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Serious side effects and what to do about them

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		[Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help] OR [Get immediate medical help]
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Very common			
IOP increase (increased pressure in the eye): eye pain, nausea, vomiting		✓	
Glaucoma (serious eye disease where pressure in the eye is increased): blurred vision, eye redness, halos around lights, loss of vision, nausea, severe eye pain, vomiting		✓	
Cataracts (clouding of the lens of your eye): blurry vision, clouded vision, eye pain, fading or yellowing of colours, seeing halos and glare around lights, trouble seeing at night		✓	
Conjunctival haemorrhage (bleeding on the surface of the eye)	✓		
Common			
Vitreous detachment (detachment of the jelly inside the eye from the light-sensitive layer at the back of		✓	

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		[Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help] OR [Get immediate medical help]
	Only if severe	In all cases	
the eye): seeing flashes of light and floaters			
Vitreous haemorrhage (bleeding into the inside of the eye): blurry or blocked vision, floaters		✓	
Abnormal sensation in eye (abnormal feeling in the eye)	✓		
Blepharitis, eyelids pruritus (inflammation and itchiness of the eyelid)	✓		
Migraine: severe headache, with or without vision changes (aura)	✓		
Conjunctival oedema (swelling on the surface of the eye)	✓		
Vitreous opacities (a feeling of looking through mist or fog)	✓		
Rare			
Retinal tear (tear in the retina or retinal detachment): seeing floaters and flashing lights; or vision loss or difficulty seeing		✓	
Anterior chamber flare (increased protein in the front of the eye due to inflammation): blurry vision	✓		
Headache		✓	
Necrotizing retinitis (severe inflammation at the back of the eye [usually due to viral infection]): eye redness, pain in your eyeball, sensitive to light, vision loss		✓	✓
Endophthalmitis (severe infection and inflammation inside the eye): eye pain, redness, vision loss		✓	
Unknown			
Device dislocation (migration of implant) with or without corneal oedema/corneal decompensation (implant migrated from the back to the front part of the eye which may or may not cause		✓	

Frequency/Side Effect/Symptom	Talk to your healthcare professional		[Stop taking this drug and get immediate medical help] OR [Get immediate medical help]
	Only if severe	In all cases	
swelling/damage of the clear part of the eye): blurry vision			
Hypotony of the eye (low eye pressure): blurry vision	✓		
Central Serous Chorioretinopathy (fluid build-up at the back of the eye): blurry vision		✓	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

Reporting side effects

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (canada.ca/drug-device-reporting) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your healthcare professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

Storage:

Store at room temperature between 15 and 30°C. Protect from excessive heat.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

If you want more information about OZURDEX:

Talk to your healthcare professional

- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes the Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada Drug Product Database website ([Drug Product Database: Access the database](http://DrugProductDatabase.Access.the.database)); the manufacturer's website (www.abbvie.ca); or by calling 1-888-704-8271.

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