

# Pharmacotherapeutic report on eslicarbazepine (Zebinix®) for the 'adjunctive treatment of partial onset seizures with or without secondary generalisation in adults aged 18 years and above with epilepsy'

## Medicine. Eslicarbazepine (acetate), 800-mg tablet.

### Summary of the therapeutic value

**Intended effects.** No direct comparative studies have been carried out in which eslicarbazepine was compared with other antiepileptic drugs for the adjunctive treatment of partial epilepsy. In short-term studies of partial epilepsy, eslicarbazepine acetate was statistically significantly more effective than placebo at reducing the frequency of seizures when given in doses of 800 mg and 1200 mg/day in adjunctive treatment with 1-2 other antiepileptic drugs. In these studies, the difference between a 400-mg/day dose of eslicarbazepine and placebo was not statistically significant. An indirect comparison showed that eslicarbazepine, when given as adjunctive treatment, was not more effective than oxcarbazepine or other antiepileptic drugs. At a dose of 800-1200 mg/day, the effect seems comparable with the effect of oxcarbazepine 600-1200 mg/day.

**Unintended effects.** The side effects profile seems comparable with that of oxcarbazepine: dizziness, somnolence, headache, diplopia. The side effects of both antiepileptic drugs are dose-dependent. The fact that the side effects of the two drugs are similar is plausible, because eslicarbazepine is the main active metabolite of oxcarbazepine. There are insufficient data to determine whether eslicarbazepine's side effects profile has advantages compared to oxcarbazepine or the other antiepileptic drugs used as adjunctive treatment: lacosamide, levetiracetam, pregabalin, gabapentin, topiramate.

**Experience.** Experience obtained with eslicarbazepine is limited and is less than with oxcarbazepine and the other antiepileptics.

**Applicability.** Oxcarbazepine is more broadly applicable than eslicarbazepine, namely as monotherapy in partial epilepsy and in children over 6 years.

**Ease of use.** An advantage of eslicarbazepine is that it only needs to be dosed once daily. A disadvantage is that it is only available in tablet form.

**Final conclusion.** The therapeutic value of eslicarbazepine as an adjunctive treatment for partial epilepsy is comparable with that of oxcarbazepine.