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**Mode of action** Voltarol is a non-steroidal agent with marked analgesic/anti-inflammatory and antipyretic properties. Like most other drugs in this class, it is an inhibitor of prostaglandin synthetase.

**Indications** Rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis.

**Dosage** Severe cases: 1 x 50 mg tablet 3 times daily. Maintenance therapy: 1 x 50 mg tablet morning and evening may be sufficient.

Mild cases: Initially 1 x 25 mg tablet 3 times daily. Maintenance dosage should be adjusted to the minimum amount that will provide continuous therapeutic control.

**Contraindications** Peptic ulcer. Voltarol is contra-indicated in asthmatic patients in whom attacks of asthma, urticaria or acute rhinitis are precipitated by aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents with prostaglandin synthetase inhibiting activity.

**Precautions** Voltarol should not be prescribed during pregnancy, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so. Patients with a history of peptic ulcer, haematemesis or melaena, or with severe hepatic or renal insufficiency, should be kept under close surveillance. Voltarol has been reported to depress salicylate levels and vice versa; the clinical relevance of this phenomenon is not yet known.

**Warnings and side-effects** Initially, some patients may complain of epigastric pain, nausea and diarrhoea, headache and slight dizziness. These side-effects are often transient, disappearing with continuation of medication. Occasionally skin rash, peripheral oedema and abnormalities of serum transaminases have been reported.

Very rarely peptic ulcer and haematemesis or melaena have been reported, mainly in patients with a history of such disorders, or who were receiving concomitant antirheumatic medication.

**Accidental overdosage** There is no known antidote to Voltarol and the treatment is symptomatic. Immediate treatment

consists of forced emesis to recover undigested tablets.

**Pharmaceutical precautions** Storage - protect from moisture.

**Legal category** Prescription only.

**Presentation** Voltarol, sodium-[o-[(2,6-dichlorophenyl)-amino]-phenyl]-acetate, is available as: yellow, round, slightly bi-convex, enteric coated tablets with bevelled edges, approximately 7 mm diameter, imprinted GEIGY on one side. Each tablet contains 25 mg. Voltarol is also available as: light-brown, round, slightly bi-convex, enteric coated tablets with bevelled edges, approximately 8 mm diameter, imprinted GEIGY. Each

tablet contains 50 mg.

**Package quantities**  
Voltarol 25 mg Packs of 100.  
Basic N.H.S. price £9.00.  
Voltarol 50 mg Packs of 100.  
Basic N.H.S. price £17.50.

**Further information** Pharmacodynamic studies have shown no potentiation of oral hypoglycaemic and anticoagulant drugs.

**Product licence numbers**  
Tablets 25 mg. PL0001/0036.  
Tablets 50 mg. PL0001/0082.

**Product licence holder**  
Geigy Pharmaceuticals, Horsham, West Sussex.