

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use TUZISTRA® XR safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for TUZISTRA XR.

TUZISTRA XR (codeine polistirex and chlorpheniramine polistirex) extended-release oral suspension, CIII  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1985

### WARNING

#### ULTRA-RAPID METABOLISM OF CODEINE AND OTHER RISK FACTORS FOR LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN and

#### RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS

See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

- Life-threatening respiratory depression and death have occurred in children who received codeine; most cases followed tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy and many of the children had evidence of being an ultra-rapid metabolizers of codeine due to a CYP2D6 polymorphism. (5.1) TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated in children younger than 12 years of age and in children younger than 18 years of age following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy (4). Avoid the use of TUZISTRA XR in adolescents 12 to 18 years of age who have other risk factors that may increase their sensitivity to the respiratory depressant effects of codeine. (5.1)
- Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death [see *Warning and Precautions (5.2) Drug Interactions (7.1)*]. Avoid use of opioid cough medications in patients taking benzodiazepines, other CNS depressants, or alcohol.

### RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Boxed Warning	8/2017
Contraindications (4)	8/2017
Warnings and Precautions (5.1)	8/2017
Warnings and Precautions (5.2)	1/2017

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

TUZISTRA XR is a combination of codeine, an opiate agonist antitussive, and chlorpheniramine, a histamine-1 (H<sub>1</sub>) receptor antagonist indicated for relief of cough and symptoms associated with upper respiratory allergies or a common cold. (1.1)

#### Limitation of Use:

Not indicated for pediatric patients under 18 years of age. (1.1)

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Adults 18 years of age and older: 10 mL every 12 hours. Not to exceed 2 doses (20 mL) in 24 hours. (2.1)
- For Oral Use Only, with or without food. (2.2)

### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Extended-release oral suspension contains: an antitussive – codeine polistirex, which contains 14.7 mg of codeine (equivalent to 20 mg codeine phosphate), and an antihistamine – chlorpheniramine polistirex, which contains 2.8 mg of chlorpheniramine (equivalent to 4 mg chlorpheniramine maleate) per 5 mL. (3)

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Children less than 12 years of age (4)

- Postoperative management in children younger than 18 years of age following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy. (4)
- Patients with known hypersensitivity to codeine, chlorpheniramine, or any of the product components of TUZISTRA XR. (4)

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Risk of death in ultra-rapid metabolizers: Conversion of codeine into its active metabolite, morphine, may occur more rapidly and completely resulting in higher than expected morphine levels and respiratory depression or death. (5.1)
- Risk from concomitant use with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants: Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death. (5.2)
- Dose-related respiratory depression: Use with caution. (5.3)
- Drug dependence: Prescribe with caution that is appropriate to the use of other opioids. (5.4)
- Head injury and increased intracranial pressure: Avoid in patients with head injury, intra-cranial lesions, or increased intracranial pressure. (5.5)
- Activities requiring mental alertness: Avoid engaging in hazardous tasks requiring complete mental alertness such as driving or operating heavy machinery. Avoid concurrent use of alcohol or other central nervous system depressants. (5.6)
- Acute abdominal conditions: Use with caution in patients with acute abdominal conditions. (5.8)
- Special risk patients: Caution in elderly patients and those with asthma, hypothyroidism, Addison's disease, prostatic hypertrophy or urethral stricture. (5.10)

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

Common adverse reactions of TUZISTRA XR include: nausea and vomiting, constipation, abdominal distension, abdominal pain, blurred vision, diplopia, visual disturbances, confusion, dizziness, depression, drowsiness, sedation, headache, euphoria, facial dyskinesia, feeling faint, light-headedness, general feeling of discomfort or illness, excitability, nervousness, agitation, restlessness, somnolence, insomnia, dyskinesia, irritability, tremor. (6)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Vernalis Therapeutics, Inc. 1-855-705-9546 and [www.vernalistherapeutics.com](http://www.vernalistherapeutics.com) or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

### DRUG INTERACTIONS

- Benzodiazepines, opioids, antihistamines, antipsychotics, anti-anxiety agents, or other CNS depressants: May cause additive CNS depression. (7.1)
- MAOIs or tricyclic antidepressants: May increase the effect of either the antidepressant or codeine. (7.2)
- Anticholinergic drugs: Use with caution. Additive adverse effects resulting from cholinergic blockage (e.g., xerostomia, blurred vision, or constipation) may occur. (7.3)
- Inhibitors or inducers of metabolic enzymes: Concomitant use of cytochrome P450 2D6 and 3A4 enzyme inhibitors or inducers may result in an altered response to codeine, monitor antitussive activity. Chlorpheniramine may inhibit the hepatic metabolism of phenytoin, monitor phenytoin toxicity. (7.4)

### USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Pregnancy: Based on animal data, may cause fetal harm. (8.1)
- Labor: Use of codeine during labor can produce respiratory depression in the neonate. (8.2)
- Lactation: Breastfeeding not recommended. (8.3)
- Pediatric patients: Safety and effectiveness of this drug product has not been established for patients under 18 years of age. (8.4)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide

Revised: 8/2017

---

**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION CONTENTS\*****WARNING****ULTRA-RAPID METABOLISM OF CODEINE AND OTHER RISK FACTORS FOR LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN****RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS****1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE**

1.1 Cough and Upper Respiratory Allergy Symptoms

**2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

2.1 Adults 18 Years of Age and Older

2.2 Administration Information

**3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS****4 CONTRAINDICATIONS****5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

5.1 Ultra-Rapid Metabolism of Codeine and Other Risk Factors for Life-Threatening Respiratory Depression in Children

5.2 Risks from Concomitant Use with Benzodiazepines or other CNS Depressants

5.3 Respiratory Depression

5.4 Drug Dependence

5.5 Head Injury and Increased Intracranial Pressure

5.6 Activities Requiring Mental Alertness

5.7 Obstructive Bowel Disease

5.8 Acute Abdominal Conditions

5.9 Dosing

5.10 Special Risk Patients

**6 ADVERSE REACTIONS****7 DRUG INTERACTIONS**

7.1 Benzodiazepines, Opioids, Antihistamines, Antipsychotics, Anti-anxiety Agents, or Other CNS Depressants (Including Alcohol)

7.2 Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors and Tricyclic Antidepressants

7.3 Anticholinergic Drugs

7.4 Inhibitors or Inducers of Metabolic Enzymes

**8 USES IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

8.1 Pregnancy

8.2 Labor and Delivery

8.3 Nursing Mothers

8.4 Pediatric Use

8.5 Geriatric Use

8.6 Renal Impairment

8.7 Hepatic Impairment

**9 DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

9.1 Controlled Substance

9.2 Abuse

9.3 Dependence

**10 OVERDOSAGE****11 DESCRIPTION****12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY**

12.1 Mechanism of Action

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

**13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

**14 CLINICAL STUDIES****16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING****17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION**

\*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

---

**FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION****WARNING****ULTRA-RAPID METABOLISM OF CODEINE AND OTHER RISK FACTORS FOR LIFE-THREATENING RESPIRATORY DEPRESSION IN CHILDREN**

Life-threatening respiratory depression and death have occurred in children who received codeine. Most of the reported cases occurred following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy and many of the children had evidence of being an ultra-rapid metabolizer of codeine due to a CYP2D6 polymorphism [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*]. TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated in children younger than 12 years of age and in children younger than 18 years of age following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy [see *Contraindications (4)*]. Avoid the use of TUZISTRA XR in adolescents 12 to 18 years of age who have other risk factors that may increase their sensitivity to the respiratory depressant effects of codeine [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

**RISKS FROM CONCOMITANT USE WITH BENZODIAZEPINES OR OTHER CNS DEPRESSANTS**

Concomitant use of opioids with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.2)*, *Drug Interactions (7.1)*]. Avoid use of opioid cough medications in patients taking benzodiazepines, other CNS depressants, or alcohol.

**1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE****1.1 Cough and Upper Respiratory Allergy Symptoms**

TUZISTRA XR is indicated for the relief of cough and symptoms associated with upper respiratory allergies or a common cold in adults 18 years of age and older.

**Important Limitations of Use**

Not indicated for pediatric patients under 18 years of age [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.4)*].

**2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**

## 2.1 Adults 18 Years of Age and Older

TUZISTRA XR should be orally administered in a dose of 10 mL every 12 hours, not to exceed 2 doses (20 mL) in 24 hours.

## 2.2 Administration Information

Administer TUZISTRA XR by the oral route only, with or without food. Shake well before use. Measure with an accurate milliliter measuring device. Do not use a household teaspoon to measure the dose [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)].

## 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

TUZISTRA XR is a pink to reddish pink, cherry-flavored liquid oral suspension.

Extended-release oral suspension contains: codeine polistirex, which contains 14.7 mg of codeine (equivalent to 20 mg codeine phosphate), and chlorpheniramine polistirex, which contains 2.8 mg of chlorpheniramine (equivalent to 4 mg chlorpheniramine maleate) per 5 mL [see [Description \(11\)](#) and [How Supplied/Storage and Handling \(16\)](#)].

## 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated for:

- All children younger than 12 years of age [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].
- Postoperative management in children younger than 18 years of age following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].
- Patients with known hypersensitivity to codeine, chlorpheniramine or any of the inactive ingredients of TUZISTRA XR. Persons known to be hypersensitive to certain other opioids may exhibit cross-sensitivity to codeine.

## 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

### 5.1 Ultra-Rapid Metabolism of Codeine and Other Risk Factors for Life-threatening Respiratory Depression in Children

Life-threatening respiratory depression and death have occurred in children who received codeine. Codeine is subject to variability in metabolism based upon CYP2D6 genotype (described below), which can lead to an increased exposure to the active metabolite morphine. Based upon post-marketing reports, children younger than 12 years old appear to be more susceptible to the respiratory depressant effects of codeine, particularly if there are risk factors for respiratory depression. For example, many reported cases of death occurred in the post-operative period following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy, and many of the children had evidence of being ultra-rapid metabolizers of codeine. Furthermore, children with obstructive sleep apnea who are treated with codeine for post-tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy pain may be particularly sensitive to its respiratory depressant effect. Because of the risk of life-threatening respiratory depression and death:

- TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated in all children younger than 12 years of age [see [Contraindications \(4\)](#)].
- TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated for post-operative management in pediatric patients younger than 18 years of age following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy [see [Contraindications \(4\)](#)].
- Avoid the use of TUZISTRA XR in adolescents 12 to 18 years of age who have other risk factors that may increase their sensitivity to the respiratory depressant effects of codeine. Risk factors include conditions associated with hypoventilation, such as postoperative status, obstructive sleep apnea, obesity, severe pulmonary disease, neuromuscular disease, and concomitant use of other medications that cause respiratory depression.

- When prescribing codeine for adolescents, healthcare providers should choose the lowest effective dose for the shortest period of time and inform patients and caregivers about these risks and the signs of morphine overdose [see [Overdosage \(10\)](#)].

### *Nursing Mothers*

At least one death was reported in a nursing infant who was exposed to high levels of morphine in breast milk because the mother was an ultra-rapid metabolizer of codeine. Breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with TUZISTRA XR [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.3\)](#)].

#### *CYP2D6 Genetic Variability: Ultra-rapid metabolizer*

Some individuals may be ultra-rapid metabolizers because of a specific CYP2D6 genotype (e.g., gene duplications denoted as \*1/\*1xN or \*1/\*2xN). The prevalence of this CYP2D6 phenotype varies widely and has been estimated at 1 to 10% for Whites (European, North American), 3 to 4% for Blacks (African Americans), 1 to 2% for East Asians (Chinese, Japanese, Korean), and may be greater than 10% in certain ethnic groups (i.e., Oceanian, Northern African, Middle Eastern, Ashkenazi Jews, Puerto Rican).

These individuals convert codeine into its active metabolite, morphine, more rapidly and completely than other people. This rapid conversion results in higher than expected serum morphine levels. Even at labeled dosage regimens, individuals who are ultra-rapid metabolizers may have life-threatening or fatal respiratory depression or experience of signs of overdose (such as extreme sleepiness, confusion, or shallow breathing) [see [Overdosage \(10\)](#)]. Therefore, individuals who are ultra-rapid metabolizers should not use TUZISTRA XR.

## **5.2 Risks from Concomitant Use with Benzodiazepines or other CNS Depressants**

Concomitant use of opioids, including TUZISTRA XR, with benzodiazepines, or other CNS depressants, including alcohol, may result in profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death. Because of these risks, avoid use of opioid cough medications in patients taking benzodiazepines, other CNS depressants, or alcohol [see [Drug Interactions \(7.1\)](#)].

Observational studies have demonstrated that concomitant use of opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines increases the risk of drug-related mortality compared to use of opioids alone. Because of similar pharmacologic properties, it is reasonable to expect similar risk with concomitant use of opioid cough medications and benzodiazepines, other CNS depressants, or alcohol.

Advise both patients and caregivers about the risks of respiratory depression and sedation if TUZISTRA XR is used with benzodiazepines, alcohol, or other CNS depressants [see [Patient Counseling Information \(17\)](#)].

## **5.3 Respiratory Depression**

Codeine, one of the active ingredients in TUZISTRA XR, produces dose-related respiratory depression by directly acting on brain stem respiratory centers. Codeine affects the center that controls respiratory rhythm and may produce irregular and periodic breathing. Caution should be exercised when TUZISTRA XR is used postoperatively, in patients with pulmonary disease or shortness of breath, or whenever ventilator function is depressed.

Overdose of codeine in adults has been associated with fatal respiratory depression, and the use of codeine in children has been associated with fatal respiratory depression. Exercise caution when administering TUZISTRA XR because of the potential for respiratory depression. If respiratory depression occurs, discontinue TUZISTRA XR and use naloxone hydrochloride when indicated to antagonize the effect and other supportive measures as necessary [see [Overdosage \(10\)](#)].

## **5.4 Drug Dependence**

Codeine can produce drug dependence of the morphine type and, therefore, has the potential for being abused. Psychological dependence, physical dependence, and tolerance may develop upon repeated administration of TUZISTRA XR. Prescribe and administer TUZISTRA XR with the same degree of caution appropriate to the use of other opioid drugs [see [Drug Abuse and Dependence \(9.2, 9.3\)](#)].

### **5.5 Head Injury and Increased Intracranial Pressure**

The respiratory depression effects of opioids and their capacity to elevate cerebrospinal fluid pressure may be markedly exaggerated in the presence of head injury, other intracranial lesions, or a pre-existing increase in intracranial pressure. Furthermore, opioids produce adverse reactions that may obscure the clinical course of patients with head injuries. The use of TUZISTRA XR should be avoided in these patients.

### **5.6 Activities Requiring Mental Alertness**

Codeine and chlorpheniramine, the active ingredients in TUZISTRA XR, may produce marked drowsiness and impair the mental and/or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery. Advise patients to avoid engaging in hazardous tasks requiring mental alertness and motor coordination after ingestion of TUZISTRA XR. Concurrent use of TUZISTRA XR with alcohol or other central nervous system depressants should be avoided because additional impairment of central nervous system performance may occur.

### **5.7 Obstructive Bowel Disease**

Chronic use of opioids, including codeine, may result in constipation or obstructive bowel disease especially in patients with underlying intestinal motility disorders. Use with caution in patients with underlying intestinal motility disorders.

### **5.8 Acute Abdominal Conditions**

TUZISTRA XR should be used with caution in patients with acute abdominal conditions since the administration of codeine may obscure the diagnosis or clinical course of patients with acute abdominal conditions. The concurrent use of other anticholinergics with codeine may produce paralytic ileus [see [Drug Interactions \(7.3\)](#)]

### **5.9 Dosing**

Patients should be advised to measure TUZISTRA XR with an accurate milliliter measuring device. Patients should be informed that a household teaspoon is not an accurate measuring device and could lead to overdosage, which can result in serious adverse reactions [see [Overdosage \(10\)](#)]. Patients should be advised to ask their pharmacist to recommend an appropriate measuring device and for instructions for measuring the correct dose.

### **5.10 Special Risk Patients**

As with other opioids, TUZISTRA XR should be used with caution in elderly or debilitated patients and those with asthma, persistent or chronic cough, hypothyroidism, Addison's disease, prostatic hypertrophy or urethral stricture. The usual precautions should be observed, and the possibility of respiratory depression should be kept in mind.

## **6 ADVERSE REACTIONS**

Use of codeine, a semisynthetic opioid, may result in the following:

- Respiratory depression [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\), \(5.3\)](#) and [Overdosage \(10\)](#)]
- Drug dependence [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.4\)](#)]
- Increased intracranial pressure [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.5\)](#) and [Overdosage \(10\)](#)]
- Decreased mental alertness with impaired mental and/or physical abilities [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)]
- Paralytic ileus [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.8\)](#)]

Use of chlorpheniramine, an antihistamine, may result in:

- Decreased mental alertness with impaired mental and/or physical abilities [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)]

Adverse reactions listed below have been reported in the literature for codeine and chlorpheniramine and may be expected to occur with TUZISTRA XR. Also included are events that occurred during clinical pharmacokinetic studies (in a total of 66 healthy adult volunteers with either single or multiple dose exposure) with TUZISTRA XR and judged by the investigator to be related to study treatment. Because these reactions may be reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Allergic: Allergic laryngospasm, nasal stuffiness, bronchospastic allergic reaction, hives, itching, swelling of face.

Body as a whole: Asthenia, feeling of relaxation, redness or flushing of the face, unusual tiredness, weakness.

Cardiovascular: Fast, or slow heartbeat, hypertension, hypotension, orthostatic hypotension, palpitations, shock-like state, syncope.

Dermatological System: Skin rash, pruritus, erythema, urticaria, excessive perspiration, dermatitis.

Endocrine System: Changes in glucose utilization, decreased lactation, early menses, glycosuria, gynecomastia, hypoglycemia, increased appetite, increased libido, pheochromocytoma stimulation.

Gastrointestinal System: Nausea and vomiting, constipation, abdominal distension, abdominal pain, acute pancreatitis, dry mouth, dyspepsia, epigastric distress, loss of appetite, diarrhea, gastro-esophageal reflux, gastrointestinal hypomotility.

Genitourinary System: Ureteral spasm, urinary retention, dysuria, urinary frequency, urinary hesitancy, irritative bladder symptom.

Nervous System: Blurred vision, diplopia, visual disturbances, confusion, dizziness, depression, drowsiness, sedation, headache, euphoria, facial dyskinesia, false sense of well-being, feeling faint, lightheadedness, general feeling of discomfort or illness, excitability, nervousness, agitation, restlessness, somnolence, insomnia, dyskinesia, irritability, tremor.

Respiratory: Dryness of the pharynx and respiratory passages, laryngismus, atelectasis, wheezing, troubled breathing, respiratory depression, hiccups.

Special Senses: labyrinthitis, tinnitus, vertigo, hypermetropia, lacrimation increased, mydriasis, photophobia.

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

Drug interaction studies have not been conducted with TUZISTRA XR.

### 7.1 Benzodiazepines, Opioids, Antihistamines, Antipsychotics, Anti-anxiety Agents, or Other CNS Depressants (Including Alcohol)

The use of benzodiazepines, opioids, antihistamines, antipsychotics, anti-anxiety agents, or other CNS depressants (including alcohol) concomitantly with TUZISTRA XR may cause an additive CNS depressant effect, profound sedation, respiratory depression, coma, and death and should be avoided [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#)].

### 7.2 Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors and Tricyclic Antidepressants

Do not prescribe TUZISTRA XR if the patient is taking a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) (i.e., certain drugs used for depression, psychiatric or emotional conditions, or Parkinson's disease), or for 2 weeks after stopping a MAOI drug. The use of MAOIs or tricyclic antidepressants with codeine preparations may increase the effect of either the antidepressant or codeine.

### 7.3 Anticholinergic Drugs

Codeine and chlorpheniramine should be administered cautiously to persons receiving other anticholinergic drugs in order to avoid paralytic ileus and excessive anticholinergic effects.

Additive adverse effects resulting from cholinergic blockade (e.g., xerostomia, blurred vision, or constipation) may occur when anticholinergic drugs are administered with chlorpheniramine.

#### **7.4 Inhibitors or Inducers of Metabolic Enzymes**

Codeine is metabolized by the CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 isoenzymes [see [Clinical Pharmacology \(12.3\)](#)]. The concurrent use of drugs that preferentially induce codeine N-demethylation (via CYP3A4) may increase the plasma concentrations of codeine's inactive metabolite norcodeine. Drugs that inhibit codeine O-demethylation (via CYP2D6) may decrease the plasma concentration of codeine's active metabolites, morphine and morphine-6-glucuronide. The contribution of these active metabolites to the overall antitussive effect of codeine is not known but should be considered.

Adverse event reports in the literature suggest a possible drug interaction involving increased serum phenytoin levels and phenytoin toxicity when chlorpheniramine and phenytoin are co-administered. The exact mechanism for this interaction is not known, however it is believed that chlorpheniramine may inhibit the hepatic metabolism of phenytoin. Patients should be monitored for evidence of phenytoin toxicity such as ataxia, hyperreflexia, nystagmus and tremor when these two drugs are co-administered.

### **8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS**

#### **8.1 Pregnancy**

Pregnancy Category C

##### Teratogenic Effects

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies of TUZISTRA XR in pregnant women.

Reproductive toxicity studies have not been conducted with TUZISTRA XR; however, studies are available with individual active ingredients or related active ingredients. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, TUZISTRA XR should be used during pregnancy only if the benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

##### *Codeine:*

Codeine has embryoletal and fetotoxic effects in rats. In a study in which pregnant rats were dosed throughout organogenesis, a dose approximately 20 times the maximum recommended human daily dose (MRHDD; on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis at an oral maternal dose of 120 mg/kg/day) increased resorptions and decreased fetal weight; however, these effects occurred in the presence of maternal toxicity.

In studies in which rabbits and mice were dosed throughout organogenesis, codeine at doses approximately 9 and 45 times the MRHDD (on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis at 30 and 600 mg/kg/day, respectively) produced no adverse developmental effects.

##### *Chlorpheniramine:*

A retrospective study found a small, but statistically significant, association between maternal use of chlorpheniramine and inguinal hernia and eye or ear anomalies in children. Other retrospective studies have found that the frequency of congenital anomalies, in general, was not increased among offspring of women who took chlorpheniramine during pregnancy. The significance of these findings to the therapeutic use of chlorpheniramine in human pregnancy is not known.

In studies with chlorpheniramine in which pregnant rats and rabbits were dosed throughout organogenesis, oral doses up to approximately 25 and 30 times the MRHDD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis, respectively, produced no adverse developmental effects. However, when mice were dosed throughout pregnancy, a dose approximately 9 times the MRHDD (on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis at an oral maternal dose of 20 mg/kg/day) was embryoletal, and postnatal survival was decreased when dosing was continued after parturition. Embryoletality was also observed when male and female rats were dosed with approximately 9 times the MRHDD (on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis at an oral parental dose of 10 mg/kg/day) prior to mating.

## Nonteratogenic Effects

### *Codeine:*

Babies born to mothers who have been taking opioids regularly prior to delivery will be physically dependent. The withdrawal signs include irritability and excessive crying, tremors, hyperactive reflexes, increased respiratory rate, increased stools, sneezing, yawning, vomiting, and fever. The intensity of the syndrome does not always correlate with the duration of maternal opioid use or dose.

## **8.2 Labor and Delivery**

As with all opioids, administration of TUZISTRA XR to the mother shortly before delivery may result in some degree of respiratory depression in the newborn, especially if higher doses are used.

## **8.3 Nursing Mothers**

### *Risk Summary*

Codeine and its active metabolite, morphine, are present in human milk. There are published studies and cases that have reported excessive sedation, respiratory depression, and death in infants exposed to codeine via breast milk. Women who are ultra-rapid metabolizers of codeine achieve higher than expected serum levels of morphine, potentially leading to higher levels of morphine in breast milk that can be dangerous in their breastfed infants. In women with normal codeine metabolism (normal CYP2D6 activity), the amount of codeine secreted into human milk is low and dose-dependent.

There is no information on the effects of the codeine on milk production. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions, including excess sedation, respiratory depression, and death in a breastfed infant, advise patients that breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with TUZISTRA XR [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

### *Clinical Considerations*

If infants are exposed to TUZISTRA XR through breast milk, they should be monitored for excess sedation and respiratory depression. Withdrawal symptoms can occur in breastfed infants when maternal administration of an opioid analgesic is stopped, or when breast-feeding is stopped.

Chlorpheniramine is excreted in human milk. The clinical significance is unknown; however, the anticholinergic action of chlorpheniramine may suppress lactation if taken prior to nursing.

## **8.4 Pediatric Use**

Safety and effectiveness of TUZISTRA XR in pediatric patients under 18 years of age have not been established.

Life-threatening respiratory depression and death have occurred in children who received codeine [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)]. In most of the reported cases, these events followed tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy, and many of the children had evidence of being ultra-rapid metabolizers of codeine (i.e., multiple copies of the gene for cytochrome P450 isoenzyme 2D6 or high morphine concentrations). Children with sleep apnea may be particularly sensitive to the respiratory depressant effects of codeine. Because of the risk of life-threatening respiratory depression and death:

- TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated in all children younger than 12 years of age [see [Contraindications \(4\)](#)].
- TUZISTRA XR is contraindicated for post-operative management in pediatric patients younger than 18 years of age following tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy [see [Contraindications \(4\)](#)].
- Avoid the use of TUZISTRA XR in adolescents 12 to 18 years of age who have other risk factors that may increase their sensitivity to the respiratory depressant effects of codeine. Risk factors include conditions associated with hypoventilation, such as postoperative status, obstructive sleep apnea, obesity, severe pulmonary disease,

neuromuscular disease, and concomitant use of other medications that cause respiratory depression [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

## **8.5 Geriatric Use**

Clinical efficacy and safety studies have not been conducted with TUZISTRA XR. Other reported clinical experience with the individual active ingredients of TUZISTRA XR did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be made with caution, usually starting at the low end of the dosing range, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

## **8.6 Renal Impairment**

Pharmacokinetics of TUZISTRA XR has not been characterized in renal impairment subjects. Both codeine and chlorpheniramine are cleared substantially by the kidney. As such, impaired renal function could potentially lead to the risk of decreased clearance and thereby increased retention or systemic levels of both these drugs. TUZISTRA XR should be used with caution in patients with severe renal impairment.

## **8.7 Hepatic Impairment**

Pharmacokinetics of TUZISTRA XR has not been characterized in hepatic impairment subjects. Both codeine and chlorpheniramine are extensively metabolized by the liver before elimination from the body. As such, impaired hepatic function could potentially lead to the risk of decreased metabolism and thereby increased systemic levels of both these drugs. TUZISTRA XR should be used with caution in patients with severe hepatic impairment.

# **9 DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE**

## **9.1 Controlled Substance**

TUZISTRA XR is a Schedule III controlled prescription product containing codeine and should be prescribed and administered with caution.

## **9.2 Abuse**

Codeine can produce drug dependence of the morphine type and therefore, has the potential for being abused. Psychological dependence, physical dependence, and tolerance may develop upon repeated administration of TUZISTRA XR, and it should be prescribed and administered with the same degree of caution appropriate to the use of other opioid drugs.

## **9.3 Dependence**

Psychological dependence, physical dependence, and tolerance may develop upon repeated administration of opioids; therefore, TUZISTRA XR should be prescribed and administered with caution.

Physical dependence, the condition in which continued administration of the drug is required to prevent the appearance of a withdrawal syndrome, assumes clinically significant proportions only after several weeks of continued oral opioid use, although some mild degree of physical dependence may develop after a few days of opioid therapy.

# **10 OVERDOSAGE**

No human overdosage data are available for TUZISTRA XR.

## Codeine:

Overdosage with codeine is characterized by respiratory depression (a decrease in respiratory rate and/or tidal volume, Cheyne-Stokes respiration, cyanosis), extreme somnolence progressing to stupor or coma, skeletal muscle flaccidity, cold and clammy skin, and sometimes bradycardia and hypotension. In severe overdosage, apnea, circulatory collapse, cardiac arrest, and death may occur.

Codeine may cause miosis, even in total darkness. Pinpoint pupils are a sign of opioid overdose but are not pathognomonic (e.g., pontine lesions of hemorrhagic or ischemic origin may produce similar findings). Marked mydriasis rather than miosis may be seen with hypoxia in overdose situations.

#### Chlorpheniramine:

Manifestations of chlorpheniramine overdosage may vary from central nervous system depression to stimulation. Central toxic effects are characterized by agitation, anxiety, delirium, disorientation, hallucinations, hyperactivity, sedation, and seizures. Severe overdosage may produce coma, medullary paralysis, and death. Peripheral toxicity includes hypertension, tachycardia, dysrhythmias, vasodilation, hyperpyrexia, mydriasis, urinary retention, and diminished gastrointestinal motility. Dry mouth, pharynx, bronchi, and nasal passages may be observed. Impaired secretion from sweat glands following toxic doses of drugs with anticholinergic side effects may predispose to hyperthermia.

An adult ingested 400 mg chlorpheniramine with no reported serious adverse effects. Toxic psychosis, a possible class effect from overdose of sedating antihistamines, has been reported with accidental overdose of chlorpheniramine.

Treatment of overdosage consists of discontinuation of TUZISTRA XR together with institution of appropriate therapy.

Give primary attention to re-establishment of adequate respiratory exchange through provision of a patent airway and the institution of assisted or controlled ventilation. The opioid antagonist naloxone hydrochloride is a specific antidote for respiratory depression that may result from overdosage or unusual sensitivity to opioids including codeine. Therefore, an appropriate dose of naloxone hydrochloride should be administered, preferably by the intravenous route, simultaneously with efforts at respiratory resuscitation. For further information, see full prescribing information for naloxone hydrochloride. An antagonist should not be administered in the absence of clinically significant respiratory or circulatory depression. Oxygen, intravenous fluids, vasopressors, and other supportive measures should be employed as indicated. Gastric emptying may be useful in removing unabsorbed drug.

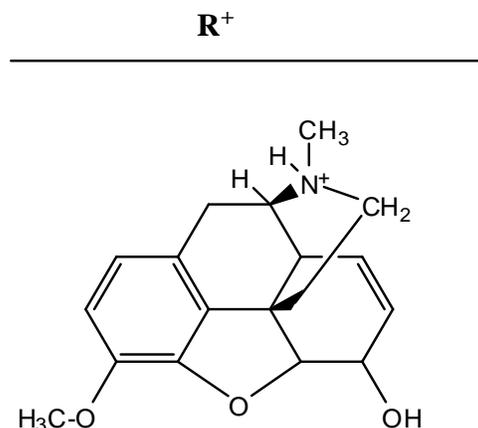
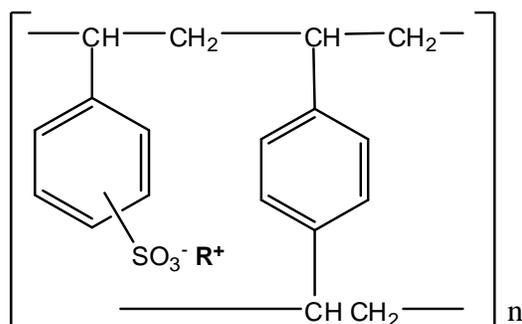
Hemodialysis is not routinely used to enhance the elimination of codeine or chlorpheniramine from the body. Urinary excretion of chlorpheniramine is increased when the pH of the urine is acidic; however, acid diuresis is NOT recommended to enhance elimination in overdose, as the risks of acidemia and acute tubular necrosis in patients with rhabdomyolysis far outweigh any potential benefits.

## **11 DESCRIPTION**

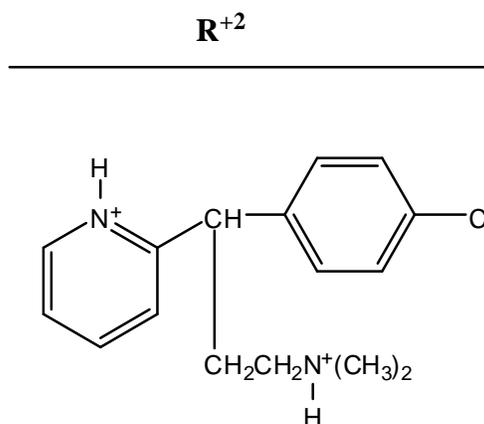
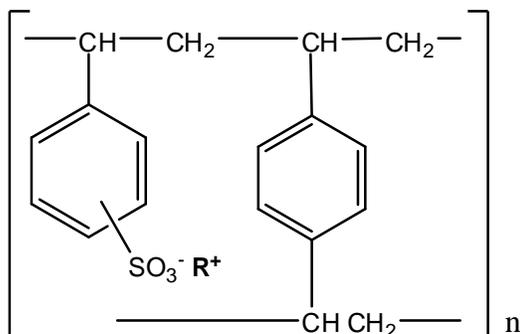
TUZISTRA XR (codeine polistirex and chlorpheniramine polistirex) extended-release oral suspension is a pink to reddish pink, cherry-flavored liquid suspension that contains an opiate agonist antitussive codeine and a histamine-1 (H<sub>1</sub>) receptor antagonist (antihistamine) chlorpheniramine. Each 5 mL of TUZISTRA XR contains 14.7 mg of codeine (equivalent to 20 mg of codeine phosphate) and 2.8 mg of chlorpheniramine (equivalent to 4 mg of chlorpheniramine maleate) bound to sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer (polistirex).

TUZISTRA XR contains the following inactive ingredients: cherry flavor, citric acid, D&C Red No. 30, ethyl maltol, glycerin, methylparaben, polysorbate 80, polyvinyl acetate, povidone, propyl gallate, propylparaben, purified water, sodium citrate, sodium polystyrene sulfonate, starch, sucrose, triacetin, xanthan gum.

Codeine is (5 $\alpha$ ,6 $\alpha$ )-7,8-didehydro-4,5-epoxy-3-methoxy-17-methylmorphinan-6-ol, has the following molecular formula, C<sub>18</sub>H<sub>21</sub>NO<sub>3</sub>, and a molecular weight of 299.36. Codeine polistirex is a complex of codeine with sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer, having the following structural formula:



Chlorpheniramine is  $\gamma$ -(4-chlorophenyl)-*N,N*-dimethyl-2-pyridinepropanamine, has the following molecular formula,  $C_{16}H_{19}ClN_2$ , and a molecular weight of 274.80. Chlorpheniramine polistirex is a complex of chlorpheniramine with sulfonated styrene-divinylbenzene copolymer, having the following structural formula:



## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Codeine is a semisynthetic narcotic antitussive and analgesic with multiple actions qualitatively similar to those of morphine. The precise mechanism of action of codeine and other opiates is not known; however, codeine is believed to act centrally on the cough center. In excessive doses, codeine will depress respiration. Codeine can produce miosis, euphoria, and physical and psychological dependence.

Chlorpheniramine is a propylamine derivative antihistamine drug ( $H_1$  receptor antagonist) that also possesses anticholinergic and sedative activity. It prevents released histamine from dilating capillaries and causing edema of the respiratory mucosa.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

#### Absorption

Pharmacokinetic (PK) parameters (Mean  $\pm$  SD) for TUZISTRA XR (codeine polistirex and chlorpheniramine polistirex) extended-release oral suspension in fasting, healthy volunteers are shown in the table below.

PK Parameter	Single-dose		Multiple-dose (BID for 7 days)	
	Codeine Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	Chlorpheniramine Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	Codeine Mean ( $\pm$ SD)	Chlorpheniramine Mean ( $\pm$ SD)
T <sub>max</sub> (h) (Range)	2.19 (1-4.05)	6.52 (5-9)	1.86 (0.5-3)	5.77 (2.5-9.5)
C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL)	51.4 ( $\pm$ 13.8)	7.84 ( $\pm$ 1.84)	64.6 ( $\pm$ 21.9)	38.7 ( $\pm$ 15.2)
AUC <sub>inf</sub> (ng·h/mL) for single-dose OR AUC <sub>0-12</sub> (ng·h/mL) for multiple-dose	348.5 ( $\pm$ 94)	304.3 ( $\pm$ 104)	384.8 ( $\pm$ 128)	392.4 ( $\pm$ 147)
Half-life (h)	5 ( $\pm$ 1.07)	21.45 ( $\pm$ 5.87)	Not determined	Not determined

#### *Food Effect:*

The presence of a high-fat, high calorie meal did not significantly impact TUZISTRA XR pharmacokinetics.

#### Distribution

Codeine has been reported to have an apparent volume of distribution of approximately 3 to 6 L/kg, indicating extensive distribution of the drug into tissues. About 7 to 25% of codeine, reportedly, is bound to plasma proteins. Codeine passes the blood brain barrier and the placental barrier. Small amounts of codeine and its metabolite, morphine, are transferred to human breast milk.

Chlorpheniramine is widely distributed throughout the tissues of the body, including the central nervous system. It reportedly has an apparent steady-state volume of distribution of approximately 3.2 L/kg in adults and children and is about 70% bound to plasma proteins. Chlorpheniramine and its metabolites likely cross the placental barrier and are excreted into human breast milk.

#### Metabolism

About 70-80% of the administered dose of codeine is metabolized by conjugation with glucuronic acid to codeine-6-glucuronide (C6G) and via O-demethylation to morphine (about 5-10%) and N-demethylation to norcodeine (about 10%) respectively. UDP-glucuronosyltransferase (UGT) 2B7 and 2B4 are the major enzymes mediating glucuronidation of codeine to C6G. CYP2D6 and CYP3A4 are the major enzymes mediating O-demethylation and N-demethylation of codeine respectively. Morphine and norcodeine are further metabolized by conjugation with glucuronic acid. Morphine and its M6 glucuronide conjugate are pharmacologically active. Whether C6G has pharmacological activity is unknown. Norcodeine and M3 glucuronide conjugate of morphine are generally not considered to be pharmacologically active.

Chlorpheniramine is rapidly and extensively metabolized via demethylation in the liver, forming mono- and didesmethyl derivatives. Oxidative metabolism of chlorpheniramine is catalyzed by CYP2D6.

#### Elimination

Approximately 90% of the total dose of codeine is excreted through the kidneys, of which approximately 10% is unchanged codeine. Plasma half-life of codeine was observed to be about 5 hours with TUZISTRA XR.

Chlorpheniramine and its metabolites are primarily excreted through the kidneys, with large individual variation. Urinary excretion depends on urine pH and flow rate. Plasma half-life of chlorpheniramine was observed to be about 21 hours with TUZISTRA XR.

### **13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY**

#### **13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility**

Carcinogenicity, mutagenicity, and reproductive studies have not been conducted with TUZISTRA XR; however, published information is available for the individual active ingredients or related active ingredients.

### Codeine:

Carcinogenicity studies were conducted with codeine. In 2-year studies in F344/N rats and B6C3F1 mice, codeine showed no evidence of tumorigenicity at dietary doses up to 70 and 400 mg/kg/day, respectively (approximately 10 and 30 times, respectively, the MRHDD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

Codeine was not mutagenic in the *in vitro* bacterial reverse mutation assay or clastogenic in the *in vitro* Chinese hamster ovary (CHO) cell chromosomal aberration assay.

Fertility studies with codeine have not been conducted.

### Chlorpheniramine:

In 2-year studies in F344/N rats and B6C3F1 mice, chlorpheniramine maleate showed no evidence of tumorigenicity when administered 5 days/week at oral doses up to 30 and 50 mg/kg/day, respectively (approximately 25 and 20 times, respectively, the MRHDD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis).

Chlorpheniramine maleate was not mutagenic in the *in vitro* bacterial reverse mutation assay or the *in vitro* mouse lymphoma forward mutation assay. Chlorpheniramine maleate was clastogenic in the *in vitro* CHO cell chromosomal aberration assay.

Chlorpheniramine maleate had no effects on fertility in rats and rabbits at oral doses approximately 25 and 30 times the MRHDD on a mg/m<sup>2</sup> basis, respectively.

## **14 CLINICAL STUDIES**

The efficacy of TUZISTRA XR is based on previously established findings of effectiveness of codeine and chlorpheniramine at the proposed doses.

## **16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING**

### How Supplied

TUZISTRA XR is supplied as a pink to reddish pink, cherry-flavored liquid oral suspension containing codeine polistirex, providing 14.7 mg of codeine (equivalent to 20 mg codeine phosphate), and chlorpheniramine polistirex, providing 2.8 mg chlorpheniramine (equivalent to 4 mg chlorpheniramine maleate) per 5 mL. It is available in bottles of 16 fluid oz. (473 mL) NDC 69442-480-01.

### Storage and Handling

Store at 20°C to 25°C (68°F to 77°F); excursions permitted from 15°C to 30°C (59°F to 86°F). [See USP Controlled Room Temperature.]

Shake well. Dispense in a tight, light-resistant container, as defined in the USP, with a child-resistant closure.

Ensure that patients have an oral dosing dispenser that measures the appropriate volume in milliliters. Counsel patients on how to utilize an oral dosing dispenser and correctly measure the oral suspension as prescribed.

## **17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION**

*Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide).*

### Ultra-Rapid Metabolism of Codeine and Other Risk Factors for Life-Threatening Respiratory Depression in Children

Advise patients of the risks of respiratory depression and death with TUZISTRA XR in children younger than 18 years of age. Advise patients that TUZISTRA XR should not be used in children younger than 12 years of age or in a child younger than 18 years of age for treatment after tonsillectomy and/or adenoidectomy [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.1\)](#)].

## Overdosage

Advise patients not to increase the dose or dosing frequency of TUZISTRA XR because serious adverse events such as respiratory depression may occur with overdosage [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.3\)](#); [Overdosage \(10\)](#)].

## Dosing

Administer TUZISTRA XR by the oral route only. Pharmacists and prescribers should ensure patients have an oral dosing dispenser that measures the appropriate volume in milliliters. Counsel patients on how to utilize an oral dosing dispenser and correctly measure the oral suspension as prescribed [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.9\)](#)].

TUZISTRA XR should not be diluted with fluids or mixed together with other drugs.

## Interactions with Benzodiazepines and Other Central Nervous System Depressants

Inform patients and caregivers that potentially fatal additive effects may occur if TUZISTRA XR is used with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including, alcohol. Because of this risk, patients should avoid concomitant use of TUZISTRA XR with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including alcohol [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.2\)](#), [Drug Interactions \(7.1\)](#)].

## Activities Requiring Mental Alertness

Caution patients that TUZISTRA XR may produce marked drowsiness and impair the mental and/or physical abilities required for the performance of potentially hazardous tasks such as driving a car or operating machinery [see [Warnings and Precautions \(5.6\)](#)].

## Controlled Substance Status/Potential for Abuse and Dependence

Caution patients that TUZISTRA XR contains codeine and can produce drug dependence [see [Abuse and Dependence \(9.2, 9.3\)](#)].

## Lactation

Advise women that breastfeeding is not recommended during treatment with TUZISTRA XR [see [Use in Specific Populations \(8.3\)](#)].

Manufactured for: Vernalis Therapeutics, Inc. Berwyn, PA 19312 [vernalistherapeutics.com](http://vernalistherapeutics.com)

Manufactured by: Tris Pharma, Inc., Monmouth Junction, NJ 08852

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Date Issued: 08/2017

Distributed by:



TZA-0005b-07 08/2017

Tuzistra is a licensed trademark of Vernalis Therapeutics, Inc.

LiquiXR is a registered trademark of Tris Pharma, Inc.