

## SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

**Esflurbiprofen**

**LOCOA<sup>®</sup>**

40mg transdermal patch

Anti-inflammatory preparation, non-steroid for topical use



### 1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) 40 mg transdermal patch

### 2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

A 10 × 14 cm patch (plaster: 1.73 g/140 cm<sup>2</sup>) contains 40 mg of esflurbiprofen.

For a full list of excipients, see Section 6.1.

### 3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Colorless to light yellow plaster patch with a characteristic odor. The plaster, with its top covered by a liner, is spread on a support.

### 4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

#### 4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the relief of pain and inflammation associated with osteoarthritis.

#### 4.2 Posology and method of administration

##### Posology

Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) should be applied to the affected area once daily in adults. Maximum number of patches of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) to be used per day is two (2) patches.

Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) is a topical patch with improved transdermal absorption and enhanced penetration into affected tissues; therefore the maximum number which is two (2) patches per day will be sufficient. Moreover, the safety of 2 patches per day has been examined in clinical studies. The use of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) with any other anti-inflammatory agent with expected systemic effects should be avoided wherever possible. If such use is deemed necessary, it should be limited to a minimal level and the condition of the patient should be carefully monitored.

##### Elderly

Since elderly patients are more susceptible to adverse reactions, their condition should be carefully monitored during treatment.

##### Paediatric population

Safety has not been established in low-birth-weight babies, neonates, nursing infants, infants and children. [Clinical studies have only been performed in adults and there is no experience in the use for the above patients.]

##### Method of administration

Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) is applied to the affected area. Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) cannot be applied to the damaged skin or membrane and to the area of eczema or rash. Careful administration is required with attention to the skin condition of the application site.

Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) should be detached slowly and carefully to prevent any damage to the skin.

#### 4.3 Contraindications

- Patients with peptic ulcer (See section 4.4) [Gastric mucosal barrier decreased by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may aggravate peptic ulcer.]
- Patients with severe blood abnormality [Blood disorder may develop, aggravating blood abnormality.]
- Patients with severe liver disorder [Abnormal hepatic function may develop, aggravating liver disorder.]
- Patients with severe renal disorder [Renal blood flow decreased by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis, among others, may aggravate renal disorder.]
- Patients with severe cardiac dysfunction [Water and sodium retention induced by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may aggravate cardiac dysfunction.]
- Patients with severe hypertension [Water and sodium retention induced by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may further increase blood pressure.]
- Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to the components of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) or flurbiprofen.
- Patients with current or previous aspirin-induced asthma (asthmatic attacks induced by nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics and other relevant drugs) [Asthmatic attacks may be induced.]
- Patients on enoxacin hydrate, lomefloxacin, norfloxacin, or prulifloxacin (See section 4.5.)
- Women in late pregnancy (See section 4.6.)

#### 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

This medication is to be used only if prescribed by a physician.

##### General

- A thorough health interview should be performed to predict hypersensitivity reactions.
- For long term use, periodic laboratory tests (urine analysis, blood test, liver function test, etc.) should be performed. If any abnormality is observed, appropriate measures such as dose interruption should be taken.
- Special attention should be paid to elderly patients with high fever or patients with wasting disease after receiving Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA), since symptoms such as excessive decrease in body temperature, collapse, and cold extremities may occur.
- Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) must not be used with enoxacin hydrate, lomefloxacin, norfloxacin or prulifloxacin since convulsions have been reported in a few patients after receiving flurbiprofen axetil with these new quinolone antibiotics. The use of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) with other new quinolone antibiotics should be avoided wherever possible.
- If cutaneous symptoms are observed with the use of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA), appropriate measures such as drug interruption or discontinuation should be taken according to symptoms.
- Temporary infertility has been reported in women after long term use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics.

##### Careful administration

Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) should be administered with care in the following patients.

##### Patients with peptic ulcer induced by long term use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics who need long term use of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) and are being treated with agents such as misoprostol

Since some patients may have peptic ulcer resistant to agents such as misoprostol, adequate monitoring and careful administration is required, when the use of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) is continued.

##### Patients with a history of peptic ulcer

Gastric mucosal barrier decreased by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may cause a relapse of peptic ulcer.

##### Patients with current or previous blood abnormality

Blood abnormality may be aggravated or may recur.

##### Patients with bleeding tendency

Platelet function may decrease, resulting to increased bleeding tendency.

##### Patients with current or previous liver disorder

Liver disorder may be aggravated or may recur by hepatic function abnormality.

##### Patients with current or previous renal disorder, or reduced renal blood flow

Renal disorder may be aggravated or recur, or may be induced by reduced renal blood flow via inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis.

##### Patients with abnormal cardiac function

Water and sodium retention induced by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may aggravate cardiac dysfunction.

##### Patients with hypertension

Water and sodium retention induced by inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis may further increase blood pressure.

##### Patients with a history of hypersensitivity to esflurbiprofen or flurbiprofen

As for excipients other than esflurbiprofen, see section 6.1.

##### Patients with bronchial asthma

Attacks of bronchial asthma may be triggered in patients with aspirin-induced asthma.

##### Patients with ulcerative colitis

Symptoms aggravated by other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics have been reported.

##### Patients with Crohn's disease

Symptoms aggravated by other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics have been reported.

#### Use in the elderly

Elderly patients are more susceptible to adverse reactions. Care should be taken in administering Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) to elderly patients, for example, limiting the use to a minimal level, while special attention should be paid to possible adverse reactions.

#### Paediatric use

Safety has not been established in low birth weight babies, neonates, babies, infants and children. [There is no experience in the use for the above patients.]

### **4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction**

#### Contraindications for concomitant administration

##### Enoxacin hydrate, Lomefloxacin, Norfloxacin, Prulifloxacin

Concomitant use may induce convulsions due to enhancing GABA inhibition by new quinolone antibiotics.

#### Precautions for concomitant administration

##### New quinolone antibiotics (Ofloxacin, etc.) [Note that enoxacin hydrate, lomefloxacin, norfloxacin and prulifloxacin are contraindicated for concomitant administration]

Concomitant use may induce convulsions due to enhancing GABA inhibition by new quinolone antibiotics.

##### Coumarin anticoagulants (Warfarin)

Care such as dose adjustment should be taken to avoid possible increase in effect of coumarin anticoagulants (warfarin). Esflurbiprofen may compete with warfarin in plasma protein binding, increasing free warfarin.

##### Methotrexate

Care such as dose adjustment should be taken to avoid possible poisoning symptoms (e.g., anaemia and thrombocytopenia) due to increase in the effect of methotrexate.

Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis by esflurbiprofen may reduce renal blood flow, resulting in decreased renal excretion and thus increased blood levels of methotrexate.

##### Lithium products (Lithium carbonate)

Careful measures such as adequate monitoring of lithium blood levels should be taken during the use of lithium products, since concomitant use may increase blood levels of lithium, which may cause lithium poisoning symptoms. Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis by esflurbiprofen may reduce renal excretion of sodium and lithium clearance, thus increasing lithium blood levels.

##### Thiazide diuretics (Hydrochlorothiazide, etc.) and loop diuretics (Furosemide, etc.)

The effect of these diuretics may decrease. Inhibition of prostaglandin synthesis by esflurbiprofen may produce water and salt retention in the body.

##### Corticosteroids (Methylprednisolone, etc.)

Concomitant use may mutually increase gastrointestinal reactions (peptic ulcer, gastrointestinal bleeding, etc.). Concomitant use may increase gastrointestinal reactions to both drugs.

##### Pharmacokinetic interaction with CYP2C9 inhibitors (Fluconazole, etc.)

Esflurbiprofen is mainly metabolized by hepatic enzyme CYP2C9. Esflurbiprofen blood levels may increase, since metabolism of esflurbiprofen is inhibited by concomitant use of CYP2C9 inhibitors.

### **4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation**

- Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) cannot be used in women in late pregnancy. A study in rats in late pregnancy showed deaths of dams, delayed delivery, reduced fertility rates, and increased stillbirths with less than the plasma esflurbiprofen level (AUC) equivalent to that yielded by the use of 2 patches of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) in humans (See section 5.3.)
- Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) should be administered to pregnant women (excluding those in their third trimester) or women who may be pregnant only when the therapeutic benefits are considered to outweigh the risks. [Safety has not been established in pregnant women.] If such administration is deemed necessary, caution should be exercised such as limiting to the minimum effective use and monitoring amniotic fluid as necessary around 20 weeks gestation or later in pregnancy. Renal impairment and decreased urine output in foetuses as well as accompanying oligohydramnios have been reported following use of cyclooxygenase inhibitors.
- The use of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) should be avoided in lactating women. If such use is deemed necessary, they should use it after the patient has stopped lactating. [An animal study (rats) showed excretion of esflurbiprofen into the milk and restricted increase in body weight in offspring of dams with approximately 3 times the plasma level (AUC) yielded by the use of 2 patches of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) in humans (See section 5.3.)]
- Constriction of the fetal ductus arteriosus has been reported in women in late pregnancy using other topical nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics.
- Temporary infertility has been reported in women after long term use of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory analgesics.

### **4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machine**

It is considered that application of Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA) at recommended doses has no influence on the ability to drive and use machine.

### **4.8 Undesirable effects**

#### Summary of the safety profile

In the clinical studies performed in a total of 1,391 patients, 415 adverse reactions were reported in 269 patients (19.3%), including application site dermatitis in 111 patients (8.0%), application site erythema in 44

patients (3.2%), and application site eczema in 32 patients (2.3%).

Tabulated list of adverse reactions reported in the clinical studies and from post-marketing experience

The following adverse reactions have been reported in all the clinical trials and from post-marketing experience with Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA). Adverse reactions listed below are classified according to frequency and system organ class (SOC).

Table 1. Adverse reactions in all the clinical trials and from post-marketing experience with Esflurbiprofen (LOCOA)

	Common (≥ 1/100 to < 1/10)	Uncommon (≥ 1/1,000 to < 1/100)	Incidence unknown
Application site disorders	Dermatitis, Erythema, Pruritus, Eczema, Rash	Bruise, Irritation	Oedema
Nervous system disorders		Dizziness	Headache
Gastrointestinal disorders		Abdominal discomfort, Gastritis, Peptic ulcer, Abdominal pain, Nausea, Vomiting, Stomatitis	Constipation, Diarrhoea, Decreased appetite
Hypersensitivity		Rash	Angioedema (face, eyelid, etc.), Eczema, Erythema, Urticaria, Flushing
Investigations	Blood urea increased	Blood creatinine increased, AST (GOT) increased, ALT (GPT) increased, Blood urine present, Blood bilirubin increased, Blood lactate dehydrogenase increased, Urine glucose present, Urine protein positive	Blood pressure increased

Others		Palpitations	Oedema peripheral
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Clinically significant adverse reactions

Shock, anaphylaxis

Since shock and anaphylaxis have been reported (with an unknown incidence for both) with the use of esflurbiprofen, the condition of patients should be carefully monitored, and treatment should be discontinued while taking appropriate actions if symptoms such as chest discomfort, chills, cold sweat, dyspnea, numbness in extremities, decreased blood pressure, angioedema, and urticaria are observed.

Acute kidney injury, nephrotic syndrome

Since acute kidney injury has been reported (with an unknown incidence) with the use of esflurbiprofen, this medicine may cause serious renal disorders including acute kidney injury and nephrotic syndrome. Therefore, the condition of the patient should be monitored carefully, for example, periodic tests and appropriate measures should be taken such as discontinuation of treatment if oliguria, hematuria, proteinuria, increase in BUN and creatinine, hyperkalemia and hypoalbuminemia are observed.

Gastrointestinal bleeding

Since gastrointestinal bleeding has been reported (with an unknown incidence) with the use of esflurbiprofen, the condition of patients should be carefully monitored. Treatment should be discontinued while taking appropriate treatment if any abnormality is observed.

Aplastic anaemia

Since aplastic anaemia has been reported (with an unknown incidence) with the use of oral flurbiprofen, the condition of patients should be carefully monitored, and appropriate actions should be taken such as discontinuation of treatment.

Induced asthma attacks (aspirin-induced asthma)

Since asthma attacks have been induced by the use of esflurbiprofen, treatment should be discontinued if initial symptoms such as dry rales, wheezing, and dyspnea are observed.

Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Stevens-Johnson syndrome, exfoliative dermatitis

Since Stevens-Johnson syndrome has been reported (with an unknown incidence) with the use of esflurbiprofen, this medicine may cause toxic epidermal necrolysis, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, and exfoliative dermatitis. The condition of patients should be carefully monitored and treatment should be discontinued while taking appropriate treatment, if any abnormality is observed.

Impaired consciousness, convulsions with impaired consciousness

Since impaired consciousness and convulsions with impaired consciousness have been reported (with an incidence of < 0.1%) with the use of flurbiprofen axetil [injections], the condition of patients should be carefully

monitored.-Treatment should be discontinued while taking appropriate treatment, if any abnormality is observed.

#### 4.9 Overdose

##### Symptoms

Symptoms of overdose may include headache, nausea, vomiting, epigastric pain, gastrointestinal bleeding, rarely diarrhea, disorientation, excitation, coma, drowsiness, dizziness, tinnitus, fainting and occasionally convulsions. In cases of significant poisoning, acute renal failure and liver damage are possible.

##### Therapeutic measures

Patients should be treated symptomatically as required. Patients should immediately remove the patches and wash the skin with water, then contact the doctor, pharmacist, or nearest hospital immediately.

## 5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

### 5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

#### Mechanism of action

Esflurbiprofen is an optical isomer (S isomer) of flurbiprofen, racemate.

An *in vitro* study demonstrated the inhibitory action of esflurbiprofen on the cyclooxygenase activity, which is probably the main source of anti-inflammatory/analgesic effects.

#### Pharmacodynamic effects

##### Analgesic effect

The analgesic effect was demonstrated in all pain models: a dog model of urate-induced knee joint arthritic pain, and rat models of carrageenan-induced inflammatory pain, silver nitrate-induced arthritic pain, and adjuvant-induced arthritic pain.

##### Anti-inflammatory effect

The anti-inflammatory effect was demonstrated in all acute inflammation models: rat models of carrageenan-induced footpad inflammation, traumatic oedema, and adjuvant-induced arthritis.

##### Clinical efficacy and safety

A randomized double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study (phase II dose-finding study) and a randomized open-label\* parallel-group study with flurbiprofen patches as the control (phase III study) were performed in patients with knee osteoarthritis. The following tables show changes from baseline in VAS scores (pain felt on rising from the chair) in patients receiving esflurbiprofen 40 mg, base, or flurbiprofen patches for 2 weeks.

\*The study was performed with well managed information on treatment groups for study subjects and investigators.

Table 2. Phase II dose-finding study

	10 mg	20 mg	40 mg	Base
Baseline	57.8 ± 12.3 (121)	56.0 ± 12.5 (127)	57.0 ± 12.4 (134)	58.4 ± 13.5 (126)
Final evaluation	26.1 ± 17.5 (121)	24.5 ± 17.6 (127)	21.5 ± 16.7 (134)	28.4 ± 18.9 (126)
Change	-31.7 ± 17.1 (121)	-31.5 ± 16.1 (127)	-35.5 ± 17.1 (134)	-30.1 ± 18.8 (126)
Between-group difference <sup>a)</sup> [95% confidence interval] <sup>a)</sup> p-value <sup>a),b)</sup>	-1.9 [-6.0, 2.2]	-2.5 [-6.5, 1.5] p=0.112	-6.1 [-10.1, -2.1] p=0.001	-

Mean (mm) ± SD (No. of subjects)

a) An analysis of covariance model with explanatory variables of baseline and treatment group (one-sided significance level 0.025)

b) The fixed order approach was used to take multiplicity of the test into account in paired comparisons of the esflurbiprofen 40, 20, and 10 mg groups and the base group.

Table 3. Phase III study

	Esflurbiprofen 40 mg	Flurbiprofen patch 40mg x 2
Baseline	59.5 ± 12.7 (315)	59.3 ± 12.5 (317)
Final evaluation	18.5 ± 15.3 (315)	28.8 ± 18.1 (317)
Change	-41.0 ± 15.5 (315)	-30.5 ± 15.9 (317)
Between-group difference <sup>a)</sup> [95% confidence interval] <sup>a)</sup> p-value <sup>a)</sup>	-10.4 [-12.7, -8.0] p<0.001	-

Mean (mm) ± SD (No. of subjects)

a) An analysis of covariance model with explanatory variables of baseline and treatment group (one-sided significance level 0.025)

### 5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

#### Plasma Levels

##### Single dose

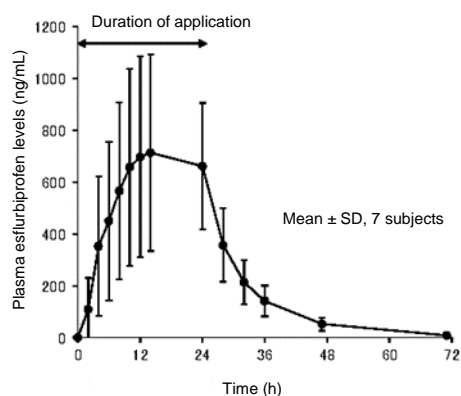
The pharmacokinetic parameters and changes in plasma concentrations in healthy adults (Japanese) receiving a single 24-hour application of 40 mg of esflurbiprofen are shown in Table 4 and Figure 1. Based on the residual drug amount in the patch, the transdermal absorption was calculated to be 48.34 ± 16.70%.

Table 4. Pharmacokinetics parameters of esflurbiprofen after a single administration

Dose (No. of subjects)	C <sub>max</sub> (ng/mL)	t <sub>max</sub> (h)	t <sub>1/2</sub> (h)	AUC <sub>0-∞</sub> (ng·h/mL)
40 mg (7 subjects)	751 ± 360	17.7 ± 5.94	8.60 ± 0.615	19000 ± 9390

Mean ± SD

Figure 1. Plasma concentration-time profile of esflurbiprofen after a single 24-hour application of 40 mg of esflurbiprofen in human



#### Multiple doses

The pharmacokinetic parameters in healthy adults (Japanese) receiving multiple 23-hour applications of once daily doses of 80 mg of esflurbiprofen for 7 days are shown in Table 5. Based on the residual drug amount in the patch, the transdermal absorption was calculated to be  $73.24 \pm 11.58\%$ .

Table 5. Pharmacokinetics parameters of esflurbiprofen after multiple administration

Dose (No. of subjects)	Study day	$C_{max}$ (ng/mL)	$t_{max}$ (h)	$t_{1/2}$ (h)	$AUC_{0-23h}$ (ng·h/mL)
80 mg (6 subjects)	Day 1	$1360 \pm 551$	$10.3 \pm 1.51$	-	$23500 \pm 8530$
	Day 7	$2710 \pm 669$	$6.67 \pm 2.07$	$8.13 \pm 0.503$	$47000 \pm 10100$

Mean  $\pm$  SD, -: No data

#### Distribution

##### Tissue penetration

In patients (Japanese) with knee osteoarthritis scheduled to undergo knee replacement arthroplasty, the levels of esflurbiprofen in the synovia, synovial fluid, and plasma after a single 12-hour application of 20 mg of esflurbiprofen were 14.8, 32.7, and 34.5 times higher, respectively, than those after the use of 40 mg flurbiprofen patch.

##### Protein binding

An *in vitro* study showed that 99.95% of esflurbiprofen was bound to human plasma protein, probably to albumin as the main binding protein.

##### Metabolism

Esflurbiprofen mainly undergoes oxidative metabolism by CYP2C9. A study investigating the effect of CYP2C9 polymorphism using human liver microsomes showed the 4'-hydroxylation activity ( $CL_{int}$ ) in poor metabolizers (PMs) (with genotype CYP2C9\*3/\*3) was 1/69 of that in extensive metabolizers (EMs) (with genotype CYP2C9\*1/\*1).

#### Excretion

In healthy adults (Japanese) receiving a single 24-hour application of 80 mg of esflurbiprofen, little of the dose (0.253%) was excreted as unchanged compound in the urine through 72 hours after the start of application. Major metabolites were glucuronate or sulfate conjugates of the 4'-hydroxy compound. Other metabolites were free glucuronate conjugates, 4'-hydroxy compounds, and glucuronate conjugates of the 3'-hydroxy-4'-methoxy compound.

#### **5.3 Preclinical safety data**

Non-clinical data reveal no special hazard for humans based on conventional studies of safety pharmacology, repeated dose toxicity, genotoxicity, carcinogenic potential, fertility and early development, and embryo-fetal development.

In the pre- and postnatal development study using rats in late pregnancy, maternal animal death at  $\geq 0.1$  mg/kg, a tendency of an increased number and percentage of stillborn pups at 0.1, 0.3, and 3 mg/kg, delayed delivery at 0.3 mg/kg, reduced live birth index at  $\geq 0.3$  mg/kg, and incomplete delivery and prolonged delivery at  $\geq 1$  mg/kg were indicated. Since the  $AUC_{0-24h}$  value of esflurbiprofen on Day 17 of gestation at 1 mg/kg was comparable or less than the exposure after 40 or 80 mg of esflurbiprofen was administered to humans, the  $AUC_{0-24h}$  values at 0.1 and 0.3 mg/kg appeared to be lower than that in humans.

After esflurbiprofen was administered to rats in the lactation period, suppression of postnatal body weight gain and delayed onset of early behavior were seen at 3 mg/kg. The  $AUC_{0-24h}$  value of esflurbiprofen on Day 17 of gestation at 3 mg/kg were 5.77 and 2.55 times higher than the exposure after 40 or 80 mg of esflurbiprofen was administered to humans.

## **6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS**

### **6.1 List of excipients**

Mentha oil  
Liquid paraffin  
Styrene-isoprene-styrene block copolymer  
Polyisobutylene  
Ester gum HG  
Propylene glycol dicaprylate  
2-Mercaptobenzimidazole  
Dibutylhydroxytoluene

### **6.2 Incompatibilities**

Not applicable.

### **6.3 Shelf life**

2 years

#### **6.4 Special precautions for storage**

Store in the original packaging. Store at temperatures not exceeding 25°C. Protect from heat and light.

#### **6.5 Nature and contents of container**

Inner package: Aluminum composite film  
Packaging: 70 patches (7 patches x 10 sachets)

#### **6.6 Caution**

Foods, Drugs, Devices and Cosmetics Act prohibits dispensing without prescription.

For suspected adverse drug reaction, report to the FDA:  
[www.fda.gov.ph](http://www.fda.gov.ph)  
Seek medical attention immediately at the first sign of any adverse drug reaction.

#### **6.7 Special precautions for disposal**

No special requirements.

### **7. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER**

Under Authority of:  
Taisho Pharmaceutical Co., Ltd.  
3-24-1, Takada, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 170-8633, Japan

Manufactured by:  
TOKUHON Corporation (Miyashiro Factory)  
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Imported by:  
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8th Floor CLIPP Center Building, 11th Ave. cor. 39th St.,  
Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, Philippines

### **8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER(S)**

DR-XY48030

### **9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION**

Date of first authorisation: 20 May 2022

### **10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT**

22 June 2022