



#### 【臨床前安全性資料】

##### 惡酸性、惡質變性

epoprostenol 曾以 0、10、20 或 40 mg/kg 分為多次劑量，經腹腔內投予，在 Ames 氏試驗沙氏菌檢驗 (Ames Salmonella assay) 與鹼性磷酸法 (alkaline elution assay) 中，進行生變性 DNA 損傷試驗，並未在鼠中進行姐妹染色 (micronucleus test)。在這些試驗中，均無任何基因毒性的徵兆。

目前尚未在動物中進行長期研究，未對 rat Epoprostenol 是否有潛在的致癌性。

##### 生殖毒性

在懷孕兔子對大鼠身上使用 epoprostenol 時，已觀察惡酸性磷酸酶活性。

一項達 34 或 63 天的研究顯示，分別以每天 0、10、30 或 100  $\mu$ g/kg 皮下投予 epoprostenol 的母大鼠產後大鼠，並不會影響其生育力。

曾以大鼠與兔子為對象進行研究，涵蓋其生殖週期階段，使用高達每天 100  $\mu$ g/kg 的 epoprostenol 劑量。並未發現對胚胎發育、受孕力、分娩、分娩、哺乳及斷奶的顯著影響。在許多投藥期間產後的大鼠中，並無胎兒毒性或胎動性的證據，且在留下的後代中，生殖行為與生育力均正常。

##### 藥物動力學

在兔子的藥物動力學研究中，全身分布量為 1015 mL/kg，且全身清除率為每秒 4.27 mL/kg。在靜脈輸注後以穩定之 epoprostenol 後，在肝臟、腎臟、小腸發現最高濃度。在動物體內中，在 15 分鐘內血漿穩定之 epoprostenol 濃度即達到穩定狀態，且與輸注速率成比例，血漿濃度會迅速下降，且並無藥物相關成分累積或長期停留的證據。

目前已發現 epoprostenol 代謝物在大鼠尿液排泄中，佔使用劑量的 40%，在狗中為 90%，其餘則經由腸道排泄。在兩種物種的血漿清除率，於投藥後 25 小時內，均可完成超過 95% 的排泄。在羶尿的小狗中，設置大量的葡萄糖酸鈣溶液，且一次換取可排除約 80% 的藥物。

##### 【藥劑學特性】

##### 【藥劑學】

##### 凍晶乾燥粉末

Glycine, sodium chloride, mannitol, sodium hyaluronate.

##### 無菌稀釋劑

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將需需 FLOLAN 小瓶存放於 30°C 以上，避免光線照射。稀釋乾燥，請勿冷凍，在這些條件下，未開瓶小瓶中冷凍乾燥的 FLOLAN，並不會受到大氣中的濕氣影響。

##### 無菌稀釋劑

稀釋存放於超過 30°C，請勿冷凍，避免光線照射。無菌稀釋劑不含防腐劑，因此一般僅可使用一次，並且於使用後丟棄。

##### 【容器的特性及內容物】

##### 凍晶乾燥粉末：

以含氯化丁基橡膠瓶塞和鉑製環形密封圈的玻璃小瓶中含有冷凍乾燥藥物。

##### 無菌稀釋劑：

以含氯化丁基橡膠瓶塞和鉑製環形密封圈的玻璃小瓶中含有氯化丁基的鹽類小瓶中含有無菌稀釋劑。

##### 惡酸性靜脈輸注液

一瓶含有無菌、冷凍乾燥 epoprostenol (含有相當於 0.5 mg 或 1.5 mg 的 epoprostenol) 的小瓶，與兩瓶含有 50 mL 無菌稀釋劑溶液的瓶及過滴瓶置一起販售。

一瓶含有無菌、冷凍乾燥 epoprostenol (含有相當於 0.5 mg 或 1.5 mg 的 epoprostenol) 的小瓶單獨販售。

##### 【使用與操作說明】

FLOLAN 溶液的安定性取決於 pH 值。僅可使用提供的無菌稀釋劑調配冷凍乾燥的 FLOLAN，且僅可依照明細比例，使用建議的輸液泵執行進一步的稀釋，否則會無法維持必須的 pH 值。

##### • 調配、稀釋與輸注速率計算

調配與稀釋 FLOLAN 必須使用無菌技術，且應於處於暖室環境下進行。

在準備輸注與計算輸注速率時，應特別注意、應仔細讀懂下述程序。

##### 惡酸性靜脈輸注液

依照劑量要求，可能使用 0.5 mg 或 1.5 mg 的凍晶乾燥 epoprostenol，需配成無菌稀釋液來調配溶液。

##### 調配：

Glycine, sodium chloride, sodium hyaluronate, water for injection.

##### 【配製藥品】

僅可使用提供的無菌稀釋劑調配 FLOLAN，僅可使用建議的輸液泵執行任何進一步的稀釋(請參閱與操作說明)。

使用 FLOLAN 治療惡酸性靜脈高血壓時，不可與其他靜脈注射溶液或藥物混合(請參閱與操作說明)。

##### 【貯藏期】

##### • 未開封小瓶

有效日期應於沖針外盒上。

##### • 調配期間之安定性

治療惡酸性靜脈高血壓之調配/使用無菌稀釋劑稀釋液

濃度  $\leq 150,000$  ng/mL

輸注用之調配後溶液(僅輸液液是已稀釋溶液)，可於調配後立即使用或冷藏於 2-8°C 中最多 8 天。調配後溶液於不同儲存溫度條件之期限如下：

25°C 內：72 小時

30°C 內：48 小時

35°C 內：24 小時

40°C 內：12 小時

任何未使用完之溶液應於有效期間後丟棄。

濃度  $> 150,000$  ng/mL 且  $\leq 300,000$  ng/mL

調配後溶液僅可於 2-8°C 中最多 7 天。執行時可於 25°C 下最多存放 24 小時，若調配後溶液存放於 2-8°C 中不超過 5 天。執行時可於 25°C 內存放 48 小時；35°C 內存放 24 小時。

任何未使用完之溶液應於有效期間後丟棄。

##### 【貯存注意事項】

##### 凍晶乾燥粉末

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1. 僅可使用提供的無菌稀釋劑進行調配。
2. 抽取的 10 mL 無菌稀釋劑瓶塞和密封圈內，將需注入含有 500  $\mu$ g 冷凍乾燥的 FLOLAN 的小瓶中，輕搖混勻使藥物溶解。
3. 稀釋調配完成的 FLOLAN 溶液如要注射時，請先重新注入到新的無菌稀釋劑瓶中，並徹底混合。

此溶液專為調配溶液

• 以 50 mL 無菌稀釋劑調配有 0.5 mg epoprostenol 之藥物包時，最終濃度為 10,000 ng/mL。

• 以 50 mL 無菌稀釋劑調配有 1.5 mg epoprostenol 之藥物包時，最終濃度為 30,000 ng/mL。

##### 稀釋：

FLOLAN 可以使用該兩瓶或稀釋劑型作為靜脈輸注高血壓的治療。僅可使用提供的無菌稀釋劑來稀釋調配 FLOLAN。使用 FLOLAN 治療靜脈高血壓時，不可使用生理鹽水。

治療惡酸性靜脈高血壓時，FLOLAN 不得與其他靜脈注射溶液或藥物一起使用。

原液為易於輸注的溶液必須使用 0.22 或 0.20  $\mu$ m 的微濾器加以過濾。最初是在輸注前使用細微濾器中所裝配的管線內過濾器。或者，如果無法進行管線內過濾，則必須僅在加入管線之前最後過濾(須經過進一步稀釋後稀釋)以所提供的 0.20  $\mu$ m 微濾器過濾並加以過濾。

如果是在輸注期間使用管線內過濾器，在替換輸注裝置時應將此管線內過濾器丟棄。

如果是在準備藥物部門使用針筒過濾，該針筒過濾器僅可於準備藥物期間使用，然後就丟棄。

##### 輸注速率的計算：

治療惡酸性靜脈高血壓的常用濃度如下：

• 15,000 ng/mL—以無菌稀釋劑調配 1.5 mg epoprostenol 並稀釋至總體積為 100 mL。

• 10,000 ng/mL—調配為含有 0.5 mg epoprostenol 的藥瓶，且稀釋至總體積為 100 mL。

• 5,000 ng/mL—調配一瓶含 0.5 mg epoprostenol 的藥瓶，並稀釋至總體積為 100 mL。

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以下列公式計算輸注速率：

$$\text{輸注速率} = \frac{\text{惡酸性劑量}(\text{ng/kg}) \times \text{體重}(\text{kg})}{(\text{mL/min}) \times \text{稀釋濃度}(\text{ng/mL})}$$

$$\text{輸注速率}(\text{mL/h}) = \text{輸注速率}(\text{mL/min}) \times 60$$

以下為惡酸性靜脈高血壓常用的一些濃度範圍。

濃度 15,000 ng/mL 的輸注速率：

每分鐘劑量 (ng/kg)	體重(公斤)									
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100		
4				1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.6		
6		1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4		
8	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.2		
10	1.2	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.0		
12	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.8		
14	1.7	2.2	2.8	3.4	3.9	4.5	5.0	5.6		
16	1.9	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.5	5.1	5.8	6.4		
以毫升/小時 (mL/h) 為單位的濃度										

濃度 3,000 ng/mL 的輸注速率：

每分鐘劑量 (ng/kg)	體重(公斤)									
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
2				1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4
4		1.0	1.4	1.8	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.8
6		1.4	2.2	2.8	3.6	4.3	5.0	5.8	6.5	7.2
8	1.0	1.8	2.9	3.8	4.8	5.8	6.7	7.7	8.6	9.6
10	1.2	2.4	3.6	4.8	6.0	7.2	8.4	9.6	10.8	12.0
12	1.4	2.9	4.3	5.8	7.2	8.6	10.1	11.5	13.0	14.4
14	1.7	3.4	5.0	6.7	8.4	10.1	11.8	13.4	15.1	16.8
16	1.9	3.8	5.8	7.7	9.6	11.5	13.4	15.4	17.3	19.2
以毫升/小時 (mL/h) 為單位的濃度										

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FLOLAN  
epoprostenol sodium

QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Vials containing sterile, freeze-dried epoprostenol sodium equivalent to 0.5 mg or 1.5 mg epoprostenol.

PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Powder and solvent for solution for infusion.

Freeze-dried powder

- Vials containing sterile, freeze-dried epoprostenol sodium equivalent to 0.5 mg epoprostenol, or
- Vials containing sterile, freeze-dried epoprostenol sodium equivalent to 1.5 mg epoprostenol.

The powder is white or off-white.

Solvent

- Sterile diluent
- Sterile vials containing sterile diluent to reconstitute freeze-dried powders clear, colorless solution.

CLINICAL PARTICULARS

Indications

Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

FLOLAN is also indicated for the long-term i.v. treatment of moderate to severe primary pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) in New York Heart Association (NYHA) functional Class III and Class IV patients\*.

\* NYHA Functional Class III - patients with cardiovascular disease and marked limitation of physical ability due to the development of pain, dyspnea, fatigue or

assessment of clinical response; these intervals should be of at least 15 minutes. Following establishment of a new infusion rate, the patient should be observed, and heart and systemic blood pressure and heart rate monitored for several hours to ensure that the new dose is tolerated.

During long-term infusion, the occurrence of dose-related pharmacological events similar to those observed during the dose-ranging period may necessitate a decrease in infusion rate, but the adverse event may occasionally resolve without dosage adjustment. Dosage decreases should be made gradually in 2 nanograms/kg/min increments every 15 minutes or longer until the dose-limiting effects resolve. Abrupt withdrawal of FLOLAN or sudden large reductions in infusion rates should be avoided. Except in life-threatening situations (e.g. vasoconstriction, collapse, etc) infusion rates of FLOLAN should be adjusted only under the direction of a physician (see Warnings and Precautions).

Children

There is no specific information on the use of FLOLAN for pulmonary arterial hypertension in children.

Elderly

There is no specific information on the use of FLOLAN in patients over 65 for pulmonary arterial hypertension. In general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be made carefully, reflecting the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal (in the case of pulmonary arterial hypertension) or cardiac function and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Contraindications

- FLOLAN is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to the drug.
- FLOLAN is contraindicated in patients with congestive heart failure arising from severe left ventricular dysfunction.
- FLOLAN should not be used chronically in patients who develop pulmonary edema during dose-ranging.

Warnings and Precautions

Because of the high pH of the final infusion solutions, care should be taken to avoid extravasation during their administration and subsequent risk of tissue damage.

FLOLAN is a potent pulmonary and systemic vasodilator. The cardiovascular effects during infusion disappear within 30 minutes of the end of administration.

FLOLAN is a potent inhibitor of platelet aggregation, therefore, an increased risk for hemorrhagic complications should be considered, particularly for patients with other risk factors for bleeding (see Interactions).

pulmonary or mild exertion. NYHA Functional Class IV - patients with the above cardiac symptoms at rest, which are made worse by the slightest physical exertion.

Dosage and Administration

FLOLAN lyophilized powder must be reconstituted before use. Any further dilution must be performed using only the recommended solutions. The final infusion solution must be filtered with a sterile 0.22 micron or 0.20 micron filter prior to or during administration (see Instructions for Use/Handling).

Populations

Adults

Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

The following schedules have been found effective.

Short-term (acute) dose ranging

A short-term dose-ranging procedure administered via either a peripheral or central venous catheter is required to determine the long-term infusion rate. The infusion rate is initiated at 2 nanograms/kg/min and increased by increments of 2 nanograms/kg/min every 15 minutes or longer until maximum hemodynamic benefit or dose-limiting pharmacological effects are elicited.

If the initial infusion rate of 2 nanograms/kg/min is not tolerated, a lower dose which is tolerated by the patient should be identified.

Long-term continuous infusion

Long-term continuous infusion of FLOLAN should be administered through a central venous catheter. Temporary peripheral i.v. infusions may be used until central access is established. Long-term infusions should be initiated at 4 nanograms/kg/min less than the maximum tolerated infusion rate determined during short-term dose-ranging. If the maximum tolerated infusion rate is 5 nanograms/kg/min or less, then the long-term infusion should be started at 1 nanogram/kg/min.

Dosage adjustments

Changes in the long-term infusion rate should be based on persistence, recurrence or worsening of the patient's symptoms of pulmonary arterial hypertension or the occurrence of adverse events due to excessive doses of FLOLAN.

In general, the need for increases in dose from the initial long-term dose should be expected over time. Increases in dose should be considered if symptoms of pulmonary arterial hypertension persist, or recur after improving. The infusion rate should be increased by 1 to 2 nanograms/kg/min increments at intervals sufficient to allow

If excessive hypotension occurs during administration of FLOLAN, the dose should be reduced or the infusion discontinued. Hypotension may be profound in anaphors and may result in loss of consciousness (see Overdose).

Blood pressure and heart rate should be monitored during administration of FLOLAN.

FLOLAN may either decrease or increase heart rate. The change is thought to depend on both the basal heart rate and the concentration of FLOLAN administered.

The effects of FLOLAN on heart rate may be masked by concomitant use of drugs which affect cardiovascular reflexes.

Elevated serum glucose levels have been reported.

Sterile diluent contains no preservative, consequently a vial should be used once only and then discarded.

Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Abrupt withdrawal or interruption of infusion must be avoided, except in life-threatening situations (e.g. vasoconstriction, collapse, etc). An abrupt interruption of therapy can induce a rebound of pulmonary arterial hypertension resulting in distress, anoxia, increased dyspnea, and may lead to death.

FLOLAN should be used only by clinicians experienced in the diagnosis and treatment of these disorders.

Short-term dose-ranging with FLOLAN must be performed at a hospital setting with adequate personnel and equipment for hemodynamic monitoring and emergency care.

Some patients with primary pulmonary arterial hypertension have developed pulmonary edema during dose-ranging, which may be associated with pulmonary vaso-occlusive disease.

FLOLAN is infused continuously through a permanent indwelling central venous catheter via a small, portable infusion pump. Thus, therapy with FLOLAN requires commitment by the patient to sterile drug reconstitution, drug administration, care of the permanent central venous catheter, and access to intense and ongoing patient education.

Sterile technique must be adhered to in preparing the drug and in the care of the catheter. Even brief interruptions in the delivery of FLOLAN may result in rapid symptomatic deterioration. The decision to administer FLOLAN for pulmonary arterial hypertension should be based upon the patient's understanding that there is a high likelihood that therapy with FLOLAN will be needed for prolonged periods, possibly years, and the patient's ability to accept and care for a permanent i.v. catheter and infusion pump should be carefully considered.

Interactions

When FLOLAN is administered to patients receiving concomitant antiaggregants standard antiaggregant monitoring is advisable.

The vasodilator effects of FLOLAN may augment or be augmented by concomitant use of other vasodilators.

As reported with other prostaglandin analogues, FLOLAN may reduce the thrombolytic efficacy of tissue plasminogen activator (t-PA) by increasing hepatic clearance of t-PA.

When NSAIDs or other drugs affecting platelet aggregation are used concomitantly, there is the potential for FLOLAN to increase the risk of bleeding.

Patients on digoxin may show elevation of digoxin concentrations after initiation of therapy with FLOLAN, which although transient, may be clinically significant in patients prone to digoxin toxicity.

Pregnancy and Lactation

Fertility

Animal studies did not indicate harmful effects with respect to fertility. However, the relevance of these animal findings in man is unknown (see Pre-clinical Safety Data).

Pregnancy

Animal studies did not indicate harmful effects with respect to pregnancy, embryonal/fetal development, parturition or postnatal development. However, the relevance of these findings in man is unknown (see Pre-clinical Safety Data).

In the absence of adequate experience of administration of FLOLAN to pregnant women, the potential benefit to the mother must be weighed against the unknown risks to the foetus.

Lactation

It is unknown if epoprostenol or its metabolites are secreted in human milk. A risk to the breast-feeding child can not be excluded. A decision must be made whether to discontinue/breastfeed from breast-feeding or to discontinue/breastfeed from FLOLAN therapy taking into account the benefit of breast-feeding for the child and the benefit of therapy for the woman.

Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines

Pulmonary arterial hypertension and its therapeutic management may affect the ability to drive and operate machinery.

Bradycardia, sometimes accompanied by orthostatic hypotension, has occurred in healthy volunteers at doses of FLOLAN greater than 5 nanograms/kg/min. Bradycardia associated with a reflex tachycardia fall in systemic and diastolic blood pressure has followed i.v. administration of a dose of FLOLAN equivalent to 10 nanograms/kg/min in healthy conscious volunteers.

Vascular Disorders

- Very common Facial flushing (seen even in the anesthetized patient)
- Common Hypotension
- Very rare Ascites, pallor

Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders

- Uncommon Pulmonary edema

Gastrointestinal Disorders

- Very common Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- Common Abdominal pain (sometimes reported as abdominal discomfort)
- Uncommon Dry mouth

Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders

- Common Rash
- Uncommon Swelling

Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders

- Very common Jaw pain
- Common Arthralgia

General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions

- Very common Pain (unspecified)

- Common Pain at the injection site\*, chest pain

- Rare Local infection\*

Adverse Reactions

Adverse reactions are listed below by system organ class and frequency. Frequencies are defined as follows: very common  $\geq 1/10$  ( $\geq 10\%$ ), common  $\geq 1/100$  and  $< 1/10$  ( $\geq 1\%$  and  $< 10\%$ ), uncommon  $\geq 1/1000$  and  $< 1/100$  ( $\geq 0.1\%$  and  $< 1\%$ ), rare  $\geq 1/10,000$  and  $< 1/1000$  ( $\geq 0.01\%$  and  $< 0.1\%$ ), very rare  $< 1/10,000$  ( $< 0.01\%$ ).

The interpretation of adverse reactions during long-term administration of FLOLAN is complicated by the clinical features of the underlying disease being treated.

Infections and Infestations

- Common Sepsis, septicemia (mostly related to delivery system for FLOLAN)

Catheter-related infections caused by organisms not always considered pathogenic (including micrococci) have been reported.

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders

- Common Decreased platelet count, bleeding at various sites (e.g. pulmonary, gastrointestinal, epistaxis, intracranial, post-procedural, retroperitoneal)

- Very rare Splenomegaly, Hypertension

Endocrine Disorders

- Very rare Hypothyroidism

Psychiatric Disorders

- Common Anxiety, nervousness

- Very rare Agitation

Nervous System Disorders

- Very common Headache

Cardiac Disorders

- Common Tachycardia has been reported as a response to FLOLAN at doses of 5 nanograms/kg/min and below.

- Very rare Reddening over the infusion site\*, occlusion of the long i.v. catheter\*, extravasate, chest tightness

\* Associated with the delivery system for FLOLAN

Overdose

Symptoms and Signs

In general, events seen after overdose of FLOLAN represent exaggerated pharmacological effects of the drug (e.g. hypotension and complications of hypotension).

Treatment

If overdose occurs reduce the dose or discontinue the infusion and initiate appropriate supportive measures as necessary, for example plasma volume expansion and/or adjustment to pump flow.

PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

Pharmacodynamics

Mechanism of Action

FLOLAN is the monosodium salt of epoprostenol, a naturally occurring prostaglandin produced by the lining of blood vessels. Epoprostenol is the most potent inhibitor of platelet aggregation known. It is also a potent vasodilator.

Many of the actions of epoprostenol are exerted via the stimulation of adenylate cyclase, which leads to increased intracellular levels of cyclic adenosine 3',5' monophosphate (cAMP). A sequential stimulation of adenylate cyclase, followed by activation of phosphodiesterase, has been described in human platelets. Elevated cAMP levels regulate intracellular calcium concentrations by stimulating calcium removal, and thus platelet aggregation is ultimately inhibited by the reduction of cytoplasmic calcium, upon which platelet shape change, aggregation and the release reaction depend.

Pharmacodynamic Effects

Infusions of 4 nanograms/kg/min for 30 minutes have been shown to have no significant effect on heart rate or blood pressure, although facial flushing may occur at these levels.

Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

Intermittent FLOLAN infusions of up to 15 minutes in the idiopathic PAH (IPAH) population have been found to produce dose-related increases in cardiac index (CI) and stroke volume (SV), and dose-related decreases in pulmonary vascular resistance (PVR), total pulmonary resistance (TPR), and mean systemic arterial pressure (MAP). The

effects of *FLOLAN* on mean pulmonary artery pressure (PAPm) in patients with IPAH were variable and minor.

Chronic haemodynamic effects after 12 weeks of *FLOLAN* therapy in IPAH, were generally similar to those observed during acute administration. CI, SV, and arterial oxygen saturation were increased, and PAPm, PVR, mean right atrial pressure (RAPm), TPR, and systemic vascular resistance (SVR) were decreased in patients who received *FLOLAN* chronically compared with those who did not.

#### Pharmacokinetics

Due to the chemical instability, high potency and short half-life of *FLOLAN*, no precise and accurate assay has been identified for quantifying epoprostenol in biological fluids.

#### Distribution

Intravenously administered epoprostenol is rapidly distributed from blood to tissue.

#### Metabolism

At normal physiological pH and temperature, epoprostenol breaks down spontaneously to 6-oxo-prostaglandin F<sub>1α</sub> plus, although there is some enzymatic degradation in other products.

Following the administration of radiolabelled epoprostenol to humans, at least 16 metabolites were found, 10 of which were structurally identified.

Unlike many other prostaglandins, epoprostenol is not metabolised during passage through the pulmonary circulation.

#### Elimination

The half-life for the spontaneous breakdown to 6-oxo-prostaglandin F<sub>1α</sub> in rats is expected to be no more than 6 minutes, and may be as short as 2 to 3 minutes, as estimated from *in vitro* rates of degradation of epoprostenol in human whole blood.

Following the administration of radiolabelled epoprostenol to humans, the urinary and fecal recoveries of radioactivity were 82% and 4%, respectively.

#### Pre-clinical Safety Data

##### Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis

Epoprostenol was tested *in vitro* in an Ames Salmonella assay and in an alkaline elution assay for DNA damage, and in micronucleus test on cells, at 0, 10, 20 or 40µg/kg, in divided doses by the intraperitoneal route. There were no signs of genotoxicity in any of these three assays.

No long-term studies have been conducted in animals to determine whether epoprostenol is a potential carcinogen.

#### Reproductive toxicology

Epoprostenol has shown no signs of teratogenicity when administered to pregnant rabbits and rats.

A study in which male and female rats were dosed subcutaneously for 74 or 63 days respectively, with 0, 10, 20 or 100 micrograms/kg/day, showed no effects on fertility.

Studies which between them, cover all stages of the reproductive cycle, using epoprostenol doses of up to 100 micrograms/kg/day, have been conducted in rats and rabbits. No significant effects were detected on coitus, fertility, gestation, parturition and lactation through to weaning. In litters examined pre- and post-partum, there was no evidence of foetal toxicity or teratogenicity and in maintained offspring, physical and behavioural development and fertility were normal.

#### Animal pharmacology

A pharmacokinetic study in rabbits showed the whole body distribution to be 1015 mL/kg, and the whole body clearance to be 4.27 mL/kg/hr. Following i.v. injection of radiolabelled epoprostenol, the highest concentrations have been found in the liver, kidneys and small intestine. During infusions in animals, steady-state plasma concentrations of tritium-labelled epoprostenol were reached within 15 minutes and were proportional to infusion rates. Tissue levels decline rapidly with an evidence for accumulation or long-term retention of a drug-related compound.

Urinary excretion of the metabolites of epoprostenol has been found to account for 40% of the administered dose in rats, and 90% in dogs, with biliary excretion accounting for the remainder. In both species urinary excretion was greater than 95% complete within 24 hours of dosing. In unanesthetized dogs, extensive clearance by the liver has been demonstrated, with approximately 80% being recovered in a single pass.

#### PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

##### List of Exipients

##### Freeze-dried powder

Glycine, sodium chloride, mannitol, sodium hydroxide.

##### Sterile diluent

Glycine, sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide, water for injection.

Depending on the dosage required, either 0.5 mg or 1.5 mg freeze-dried epoprostenol may be used for reconstitution with the sterile diluent. Reconstitution:

1. Use only the sterile buffer solution provided for reconstitution.
2. Withdraw approximately 10 mL of the sterile buffer solution into a sterile syringe, inject it into the vial containing 100 micrograms freeze-dried *FLOLAN* and shake gently until the powder has dissolved.
3. Draw up the resulting *FLOLAN* solution into the syringe, re-inject it into the remaining volume of the sterile buffer solution and mix thoroughly.

This solution is now referred to as the concentrated solution.

- Where a pack containing 0.5 mg epoprostenol is reconstituted with 30 mL sterile diluent the resultant concentration is 10,000 nanograms/mL epoprostenol.
- Where a pack containing 1.5 mg epoprostenol is reconstituted with 90 mL sterile diluent the resultant concentration is 30,000 nanograms/mL.

Higher concentrations may be prepared for patients who receive epoprostenol long term.

Only concentrated solutions are suitable for further dilution with the sterile diluent prior to use.

#### Dosage:

*FLOLAN* may be used either as concentrated solution or in a diluted form for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension. Only the sterile diluent provided may be used for the further dilution of reconstituted *FLOLAN*. Physiological saline must not be used when *FLOLAN* is to be used for the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension.

*FLOLAN* must not be administered with other parenteral solutions or medications when used for primary pulmonary arterial hypertension.

The final solution to be administered to the patient must be filtered using a 0.22 or 0.20 micron filter. Use of an in-line filter as part of the infusion set during administration is preferable. Alternatively, where in-line filtration is not possible, the final solution (either a concentrated or further diluted solution) must be filtered with the provided sterile 0.22 micron filter prior to storage in the medication cassette.

If an in-line filter has been used during administration, then the in-line filter should be discarded when the infusion set is exchanged.

If normal a syringe filter has been used during preparation, the syringe filter unit must be used only during preparation and then discarded.

#### Calculation of Infusion rate:

Concentrations commonly used in the treatment of pulmonary arterial hypertension are as follows:

- 15,000 nanograms/mL - 1.5 mg epoprostenol reconstituted and diluted to a total volume of 100mL in sterile diluent
- 10,000 nanograms/mL - Two vials containing 0.5 mg epoprostenol reconstituted and diluted to a total volume of 100 mL.
- 5,000 nanograms/mL - One vial containing 0.5 mg epoprostenol reconstituted and diluted to a total volume of 100 mL.

The infusion rate may be calculated from the following formula:

$$\text{Infusion rate (mL/min)} = \frac{\text{dosage (nanograms/kg/min)} \times \text{bodyweight (kg)}}{\text{concentration of solution (nanograms/mL)}}$$

$$\text{Infusion rate (mL/h)} = \text{Infusion rate (mL/min)} \times 60$$

Examples for some concentrations commonly used in primary pulmonary arterial hypertension are below.

Infusion rates for a concentration of 15,000 nanograms/mL:

Dosage (nanograms/kg/min)	Bodyweight (kg)									
	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100		
4				1.0	1.1	1.3	1.4	1.6		
6		1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4		
8	1.0	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.2	2.6	2.9	3.2		
10	1.2	1.6	2.0	2.4	2.8	3.2	3.6	4.0		
12	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.9	4.3	4.8		
14	1.7	2.2	2.8	3.4	3.9	4.5	5.0	5.6		
16	1.9	2.6	3.2	3.8	4.5	5.1	5.8	6.4		

<sup>1</sup>Flow rates in mL/h

Infusion rates for a concentration of 5,000 nanograms/mL:

Dosage (nanograms/kg/min)	Bodyweight (kg)									
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100
2				1.0	1.2	1.4	1.7	1.9	2.2	2.4
4		1.0	1.4	1.9	2.4	2.9	3.4	3.8	4.3	4.8

#### Incompatibilities

*FLOLAN* must be reconstituted using only the sterile diluent provided. Any further dilution must be performed using only the recommended solutions (see Instructions for Use/Handling).

*FLOLAN* must not be administered with other parenteral solutions or medications when used for primary pulmonary arterial hypertension (see Instructions for Use/Handling).

#### Shelf Life

##### Unopened vials

The expiry date is indicated on the packaging.

##### Stability during administration

Reconstituted/diluted solutions using sterile diluent for pulmonary arterial hypertension.

For solutions ≤ 150,000 ng/mL:

Freshly prepared solutions for infusion (either as a concentrated solution or a further diluted solution) can be administered immediately or stored for up to 8 days at 2°C to 8°C prior to administration. Following this preparation or storage, the solution for infusion should be used within:

- 72 hours at up to 25°C or
- 48 hours at up to 30°C or
- 24 hours at up to 35 °C or
- 12 hours at up to 40 °C

Discard any unused solution after this time.

For solutions >150,000ng/mL and ≤300,000ng/mL:

Reconstituted solutions that have been stored at 2 to 8°C for up to 7 days can be administered for up to 24 hours at 25°C

Freshly prepared reconstituted solutions, or solutions that have been stored at 2 to 8°C for no longer than 7 days can be administered for up to:

- 48 hours at up to 25°C
- 24 hours at up to 35°C

Discard any unused solution after this time.

#### Special Precautions for Storage

##### Freeze-dried powder

Do not store *FLOLAN* vials above 25°C. Protect from light. Keep dry. Do not freeze. Under these conditions, freeze-dried *FLOLAN* in an unopened vial should not be affected by moisture present in the atmosphere.

##### Sterile diluent

Do not store above 25°C. Do not freeze. Protect from light. Sterile diluent contains no preservative, consequently a vial should be used once only and then discarded.

#### Nature and Contents of Container

##### Freeze-dried powder

The freeze-dried powder is contained in glass vials with synthetic butyl rubber plugs and aluminium collars.

##### Sterile diluent

The sterile diluent is contained in plastic vials with synthetic butyl rubber plugs and aluminium collars with a purple flip-top cover.

#### Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension

One vial containing sterile, freeze-dried epoprostenol equivalent to 0.5 mg or 1.5 mg epoprostenol, supplied with two 50 mL vials of sterile diluent and a filter unit.

One vial containing sterile, freeze-dried epoprostenol equivalent to 0.5 mg or 1.5 mg epoprostenol supplied alone.

#### Instructions for Use/Handling

The stability of solutions of *FLOLAN* is pH dependent. Only the sterile diluent supplied should be used for reconstitution of freeze-dried *FLOLAN* and only the recommended infusion solutions, in the stated ratio, should be used for further dilution, otherwise the required pH may not be maintained.

- Reconstitution, dilution and calculation of infusion rate

Reconstitution and dilution of *FLOLAN* must be carried out using aseptic technique, ideally immediately prior to clinical use.

Further care should be taken in the preparation of the infusions and in calculating the rate of infusion. The procedure given below should be closely followed.

#### Primary Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension