

**PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION FOR
CAVERFIL 5 / 20**

SCHEDULING STATUS

S4

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINE

CAVERFIL 5, film-coated tablets

CAVERFIL 20, film-coated tablets

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

CAVERFIL 5: Each film-coated tablet contains 5 mg tadalafil.

CAVERFIL 20: Each film-coated tablet contains 20 mg tadalafil.

Contains lactose monohydrate.

CAVERFIL 5: Each film-coated tablet contains 149,40 mg lactose monohydrate.

CAVERFIL 20: Each film-coated tablet contains 288,8 mg lactose monohydrate.

Contains sodium.

CAVERFIL 5: Each film-coated tablet contains 11,5 mg croscarmellose sodium and 0,60 mg sodium lauryl sulphate.

CAVERFIL 20: Each film-coated tablet contains 23,0 mg croscarmellose sodium and 1,20 mg sodium lauryl sulphate.

For the full list of excipients, see **section 6.1**.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Film-coated tablets.

CAVERFIL 5: Pale pinkish yellow, circular, biconvex, film-coated tablet with “T5” debossed on one side and plain on other side.

CAVERFIL 20: Yellow coloured, capsule shaped, biconvex, film-coated tablet with “T20” debossing on one side and plain on other side.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

CAVERFIL is indicated for the treatment of erectile dysfunction. In order for CAVERFIL to be effective, sexual stimulation is required.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Posology

In adult men

The recommended dose is 5 mg taken once a day at approximately the same time of day.

The recommended maximum dose of CAVERFIL is 20 mg taken prior to anticipated sexual activity and without regard to food.

CAVERFIL 20 can be taken up to 36 hours and as early as 16 minutes prior to sexual activity. Patients may initiate sexual activity at varying time points relative to dosing in order to determine their own optimal window of responsiveness.

The maximum recommended dosing frequency of CAVERFIL is once per day.

Special populations

Renal impairment

Dosage adjustments are not required in patients with mild or moderate renal impairment. Once-a-day dosing of CAVERFIL is not recommended in patients with severe renal impairment.

Paediatric population

CAVERFIL is not indicated for children under the age of 18 years.

Method of administration

For oral use.

4.3 Contraindications

CAVERFIL is contraindicated in:

- Patients with known hypersensitivity to, tadalafil or to any of the excipients in CAVERFIL listed in **section 6.1**.
- Administration of CAVERFIL to patients who are using any form of organic nitrate.
- Patients with severe hepatic insufficiency (Child-Pugh Class C).
- Loss of vision in one or both eyes because of non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION) regardless of whether this episode was in connection or not with previous PDE5 inhibitor exposure (see **section 4.4**).
- Previous experience of unilateral or bilateral decrease or loss of hearing with or without associated vestibular symptoms.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Before treatment with CAVERFIL

A medical history and physical examination should be undertaken to diagnose erectile dysfunction and determine potential underlying causes before pharmacological treatment is considered.

Sexual activity carries a potential cardiac risk for patients with pre-existing cardiovascular disease. Prior to initiating any treatment for erectile dysfunction, medical practitioners should consider the cardiovascular status of their patients. Tadalafil has vasodilator properties, resulting in mild and transient decreases in blood pressure (see **section 5.1**) and as such potentiates the hypotensive effect of nitrates (see **section 4.3**). CAVERFIL should not be used in men with cardiac disease for whom sexual activity is inadvisable.

It is not known if tadalafil is effective in patients who have undergone pelvic surgery or radical non-nerve-sparing prostatectomy.

Cardiovascular

Tadalafil has systemic vasodilatory properties that may result in transient decreases in blood pressure. Prior to prescribing CAVERFIL, doctors should carefully consider whether their patients with underlying cardiovascular disease could be affected adversely by such vasodilatory effects.

In patients receiving concomitant antihypertensive medicines, tadalafil may induce a blood pressure decrease. When initiating daily treatment with tadalafil, appropriate clinical considerations should be given to a possible dose adjustment of the antihypertensive therapy.

In patients who are taking alpha1 blockers, concomitant administration of CAVERFIL may lead to symptomatic hypotension in some patients (see **section 4.5**). The combination of tadalafil and doxazosin is not recommended. In a reported clinical pharmacology study of 18 healthy volunteers who received a single dose of CAVERFIL, no symptomatic hypotension

was observed with simultaneous administration of tamsulosin an-[1A] blocker (see **section 4.5**).

The use of CAVERFIL is not recommended in the following patients:

- with myocardial infarction within the last 90 days
- with unstable angina or angina occurring during sexual intercourse
- with New York Heart Association Class 2 or greater heart failure in the last 6 months
- with uncontrolled dysrhythmia, hypotension (< 90/50 mm Hg), or uncontrolled hypertension
- with a stroke within the last 6 months.

Patients who experience symptoms upon initiation of sexual activity should be advised to refrain from further sexual activity and should report the episode to their medical practitioner.

Vision

Non-arteritic anterior ischemic optic neuropathy (NAION) is a cause of decreased vision including permanent loss of vision. Visual defects and cases of NAION have been reported in connection with the intake of CAVERFIL and other PDE5 inhibitors. Analyses of observational data suggest an increased risk of acute NAION in men with erectile dysfunction following exposure to tadalafil or other PDE5 inhibitors. As this may be relevant for all patients exposed to tadalafil, the patient should be advised that in case of sudden visual defect, he should stop taking CAVERFIL and consult a medical practitioner immediately (see **section 4.3**). Medical practitioner should also discuss with patients that individuals who have already experienced NAION are at increased risk of NAION.

Decreased or sudden hearing loss

Cases of sudden hearing loss have been reported after the use of tadalafil. Patients should be advised to stop taking CAVERFIL and seek prompt medical attention in the event of sudden decrease or loss of hearing. These events may be accompanied by tinnitus and dizziness.

Renal and hepatic impairment

Due to increased tadalafil exposure (AUC), limited clinical experience and the lack of ability to influence clearance by dialysis, once-a-day dosing of tadalafil is not recommended in patients with severe renal impairment.

Once-a-day administration has not been evaluated in patients with hepatic insufficiency.

Priapism and anatomical deformation of the penis

Patients who experience erections lasting 4 hours or more should be instructed to seek immediate medical assistance. If priapism is not treated immediately, penile tissue damage and permanent loss of potency may result.

CAVERFIL should be used with caution in patients with anatomical deformation of the penis (such as angulation, cavernosal fibrosis, or Peyronie's disease) or in patients who have conditions which may predispose them to priapism (such as sickle cell anaemia, multiple myeloma, or leukaemia).

Use with CYP3A4 inhibitors

Caution should be exercised when prescribing CAVERFIL to patients using potent CYP3A4 inhibitors (ritonavir, saquinavir, ketoconazole, itraconazole, and erythromycin), as increased tadalafil exposure (AUC) has been observed if the medicines are combined (see **section 4.5**).

CAVERFIL and other treatments for erectile dysfunction

The safety and efficacy of combinations of CAVERFIL and other PDE5 inhibitors or other treatments for erectile dysfunction have not been studied. The patients should be informed not to take CAVERFIL in such combinations.

Lactose

Patients with the rare hereditary conditions of galactose intolerance, total lactase deficiency, glucose-galactose malabsorption should not take CAVERFIL.

Sodium

CAVERFIL 5: contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

CAVERFIL 20: contains 24,2 mg sodium per tablet, equivalent to 0,012 % of the WHO recommended maximum daily intake of 2 g sodium for an adult.

4.5 Interaction with other medicines and other forms of interaction

Effect of other medicines on tadalafil

Cytochrome P450 inhibitors

CAVERFIL is principally metabolised by CYP3A4. A selective inhibitor of CYP3A4, ketoconazole (200 mg daily), increased tadalafil (10 mg) exposure (AUC) 2-fold and C_{max} by 15 %, relative to the AUC and C_{max} values for tadalafil alone. Ketoconazole (400 mg daily), increased tadalafil 20 mg single-dose exposure (AUC) 4-fold and C_{max} by 22 %.

Transporters

The role of transporters (for example, p-glycoprotein) in the disposition of tadalafil is not known. Therefore, there is the potential of medicine interactions mediated by inhibition of transporters.

Cytochrome P450 inducers

A selective CYP3A4 inducer, rifampicin (rifampicin, 600 mg daily), reduced tadalafil single-dose exposure (AUC) by 88 % and C_{max} by 46 %, relative to the AUC and C_{max} values for tadalafil alone. This reduced exposure can be anticipated to decrease the efficacy of tadalafil; the magnitude of decreased efficacy is unknown. It can be expected that concomitant administration of other CYP3A4 inducers, such as phenobarbitone, phenytoin and carbamazepine may also decrease plasma concentrations of tadalafil.

Ritonavir (200 mg twice daily) an inhibitor of CYP3A4, 2C9, 2C19 and 2D6, increased tadalafil single-dose exposure (AUC) by 124 % with no change in C_{max} . Although specific interactions have not been studied, other HIV protease inhibitors, such as saquinavir, and other CYP3A4 inhibitors such as erythromycin and itraconazole, would likely increase tadalafil exposure.

Antacids

Simultaneous administration of an antacid (magnesium hydroxide/aluminium hydroxide) and tadalafil reduced the apparent rate of absorption of tadalafil without altering exposure (AUC) to tadalafil.

H2-antagonists

An increase in gastric pH resulting from administration of nizatidine, an H2-antagonist, had no significant effect on tadalafil pharmacokinetics.

Effects of tadalafil on other medicines

Nitrates

In reported clinical studies, tadalafil was shown to augment the hypotensive effects of nitrates. Therefore, administration of tadalafil to patients who are using any form of organic nitrate is contraindicated (see **section 4.3**).

Anti-hypertensives

Tadalafil has systemic vasodilatory properties and may augment the blood pressure lowering effects of antihypertensive medicines. Additionally, in patients taking multiple antihypertensive medicines whose hypertension was not well controlled, greater reductions in blood pressure were observed. These reductions were not associated with hypotensive symptoms in the vast majority of patients. Appropriate clinical advice should be given to patients when they are treated with antihypertensive medications and tadalafil.

Tadalafil had no clinically significant effect on blood pressure changes due to tamsulosin, an α -adrenergic receptor blocking agent.

The co-administration of doxazosin (4 and 8 mg daily) and tadalafil (5 mg daily dose and 20 mg as a single dose) increases the blood pressure-lowering effect of this alpha-blocker in a significant manner. This effect lasts at least twelve hours and may be symptomatic, including syncope. Some patients experienced dizziness. Therefore, this combination is not recommended (see **section 4.4**).

CYP1A2 substrates

Tadalafil had no clinically significant effect on the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamics of theophylline, a CYP1A2 substrate.

Ethinylestradiol and terbutaline

Tadalafil has been demonstrated to produce an increase in the oral bioavailability of ethinylestradiol; a similar increase may be expected with oral administration of terbutaline, although the clinical consequence of this is uncertain.

Alcohol

Tadalafil did not affect alcohol concentrations and alcohol did not affect tadalafil concentrations. At high doses of alcohol (0,7 g/kg), the addition of tadalafil did not induce statistically significant mean blood pressure decreases. In some subjects, postural dizziness and orthostatic hypotension were observed. When tadalafil was administered with lower doses of alcohol (0,6 g/kg), hypotension was not observed, and dizziness occurred with similar frequency to alcohol alone.

Cytochrome P450 metabolised medicines

Tadalafil does not inhibit or induce CYP450 isoforms, including CYP1A2, CYP3A4, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6 and CYP2E1.

CYP2C9 substrates (e.g., R-warfarin)

Tadalafil had no clinically significant effect on exposure (AUC) to S-warfarin or R-warfarin (CYP2C9 substrate), nor did tadalafil affect changes in prothrombin time induced by warfarin.

Aspirin

Tadalafil did not potentiate the increase in bleeding time caused by aspirin.

Antidiabetic medicines

Specific interaction studies with antidiabetic medicines were not conducted.

Riociguat

Reported studies have shown an additive systemic blood pressure lowering effect when PDE5 inhibitors were combined with riociguat. Riociguat has been shown to augment the hypotensive effects of PDE5 inhibitors. There was no evidence of favourable clinical effect of the combination. Riociguat should not be used concomitantly with PDE5 inhibitors such as tadalafil.

5-alpha reductase inhibitors

No new adverse reactions were identified when tadalafil was co-administered with finasteride. However, as a formal interaction study evaluating the effects of tadalafil and 5-alpha reductase inhibitors (5-ARIs) has not been performed, caution should be exercised when tadalafil is co-administered with 5-ARIs.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

CAVERFIL is not indicated for use by women.

Safety and efficacy of CAVERFIL in pregnancy and lactation have not been established.

Pregnancy

CAVERFIL should not be used during pregnancy.

Breastfeeding

CAVERFIL should not be used during breastfeeding.

Fertility

Although animal studies indicate impairment of fertility, subsequent reported clinical studies suggest this is unlikely in humans. A decrease in sperm concentration has however, been seen in some men.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

CAVERFIL has a negligible influence on the ability to drive or use machines. However, there have been reports of dizziness, therefore patients should be aware of how they react to CAVERFIL before driving or using machines.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Summary of the safety profile

The most commonly reported adverse reactions in patients taking tadalafil for the treatment of erectile dysfunction were headache, dyspepsia, back pain and myalgia, in which the incidences increase with increasing dose of tadalafil. The adverse reactions reported were transient, and generally mild or moderate. The majority of headaches reported with tadalafil once-a-day dosing are experienced within the first 10 to 30 days of starting treatment.

Tabulated list of adverse reactions

MedDRA system organ class	Frequency	ADVERSE REACTION
Immune system disorders	Less frequent	Hypersensitivity reactions angioedema ²
Nervous system disorders	Frequent	Headache
	Less frequent	Dizziness, stroke ¹ (including haemorrhagic events), syncope, transient ischaemic attacks ¹ , migraine ² , seizures, transient

Eye disorders	Less frequent	Blurred vision, sensations described as eye pain. Visual field defect, swelling of eyelids, conjunctival hyperaemia, non-arteritic anterior ischaemic optic neuropathy (NAION) ² , retinal vascular occlusion ²
	Frequency unknown	Retinal detachment
Ear and labyrinth disorders	Less frequent	Tinnitus, sudden hearing loss
Cardiac disorders¹	Less frequent	Tachycardia, palpitations, myocardial infarction, unstable angina pectoris ² , ventricular dysrhythmia ²
Vascular disorders	Frequent	Flushing
	Less frequent	Hypotension ³ , hypertension
Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders	Frequent	Nasal congestion
	Less frequent	Dyspnoea, epistaxis
Gastrointestinal disorders	Frequent	Dyspepsia
	Less frequent	Abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, gastro- oesophageal reflux
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	Less frequent	Rash, urticaria, Stevens-Johnson syndrome ² , exfoliative dermatitis ² , hyperhidrosis (sweating)
Musculoskeletal, connective tissue and bone disorders	Frequent	Back pain, myalgia, pain in extremity

Renal and urinary disorders	Less frequent	Haematuria
Reproductive system and breast disorders	Less frequent	Prolonged erections, priapism, penile haemorrhage, haemospermia
General disorders and administration site conditions	Less frequent	Chest pain ¹ , peripheral oedema, fatigue facial oedema ² , sudden cardiac death ^{1,2}

(1) Most of the patients had pre-existing cardiovascular risk factors (see **section 4.4**).

(2) Post marketing surveillance reported adverse reactions not observed in placebo-controlled clinical trials.

(3) More commonly reported when tadalafil is given to patients who are already taking antihypertensive medicines.

Description of selected adverse reactions

A slightly higher incidence of ECG abnormalities, primarily sinus bradycardia, has been reported in patients treated with tadalafil once a day as compared with placebo. Most of these ECG abnormalities were not associated with adverse reactions.

Other special populations

Although there is limited data in patients over 65 years of age, in reported clinical trials with tadalafil taken on demand for the treatment of erectile dysfunction, diarrhoea was reported more frequently in patients over 65 years of age.

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions

If you get side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. You can also report side effects to SAHPRA via the Med Safety APP (Medsafety X SAHPRA) and eReporting platform (who-umc.org) found on the SAHPRA website, or to Cipla Medpro (Pty) Ltd. by e-mail: drugsafetysa@cipla.com or telephone: 080 222 6662 (toll free). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of CAVERFIL.

4.9 Overdose

Single doses of up to 500 mg have been administered to healthy patients and multiple daily doses of up to 100 mg have been given to patients. Adverse events were similar to those seen at lower doses.

In cases of overdose, standard supportive measures should be used as required.

Haemodialysis has a negligible contribution to CAVERFIL elimination.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacological classification: A 7.1.5 Vasodilators – peripheral.

Pharmacotherapeutic group: Urologicals, Drugs used in erectile dysfunction.

ATC code: G04BE08.

Mechanism of action

Tadalafil improves impaired erectile function by increasing blood flow to the penis, in response to sexual stimulation.

Tadalafil is a selective, reversible inhibitor of cyclic guanosine monophosphate (cGMP)-specific phosphodiesterase type 5 (PDE5). When sexual stimulation causes the local release of nitric oxide, inhibition of PDE5 by tadalafil produces increased levels of cGMP in the corpus cavernosum. This results in smooth muscle relaxation and inflow of blood into the penile tissues, thereby producing an erection. Tadalafil has no effect in the absence of sexual stimulation.

Pharmacodynamic effects

Studies *in vitro* have shown that tadalafil is a selective inhibitor of PDE5. PDE5 is an enzyme found in corpus cavernosum smooth muscle, vascular and visceral smooth muscle, skeletal muscle, platelets, kidney, lung, and cerebellum. The effect of tadalafil is more potent on PDE5 than on other phosphodiesterases. Tadalafil is > 10 000-fold more potent for PDE5 than for PDE1, PDE2, and PDE4 enzymes which are found in the heart, brain, blood vessels, liver, and other organs.

Additionally, tadalafil is approximately 700-fold more potent for PDE5 than for PDE6, an enzyme which is found in the retina and is responsible for phototransduction. Tadalafil is also > 10 000-fold more potent for PDE5 than for PDE7 through PDE10.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Absorption

Tadalafil is well absorbed after oral administration and the mean maximum observed plasma concentration (C_{max}) is achieved at a median time of 2 hours after dosing.

The rate and extent of absorption of tadalafil are not influenced by food. Thus, tadalafil may be taken with or without food. The time of dosing (morning versus evening) had no clinically relevant effects on the rate and extent of absorption.

Distribution

The mean volume of distribution is approximately 63 L. At therapeutic concentrations, 94 % of tadalafil in plasma is bound to proteins. Less than 0,0005 % of the administered dose appeared in the semen of healthy subjects.

Biotransformation

Tadalafil is predominantly metabolised by the cytochrome P450 CYP3A4 isoform.

The major circulating metabolite is the methylcatechol glucuronide. This metabolite is at least 13 000-fold less potent than tadalafil for PDE5. Consequently, it is not expected to be clinically active at observed metabolite concentrations.

Elimination

The mean half-life is 17,5 hours in healthy subjects. Tadalafil is excreted predominantly as metabolites, mainly in the faeces (approximately 61 % of the dose) and to a lesser extent in the urine (approximately 36 % of the dose).

Linearity / non-linearity

Tadalafil pharmacokinetics in healthy subjects are linear with respect to time and dose. Over a dose range of 2,5 to 20 mg, exposure (AUC) increases proportionally with dose. Steady-state plasma concentrations are attained within 5 days of once-daily dosing.

Special populations

Elderly

Healthy elderly subjects (65 years or over), had a lower oral clearance of tadalafil, resulting in 25 % higher exposure (AUC) relative to healthy subjects aged 19 to 45 years. This effect of age is not clinically significant and does not warrant a dose adjustment.

Renal impairment

In subjects with mild (creatinine clearance 51 to 80 mL/min) or moderate (creatinine clearance 31 to 50 mL/min) renal impairment, tadalafil exposure (AUC) was higher than in healthy subjects. In subjects with renal insufficiency, including those on haemodialysis, tadalafil exposure AUC was higher than in healthy subjects.

Hepatic impairment

Tadalafil exposure (AUC) in subjects with mild and moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class A and B) is comparable to exposure in healthy subjects. No dose adjustment is required in these patients. No data are available in patients with severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class C).

Patients with diabetes

Tadalafil exposure (AUC) in patients with diabetes was approximately 19 % lower than the AUC value for healthy subjects. This difference in exposure does not warrant a dose adjustment.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Tablet core

Lactose monohydrate

Croscarmellose sodium

Hydroxypropyl cellulose

Microcrystalline cellulose

Sodium lauryl sulphate

Magnesium stearate

Film coating

Opadry yellow

Hypromellose

Iron oxide red

Iron oxide yellow

Talc

Titanium dioxide

Triacetin

Opadry II yellow

Hypromellose

Iron oxide yellow

Lactose monohydrate

Titanium dioxide

Triacetin

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf life

24 months.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store at or below 25 °C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

CAVERFIL 5 is packed in:

- A plain aluminium blister foil and PVC/PE/PVDC film clear transparent of 28 (2 x 14s) and 30 (3 x 10s) film-coated tablets.
- 50 cc HDPE Bottle, with Argus LOC Blue CR Cap containing 30 and 90 film-coated tablets.

CAVERFIL 20 is packed in:

- A plain aluminium blister foil and PVC/PE/PVDC film clear transparent of 2, 4 or 8 film-coated tablets.
- 50 cc HDPE Bottle, with Argus LOC Blue CR Cap containing 30 film-coated tablets.
- 60 cc HDPE Bottle, with Argus LOC Blue CR Cap containing 90 film-coated tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Any unused product or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

7. HOLDER OF CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION

CIPLA MEDPRO (PTY) LTD.

Building 9

Parc du Cap

Mispel Street

Bellville

7530

Customer Care: 080 222 6662

8. REGISTRATION NUMBER(S)

CAVERFIL 5: 51/7.1.5/0034.032

CAVERFIL 20: 51/7.1.5/0035.033

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION/RENEWAL OF THE AUTHORISATION

Date of first authorisation: 26 July 2022

Date of renewal of the authorisation: Not applicable.

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

16 January 2026