

■ Krkini kardiovaskularni lijekovi – generički lijekovi s dodanom vrijednosti

Krka's cardiovascular medicines – value-added generic medicines

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SAŽETAK: Tijekom proših šest desetljeća Krka je postala jedna od vodećih generičkih farmaceutskih tvrtki u svijetu. Naše inovativne generičke lijekove, tj. generičke lijekove s dodanom vrijednosti, razvijamo sami koristeći se vlastitim znanjem i umijećem. Time se osiguravaju ključne prednosti pred konkurentnim lijekovima zahvaljujući razvoju novih tehnologija primjenjivanih u proizvodnji aktivnih supstancija i farmaceutskih oblika. Lijekovi za liječenje kardiovaskularnih bolesti čine ključni dio među Krkinim lijekovima koji se propisuju na recept. Nudimo širok raspon kardiovaskularnih lijekova dostupnih u različitim oblicima, kombinacijama fiksni doza i inovativnih jačina, što liječnicima omogućuje optimalno liječenje bolesnika. Terapijska ekvivalentnost Krkinih proizvoda s originalnim lijekovima dokazuje se u *in vivo* studijama bioekvivalencije. Rezultati mnogobrojnih kliničkih studija dokazali su da su naši lijekovi klinički dokazani, učinkoviti i dobro podnošljivi u svakodnevnoj kliničkoj praksi.

SUMMARY: In the past six decades, Krka has emerged as one of the leading generic pharmaceutical companies in the world. Our innovative generics, i.e. value-added generic medicines, are developed using the company's own know-how. This ensures that our products hold certain key advantages over competitor products, resulting from the development of new technologies used in the production of active ingredients and dosage forms. Our key therapeutic area in prescription pharmaceuticals is cardiovascular medicines. We offer a wide range of cardiovascular medicines, available in a variety of different dosage forms, fixed-dose combinations and innovative strengths, which enable doctors to optimize the treatment of their patients. The therapeutic equivalence of Krka's product with the originator's product is demonstrated by *in vivo* bioequivalence studies. The results of numerous clinical studies have shown that our medicines are clinically proven, effective, and well tolerated by patients in real clinical practice.

KLJUČNE RIJEČI: generički lijekovi s dodanom vrijednosti, kardiovaskularni lijekovi, farmaceutski oblici, kombinacije fiksni doza, inovativne jačine, kliničke studije.

KEYWORDS: value-added generics, cardiovascular medicines, dosage-forms, fixed-dose combinations, innovative strengths, clinical studies.

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Tijekom proših šest desetljeća Krka je postala jedna od vodećih generičkih farmaceutskih tvrtki u svijetu. Osnovna djelatnost tvrtke jest proizvodnja i prodaja lijekova na recept za najčešće bolesti modernoga svijeta.¹ Lijekovi za liječenje kardiovaskularnih bolesti čine najvažniju grupu lijekova na recept, a svakodnevno se njima liječi gotovo 16 milijuna bolesnika.²

Krka proizvodi visoko kvalitetne, učinkovite i sigurne lijekove koji se distribuiraju na tržište

In the past six decades, Krka has emerged as one of the leading generic pharmaceutical companies in the world. Our core business is the production and sale of prescription pharmaceuticals for the treatment of the most common diseases in the modern world.¹ The most important therapeutic group of prescription products is cardiovascular medicines, which currently treat almost 16 million patients every day.²

Krka produces high-quality, effective and safe medicines that are marketed under the

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pod vlastitim zaštićenim imenima. Naš vertikalno integriran model proizvodnje omogućuje nam potpuni nadzor nad cijelim proizvodnim procesom, od djelatne tvari do završnoga proizvoda. Usredotočeni smo na razvijanje inovativnih generičkih lijekova, tj. generičkih lijekova s dodanom vrijednosti, koji su rezultat našega vlastitog znanja i umijeća. To Krkinim lijekovima osigurava ključne prednosti od nekoliko godina nakon što stupe na tržište, a te su prednosti posljedica razvoja novih tehnologija u proizvodnji djelatnih tvari i farmaceutskih oblika. Djelatne tvari ugrađene u generičke lijekove proizvedene u Krki najčešće su sintetizirane uporabom naših vlastitih biosintetskih i kemijskih postupaka. Posjedujemo više od 350 inovacija zaštićenih patentom s nekoliko patenata u europskim, američkim i azijskim zemljama.¹

Krkini su lijekovi jednaki originalnim lijekovima. Farmaceutska se ekvivalentnost dokazuje *in vitro* testovima otapanja, a *in vivo* terapijska ekvivalentnost dokazuje se u studijama bioekvivalencije, pri čemu u oba slučaja izravno uspoređujemo svoje lijekove s originalima.¹

Učinkovitost i sigurnost naših proizvoda također se redovito potvrđuje u mnogim kliničkim istraživanjima u stvarnoj kliničkoj praksi. Rezultati se istraživanja bilježe, analiziraju i objavljuju u međunarodnim medicinskim časopisima.¹

Raznovrsnost farmaceutskih oblika

Naši se lijekovi proizvode u raznim farmaceutskim oblicima: tabletama, kapsulama, ampulama itd. Razvijamo nove farmaceutske oblike koji olakšavaju primjenu i omogućuju nove načine uporabe.

Razvoj oblika s produljenim oslobađanjem bio je važna prekretnica. Ta je inovacija rezultat našega vlastitog znanja i umijeća, a za nju smo dobili i europski patent. Tablete s produljenim oslobađanjem smanjuju fluktuaciju koncentracije u plazmi te održavaju stalnu razinu djelatne tvari tijekom dužeg razdoblja, što dovodi do smanjenja neželjenih reakcija i bolje podnošljivosti, doziranja samo jednom na dan te do poboljšane suradljivosti pacijenta, što pak smanjuje troškove zdravstvenog sustava;¹ Krkin gliklazid (Gliclada®) dostupan je u takvom farmaceutskom obliku (Slika 1).

Višeslojne tablete omogućuju spajanje nekoliko inkompatibilnih djelatnih tvari u jednu tabletu. Sastoje se od različitih

company's own brands. Our vertically integrated production model allows us to have complete oversight of the whole production process from the active ingredient to the finished product. Our focus lies on developing innovative generics, i.e. value-added generic medicines, which are the result of our own know-how. This ensures that our products have advantages of key importance for several years after they have been introduced to the market, resulting from the development of new technologies used in the production of active ingredients and dosage forms. The active ingredients most commonly built into Krka's generics are synthesized using our own biosynthesis and chemical synthesis processes. We have more than 350 patent-protected innovations for which we have obtained several patents in various European, American, and Asian countries.¹

Krka's medicine is equal to the originator's medicine. Pharmaceutical equivalence is demonstrated with *in vitro* dissolution testing, while *in vivo* therapeutic equivalence is demonstrated with bioequivalence studies; in both cases we directly compare our medicine with the originator's medicine.¹

The efficacy and safety of our products are also routinely verified in many clinical studies in real clinical practice. The study results are documented, analyzed, and published in international medical journals.¹

A variety of dosage forms

Our medicines are produced in a variety of dosage forms: tablets, capsules, ampoules, etc. We develop new dosage forms that facilitate administration and enable new ways of usage.

An important milestone was the development of the sustained-release dosage form. This innovation is the result of our own know-how, for which we also obtained a European patent. Sustained-release tablets provide reduction in plasma level fluctuation maintenance of constant active ingredient levels over a longer period of time, which consequently leads to fewer adverse reactions and better tolerability, just once-a-day dosing, and improved patient compliance, which in turn results in fewer costs for the health care system;¹ Krka's gliclazide (Gliclada®) is available in this dosage form (Figure 1).

Multilayer tablets allow several incompatible active ingredients to be joined together into a single dosage unit. They are

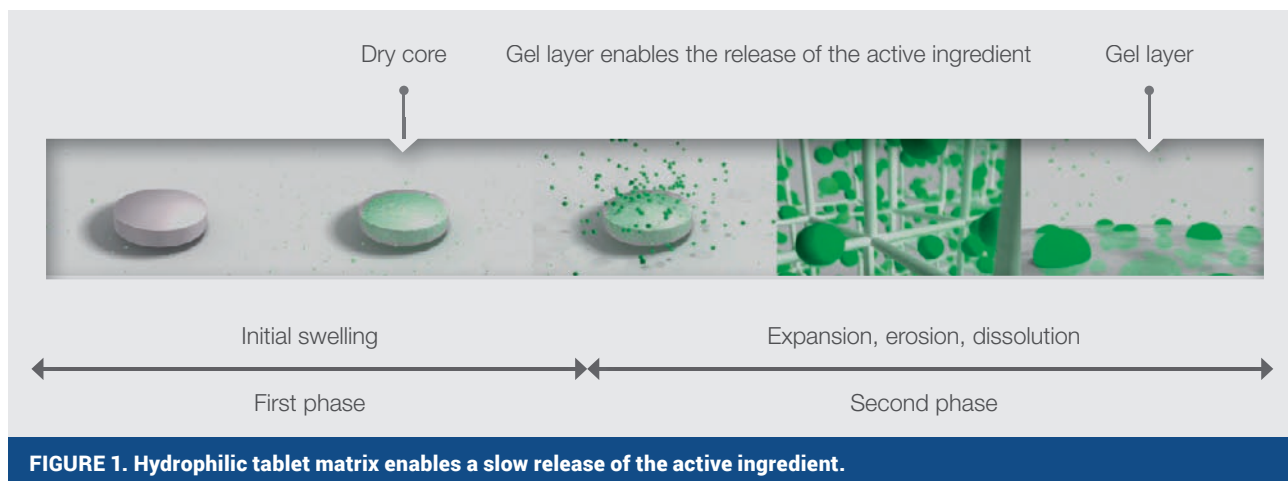


FIGURE 1. Hydrophilic tablet matrix enables a slow release of the active ingredient.

sloja koje otpuštaju djelatnu tvar u različitim intervalima i pri različitim brzinama. To osigurava da djelatne tvari ostanu kemijski stabilne te održava kvalitetu lijeka. Istodobno se omogućuje smanjenje broja tableta koje treba uzeti, što poboljšava pridržavanje preporuka za liječenje i ishod liječenja. Primjer ove inovacije, za koji je Krka dobila *Zlatnu nagradu* Gospodarske komore Slovenije, dvoslojne su tablete s telmisartanom i hidroklorotiazidom (Tolucombi®) koji sinergistički djeluju na arterijski tlak (Slika 2).¹

Stvaranje novih načina liječenja

Nudjenjem inovativnih jačina pripravaka te raznovrsnih kombinacija fiksni doza omogućujemo liječnicima da izaberu najprikladniji lijek za svoje pacijente. Prva smo tvrtka koja je na tržište plasirala doze atorvastatina (Atoris®) od 30 i 60 mg te rosuvastatina (Roswera®) u dozama od 15 i 30 mg. Kombinacija fiksne doze antihipertenziva i statina (Atordapin®) sadržava amlodipin i atorvastatin kao djelatne tvari, što omogućuje liječenje dviju bolesti, arterijske hipertenzije i hiperlipidemije, samo jednom tabletom. Izvanredan raspon od gotovo 60 kombinacija fiksni doza s antihipertenzivima različitih snaga omogućuje liječnicima da svakom pacijentu s arterijskom hipertenzijom izaberu optimalni oblik liječenja.¹ Prvi smo proizvođač generičkih lijekova u Europi koji je doveo na tržište perindopril/amlodipin (Dalneva®) i mnoge druge kombinacije fiksni doza.

Dokazana terapijska ekvivalentnost

Generički je lijek terapijski ekvivalentan referentnom lijeku kada je bioekvivalentnost dokazana te dok se znanstveno ne dokaže da postoji znatna razlika u sigurnosti između tih dvaju lijekova. Pojam bioekvivalentnosti temelji se na bioraspodjelivosti, koja se definira kao brzina i stupanj apsorpcije djelatne tvari od točke primjene do središnjega krvotoka. Temelji se na usporedbi farmakokinetičkih profila djelatne tvari u plazmi (usporedba maksimalne koncentracije djelatne tvari u plazmi koja definira brzinu i širinu apsorpcije djelatne tvari u središnjemu krvotoku te prostora ispod krivulje koncentracije djelatne tvari u plazmi koja definira opseg apsorpcije). Bioekvivalentnost se temelji na intervalu pouzdanosti od 90



FIGURE 2. Innovative formulation in a fixed-dose combination tablet which releases two active ingredients, physically separated from each other in a bilayer tablet.

built into different layers that release the active ingredient at different intervals and speeds. This guarantees that active ingredients remain chemically stable and that the product's quality is adequately sustained. At the same time it allows the number of tablets to be reduced, which in turn improves patient adherence and treatment outcome. An example of this innovation, for which Krka was awarded the Golden Award for innovation by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Slovenia, are bilayer tablets containing telmisartan and hydrochlorothiazide (Tolucombi®), which act synergistically on blood pressure (Figure 2).¹

Creating new treatment options

By offering innovative strengths and various fixed-dose combinations we allow physicians to select the most appropriate medicine for their patients. We were the first company to launch 30 mg and 60 mg strengths of atorvastatin (Atoris®) and 15 mg and 30 mg strengths of rosuvastatin (Roswera®). The fixed-dose combination of an antihypertensive and a statin (Atordapin®) contains amlodipine and atorvastatin as the two active ingredients, which allows doctors to treat two diseases, hypertension and hyperlipidemia, with just one tablet. An outstanding range of almost 60 fixed-dose combinations of different antihypertensives in different strengths allows doctors to select the optimal treatment for any patient with arterial hypertension.¹ We were the first generic producer in Europe to introduce perindopril/amlodipine (Dalneva®) and many other fixed-dose combinations.

Proven therapeutic equivalence

A generic medicine is therapeutically equivalent to the reference medicine when bioequivalence is established and until it is scientifically proven that there is a substantial difference between the two in terms of safety and efficacy. The concept of bioequivalence is based on bioavailability, which is defined by the rate and extent of the active ingredient's absorption from the site of application to the central blood stream. It is based on comparing the pharmacokinetic profiles of the active ingredient in the plasma (comparison of the maximum concentration of the active ingredient in the plasma that defines the rate and extent of the active ingredient's absorption in the central bloodstream, and the area under the curve of the active ingredient's plasma concentrations which defines the extent of absorption). Bioequivalence is based on the 90-percent confidence interval for the ratio of select bioavailability parameters that needs to lie in the 0.80–1.25 interval, or 0.75–1.33 in exceptional cases.^{3,4}

Krka's bioequivalence studies are performed in various European and North American countries. They are performed on a high scientific and professional level in line with strict international requirements (Good Clinical Practice – GCP, Good Laboratory Practice – GLP, European Medicines Agency, Food and Drug Administration) for clinical trials considering medical, regulatory, and ethical standards. The studies are performed on locations compliant with GCP and GLP, which are regularly inspected by the European and American regulatory authorities.¹

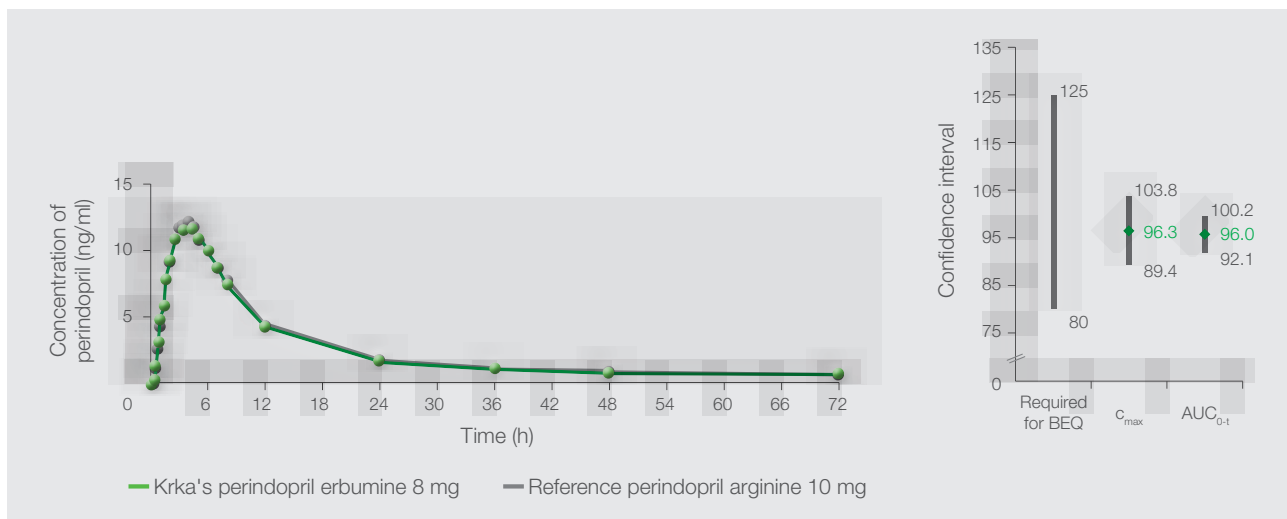


FIGURE 3. Bioequivalence study – Krka's perindopril erbumine 8 mg vs. reference perindopril arginine 10 mg (C_{max} – maximum concentration; AUC_{0-t} – area under the curve).⁵

% za omjer odabranih varijabli bioraspodjelivosti koji moraju biti u intervalu pouzdanosti od 0,80 do 1,25, ili 0,75 – 1,33 u iznimnim slučajevima.^{3,4}

Ispitivanja bioekvivalentnosti Krkinih lijekova provode se u raznim europskim i sjevernoameričkim zemljama. Provođe se na visokoj znanstvenoj i profesionalnoj razini u skladu sa strogim međunarodnim propisima (dobra klinička praksa, engl. *Good Clinical Practice* – GCP; dobra laboratorijska praksa, engl. *Good Laboratory Practice* – GLP; Europska agencija za lijekove, engl., *European Medicines Agency*; Agencija za hranu i lijekove, engl. *Food and Drug Administration*) za klinička istraživanja glede medicinskih, regulacijskih i etičkih standarda. Istraživanja se provode na lokacijama koje zadovoljavaju uvjete GCP-a i GLP-a i nad kojima inspekciju redovito provode europska i američka regulativna tijela.¹

Terapijska ekvivalencija perindoprila (Perineva®) u dozi od 8 mg u usporedbi s referentnim lijekom u dozi od 10 mg dokazana je u ispitivanju bioekvivalentnosti u 36 zdravih dobrovoljaca koji su primili jednu dozu lijeka natašte (Slika 3).⁵

Djelotvornost i sigurnost dokazane u kliničkoj praksi

Nakon što se lijek plasira na tržište, njegova se učinkovitost i sigurnost redovito potvrđuju u svakodnevnoj praksi putem kliničkih studija. Na taj način dobivamo više detaljnijih podataka, a liječnici su u prilici još se bolje upoznati s našim lijekovima i steći vrijedna iskustva. Tijekom godina provedena su različita klinička istraživanja: međunarodne intervencijske studije kao što su INTER-ARS i ATOP (Atoris®), ROSU-PATH (Roswera®), HEMERA (Ampril®, Lorista® i njihove kombinacije fiksni doza s hidroklorotiazidom, Tenox®), VICTORY (Valsacor® i njegove njihove fiksne kombinacije doza s hidroklorotiazidom), u kojima su se istraživala razna pitanja izvan već utemeljenih terapija, te također neintervencijske kliničke studije tijekom kojih se prate pacijenti u svakodnevnoj kliničkoj praksi te u kojima se njihov odabir, način liječenja, izbor lijeka

The therapeutic equivalence of perindopril (Perineva®) in the dose of 8 mg compared with the reference medicine in the dose of 10 mg was demonstrated with a bioequivalence study on 36 healthy volunteers, who received a single dose of the medicine under fasting conditions (Figure 3).⁵

Proven efficacy and safety in clinical practice

After the medicine has been launched to the market its efficacy and safety are regularly verified and confirmed in everyday practice with clinical studies. In this way, more in-depth data are obtained and physicians gain an opportunity to get even more acquainted with our medicines and thus acquire valuable experience. Over the years various clinical studies have been performed: international interventional clinical studies such as INTER-ARS and ATOP (Atoris®), ROSU-PATH (Roswera®), HEMERA (Ampril® and Lorista® and their fixed-dose combinations with hydrochlorothiazide, Tenox®), and VICTORY (Valsacor® and its fixed-dose combinations with hydrochlorothiazide), where various issues beyond the established treatment were analyzed, and non-interventional clinical studies where patients in everyday clinical practice were monitored and where the selection of patients, treatment method, selection of the medicine and its prescribing regimen, study design, and patient monitoring did not differ in any way from the established treatment.¹

All clinical studies are conducted in compliance with Good Clinical Practice. This assures the protection of subjects involved in the studies (their rights, safety, well-being) and the quality, reliability, and integrity of data collected.⁶ Interventional clinical studies with Krka's medicines conducted in the European Union are applied also in the European Clinical Trials Database. This assures the transparency of the clinical studies data and effective supervision of the conduct of the clinical study.⁷

Among generic pharmaceutical companies, the largest number of post-authorization clinical studies has been conducted with our key products from different therapeutic areas.

i način primjene, ustroj studije i praćenje ni na koji način ne razlikuju od već utemeljenog liječenja.¹

Sva se klinička istraživanja provode u skladu s dobrom kliničkom praksom (GCP). Time se osigurava zaštita pacijenata koji su uključeni u istraživanjima (njihova prava, sigurnost i dobrobit) te kvaliteta, pouzdanost i integritet prikupljenih podataka.⁶ Intervencijske kliničke studije s Krkinim lijekovima provedene u Europskoj uniji također se upisuju u Europski registar kliničkih ispitivanja, što osigurava transparentnost kliničkih studija i učinkovit nadzor nad provedbom istraživanja.⁷

Među generičkim farmaceutskim tvrtkama najveći je broj postautorizacijskih kliničkih studija provedenih na našim ključnim proizvodima iz različitih terapijskih područja. Dosad je više od 270 000 pacijenata iz 27 zemalja sudjelovalo u više od 120 kliničkih studija s Krkinim lijekovima; od toga je više od 114 000 pacijenata liječeno kardiovaskularnim lijekovima.⁸ Rezultati tih istraživanja dokazuju da su naši lijekovi učinkoviti i sigurni kod velikoga broja pacijenata. Rezultati su studija zabilježeni, analizirani i objavljeni u međunarodnim znanstvenim časopisima te pridonose povjerenju stručnjaka i pacijenata u Krkine lijekove, koje traje već desetljećima.¹

Zaključak

Krkini kardiovaskularni lijekovi s dodanom vrijednosti razvijaju se zahvaljujući znanju i umijeću naše tvrtke te omogućuju optimizaciju liječenja novim farmaceutskim oblicima i terapijskim opcijama. Studije bioekvivalencije provedene *in vivo* dokazuju da su naši lijekovi ekvivalentni originalnima. Rezultati mnogobrojnih kliničkih studija upućuju na to da su Krkini lijekovi djelotvorni i da ih bolesnici dobro podnose u svakodnevnoj kliničkoj praksi.

So far over 270,000 patients in 27 countries have been included in more than 120 clinical studies with Krka's medicines; of these more than 114,000 patients were treated with cardiovascular medicines.⁸ The results from these studies demonstrate that our medicines are effective and safe in a wide range of patients. The study results are documented, analyzed, and published in international medical journals, and contribute to the trust the professional public and patients have had in Krka's medicines for decades.¹

Conclusion

Krka's value-added cardiovascular medicines are developed using the company's own know-how and allow therapy optimization with new dosage forms and treatment options. Their equivalence to the originator's product is demonstrated by *in vivo* bioequivalence studies. The results of numerous clinical studies show that they are effective and well tolerated by patients in real clinical practice.

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