Concomitant administration of KETEK with cisapride or pimozide is contraindicted.

Acute hepatic failure and severe liver injury, in some cases fatal, have been reported in patients treated with KETEK. These hepatic reactions included fulminant hepatitis and hepatic necrosis leading to liver transplant, and were observed during or immediately after treatment. In some of these cases, liver injury progressed rapidly and occurred after administration of a few doses of KETEK.

Physicians and patients should monitor for the appearance of signs or symptoms of hepatitis, such as fatigue, malaise, anorexia, nausea, jaundice, bilirubinuria, acholic stools, liver tenderness or hepatomegaly. **Patients with signs or symptoms of hepatitis must be advised to discontinue KETEK and immediately seek medical evaluation, which should include liver function tests.** If clinical hepatitis or transaminase elevations combined with other systemic symptoms occur, KETEK *should be permanently discontinued.*

Ketek must not be re-administered to patients with a previous history of hepatitis and/or jaundice *associated with the use of KETEK tablets, or any macrolide antibiotic.*

In addition, less severe hepatic dysfunction associated with increased liver enzymes, hepatitis and in some cases jaundice was reported with the use of KETEK. These events associated with less severe forms of liver toxicity were reversible.

Telithromycin has the potential to prolong the QTc interval of the electrocardiogram in some patients. QTc prolongation may lead to an increased risk for ventricular arrhythmias, including torsades de pointes. Thus, telithromycin should be avoided in patients with congenital prolongation of the QTc interval, and in patients with ongoing proarrhythmic conditions such as uncorrected hypokalemia or hypomagnesemia, clinically significant bradycardia, and in patients receiving Class IA (e.g., quinidine and procainamide) or Class III (e.g., dofetilide) antiarrhythmic agents.

Cases of torsades de pointes have been reported post-marketing with KETEK. In clinical trials, no cardiovascular morbidity or mortality attributable to QTc prolongation occurred with telithromycin treatment in 4780 patients in clinical trials, including 204 patients having a prolonged QTc at baseline.

KETEK may cause visual disturbances particularly in slowing the ability to accommodate and the ability to release accommodation. Visual disturbances included blurred vision, difficulty focusing, and diplopia. Most events were mild to moderate; however, severe cases have been reported.

There have been post-marketing adverse event reports of transient loss of consciousness including some cases associated with vagal syndrome.

Because of potential visual difficulties or loss of consciousness, patients should attempt to minimize activities such as driving a motor vehicle, operating heavy machinery or engaging in other hazardous activities during treatment with KETEK. If patients experience visual disorders or loss of consciousness while taking KETEK, patients should not drive a motor vehicle, operate heavy machinery or engage in other hazardous activities.

Clostridium difficile associated diarrhea (CDAD) has been reported with use of nearly all antibacterial agents, including KETEK, and may range in severity from mild diarrhea to fatal colitis. Treatment *with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon leading to overgrowth of C. difficile.*

C. difficile produces toxins A and B which contribute to the development of CDAD. Hypertoxin producing strains of *C. difficile* cause increased morbidity and mortality, as these infections can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy and may require colectomy. CDAD must be considered in all patients who present with diarrhea following antibiotic use. Careful medical history is necessary since CDAD has been reported to occur over two months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

If CDAD is suspected or confirmed, ongoing antibiotic use not directed against *C. difficile* may need to be discontinued. Appropriate fluid and electrolyte management, protein supplementation, antibiotic treatment of *C difficile,* and surgical evaluation should be instituted as clinically indicated.

Therapy with simvastatin, lovastatin, or atorvastatin should be suspended during the course of KETEK treatment. Concomitant treatment of KETEK with rifampin, a CYP 3A4 inducer, should be avoided.

Most adverse events were mild to moderate and included diarrhea, nausea, headache, dizziness, and vomiting.

7-060004422
(ケテック錠300mg)

MEDICATION GUIDE
KETEK® (*KEE tek*) Tablets
(telithromycin)

READ THE MEDICATION GUIDE THAT COMES WITH KETEK BEFORE YOU START TAKING IT. TALK TO YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT KETEK. THIS MEDICATION GUIDE DOES NOT TAKE THE PLACE OF TALKING WITH YOUR DOCTOR ABOUT YOUR MEDICAL CONDITION OR TREATMENT.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT KETEK?

1. **Do not take KETEK if you have Myasthenia Gravis (a rare disease which causes muscle weakness). *Worsening of myasthenia gravis symptoms including life-threatening breathing problems* have happened in patients with myasthenia gravis after taking KETEK in some cases leading to death.**

KETEK can cause other serious side effects, including:

2. SEVERE LIVER DAMAGE (HEPATOXICITY). **SEVERE LIVER DAMAGE, IN SOME CASES LEADING TO A LIVER TRANSPLANT OR DEATH HAS HAPPENED IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH KETEK. SEVERE LIVER DAMAGE HAS HAPPENED DURING TREATMENT, EVEN AFTER A FEW DOSES, OR RIGHT AFTER TREATMENT WITH KETEK HAS ENDED.**

Stop KETEK and call your doctor right away if you have signs of liver problems. Do not take another dose of KETEK unless your doctor tells you to do so.

Signs of liver problems include:
- increased tiredness
- *loss of appetite*
- yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
- *right upper belly pain*
- light-colored stools
- *dark urine*
- itchy skin

Do not take KETEK if you have ever had side effects of the liver while taking KETEK or macrolide antibiotics. Macrolide antibiotics include erythromycin, azithromycin (Zithromax®), clarithromycin (Biaxin®) or dirithromycin (Dynabac®).

3. **Vision problems.** KETEK may cause blurred vision, trouble focusing, and double vision. You may notice vision problems if you look quickly from near objects to far objects.

4. **Fainting.** You may faint especially if you are also having nausea, vomiting, and lightheadedness.

- BE AWARE THAT VISION PROBLEMS AND FAINTING WHILE TAKING KETEK MAY AFFECT YOUR ABILITY TO DRIVE OR DO DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES. LIMIT DRIVING AND OTHER DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES.
- IF YOU HAVE VISION PROBLEMS OR FAINT WHILE TAKING KETEK
  - DO NOT DRIVE, OPERATE HEAVY MACHINES, OR DO DANGEROUS ACTIVITIES.
  - CALL YOUR DOCTOR BEFORE TAKING ANOTHER DOSE OF KETEK IF YOU HAVE VISION PROBLEMS OR FAINT.

See "What are the possible side effects of KETEK? for other side effects of KETEK.

WHAT IS KETEK?

KETEK is an antibiotic. KETEK is used to treat adults 18 years of age and older with a lung infection called "community acquired pneumonia" that is caused by certain bacteria germs.

- KETEK is not for other types of infections caused by bacteria
- KETEK, like other antibiotics, does not kill viruses.

WHO SHOULD NOT TAKE KETEK?

Do not take KETEK if you:
- have myasthenia gravis
- have had side effects on the liver while taking KETEK or macrolide antibiotics.
- have ever had an allergic reaction to KETEK or macrolide antibiotics.
- take cisapride (Propulsid®) or pimozide (Orap®).

KETEK may not be right for you. Before taking KETEK, tell your doctor about all of your medical conditions, including if you:

- have myasthenia gravis
- have liver problems
- have (or have a family history of) a heart problem called "QTc prolongation"
- have other heart problems
- are pregnant or breastfeeding

Tell your doctor about all of the medicines you take, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. KETEK and other medicines may affect or interact with each other, sometimes causing serious side effects.

You should not take the following cholesterol lowering medicines while taking KETEK:
- simvastatin (Zocor®, Vytorin®)
- lovastatin (Mevacor®)
- atorvastation (Lipitor®)

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take other medicines with KETEK without first checking with your doctor. Your doctor will tell you if you can take other medicines with KETEK.

HOW SHOULD I TAKE KETEK?

- Take KETEK exactly as your doctor tells you. Skipping doses or not taking all of an antibiotic may:
  - make the treatment not work as well
  - increase the chance that the bacteria will develop resistance to the antibiotic
- The usual dose is two 400 mg KETEK Tablets taken at the same time once a day for 7 to 10 days. If you have kidney disease, your doctor may prescribe a lower dose for you.
- Take KETEK with or without food.
- Swallow KETEK tablets whole.
- Call your doctor if you took too much KETEK.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS OF KETEK?

See "What is the most important information I should know about KETEK?" for worsening of myasthenia gravis symptoms, and serious liver, vision, and fainting side effects.

Other serious side effects include:
- **Pseudomembranous colitis** (an intestine infection). Pseudomembranous colitis can happen with most antibiotics, including KETEK. Call your doctor if you get watery diarrhea, diarrhea that does not go away, or bloody stools. You may also have stomach cramps and a fever. Pseudomembranous colitis can happen up to 2 months after you have finished your antibiotic.

The most common side effects of KETEK are nausea, headache, dizziness, vomiting, and diarrhea.

These are not all of the side effects of KETEK. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

HOW SHOULD I STORE KETEK?

- Store KETEK tablets at room temperature, 59° to 86°F (15° to 30°C).
- **Keep KETEK and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT KETEK

- Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Medication Guide.
- Do not use KETEK for a condition for which it was not prescribed.
- Do not share KETEK with other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Medication Guide summarizes the most important information about KETEK. If you would like more information, talk with your doctor. You can ask your doctor or pharmacist for information about KETEK that was written for healthcare professional. This information is also available on the KETEK website at www.KETEK.com.

What are the ingredients in KETEK?

Active Ingredient: telithromycin
Inactive Ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, povidone, red ferric oxide, talc, titanium dioxide, and yellow ferric oxide

Rx Only

Medication Guide as of February 2007

This Medication Guide has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

sanofi-aventis U.S. LLC
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

BIAXIN® (clarithromycin) is a registered trademark of Abbott Laboratories.
ZITHROMAX® (azithromycin) is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.
DYNABAC® (dirithromycin) is a registered trademark of Eli Lilly and Company.
PROPULSID® (cisapride) is a registered trademark of Johnson & Johnson.
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LIPITOR® (atorvastatin) is a registered trademark of Pfizer Inc.
ZOCOR® (simvastatin) is a registered trademark of Merck & Co Inc.
VYTORIN® (simvastatin and ezetimibe) is a registered trademark of Merck/Schering Plough Pharmaceuticals.
MEVACOR® (lovastatin) is a registered trademark of Merck & Co Inc..

7-06000422
(ケテック錠300mg.

NDA 21-144/S-012

Rev February 2007
KETEK®
(telithromycin) Tablets

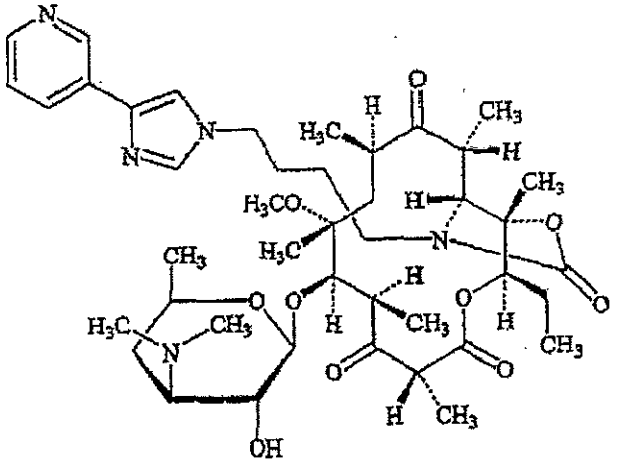
Ketek is contraindicated in patients with myasthenia gravis. *There have been reports of fatal and life-threatening respiratory failure in patients with myasthenia gravis associated with the use of Ketek.* (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS.**)

To reduce the development of drug-resistant bacteria and maintain the effectiveness of KETEK and other antibacterial drugs, KETEK should be used only to treat infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by bacteria.

DESCRIPTION

KETEK® tablets contain telithromycin, a semisynthetic antibacterial in the ketolide class for oral administration. Chemically, telithromycin is designated as Erythromycin, 3-de[(2,6-dideoxy-3-C-methyl-3-O-methyl-α-L-ribo-hexopyranosyl)oxy]-11,12-dideoxy-6-O-methyl-3-oxo-12,11-[oxycarbonyl[[4-[4-(3-pyridinyl)-1H-imidazol-1-yl]butyl]imino]]-.

Telithromycin, a ketolide, differs chemically from the macrolide group of antibacterials by the lack of α-L-cladinose at position 3 of the erythronolide A ring, resulting in a 3-keto function. It is further characterized by a C11-12 carbamate substituted by an imidazolyl and pyridyl ring through a butyl chain. Its empirical formula is $C_{43}H_{65}N_5O_{10}$ and its molecular weight is 812.03. Telithromycin is a white to off-white crystalline powder. The following represents the chemical structure of telithromycin.



KETEK tablets are available as light-orange, oval, film-coated tablets, each containing 400 mg or 300 mg of telithromycin, and the following inactive ingredients: croscarmellose sodium, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, polyethylene glycol, povidone, red ferric oxide, talc, titanium dioxide, and yellow ferric oxide.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption: Following oral administration, telithromycin reached maximal concentration at about 1 hour (0.5 - 4 hours).

It has an absolute bioavailability of 57% in both young and elderly subjects.

The rate and extent of absorption are unaffected by food intake, thus KETEK tablets can be given without regard to food.

In healthy adult subjects, peak plasma telithromycin concentrations of approximately 2 µg/mL are attained at a median of 1 hour after an 800-mg oral dose.

Steady-state plasma concentrations are reached within 2 to 3 days of once daily dosing with telithromycin 800 mg.

Following oral dosing, the mean terminal elimination half-life of telithromycin is 10 hours.

The pharmacokinetics of telithromycin after administration of single and multiple (7 days) once daily 800-mg doses to healthy adult subjects are shown in Table 1.

Table 1

	Mean (SD)	
Parameter	**Single dose (n=18)**	***Multiple dose (n=18)***
C_{max} (µg/mL)	1.9 (0.80)	2.27 (0.71)
T_{max} (h)*	1.0 (0.5-4.0)	1.0 (0.5-3.0)
$AUC_{(0-24)}$ (µg·h/mL)	8.25 (2.6)	12.5 (5.4)
Terminal $t_{1/2}$ (h)	7.16 (1.3)	9.81 (1.9)
C_{24h} (µg/mL)	0.03 (0.013)	0.07 (0.051)

* Median (min-max) values
SD=Standard deviation
C_{max}=Maximum plasma concentration
T_{max}=Time to C_{max}
AUC=Area under concentration vs. time curve
$t_{1/2}$=Terminal plasma half-life
C_{24h} =Plasma concentration at 24 hours post-dose

In a patient population, mean peak and trough plasma concentrations were 2.9 µg/mL (±1.55), (n=219) and 0.2 µg/mL (±0.22), (n=204), respectively, after 3 to 5 days of KETEK 800 mg once daily.

Distribution: Total *in vitro* protein binding is approximately 60% to 70% and is primarily due to human serum albumin.

Protein binding is not modified in elderly subjects and in patients with hepatic impairment.

The volume of distribution of telithromycin after intravenous infusion is 2.9 L/kg.

Telithromycin concentrations in bronchial mucosa, epithelial lining fluid, and alveolar macrophages after 800 mg once daily dosing for 5 days in patients are displayed in Table 2.

Table 2

	Hours post-dose	Mean concentration (µg/mL) Tissue or fluid	Plasma	Tissue/ Plasma Ratio
Bronchial mucosa	2	3.88*	1.86	2.11
	12	1.41*	0.23	6.33
	24	0.78*	0.08	12.11
Epithelial lining fluid	2	14.89	1.86	8.57
	12	3.27	0.23	13.8
	24	0.84	0.08	14.41
Alveolar macrophages	2	65	1.07	55
	8	100	0.605	180
	24	41	0.073	540

*Units in mg/kg

Telithromycin concentration in white blood cells exceeds the concentration in plasma and is eliminated more slowly from white blood cells than from plasma. Mean white blood cell concentrations of telithromycin peaked at 72.1 µg/mL at 6 hours, and remained at 14.1 µg/mL 24 hours after 5 days of repeated dosing of 600 mg once daily. After 10 days, repeated dosing of 600 mg once daily, white blood cell concentrations remained at 8.9 µg/mL 48 hours after the last dose.

Metabolism: In total, metabolism accounts for approximately 70% of the dose. In plasma, the main circulating compound after administration of an 800-mg radiolabeled dose was parent compound, representing 56.7% of the total radioactivity. The main metabolite represented 12.6% of the AUC of telithromycin. Three other plasma metabolites were quantified, each representing 3% or less of the AUC of telithromycin.

It is estimated that approximately 50% of its metabolism is mediated by CYP 450 3A4 and the remaining 50% is CYP 450-independent.

Elimination: The systemically available telithromycin is eliminated by multiple pathways as follows: 7% of the dose is excreted unchanged in feces by biliary and/or intestinal secretion; 13% of the dose is excreted unchanged in urine by renal excretion; and 37% of the dose is metabolized by the liver.

Special populations

Gender: There was no significant difference between males and females in mean AUC, C_{max}, and elimination half-life in two studies; one in 18 healthy young volunteers (18 to 40 years of age) and the other in 14 healthy elderly volunteers (65 to 92 years of age), given single and multiple once daily doses of 800 mg of KETEK.

Hepatic insufficiency: In a single-dose study (800 mg) in 12 patients and a multiple-dose study (800 mg) in 13 patients with mild to severe hepatic insufficiency (Child Pugh Class A, B and C), the C_{max}, AUC and $t_{1/2}$ of telithromycin were similar to those obtained in age- and sex-matched healthy subjects. In both studies, an *increase in renal elimination was observed in hepatically impaired patients indicating that this pathway may* compensate for some of the decrease in metabolic clearance. No dosage adjustment is recommended due to hepatic impairment. (See **PRECAUTIONS, General** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.**)

Renal insufficiency: In a multiple-dose study, 36 subjects with varying degrees of renal impairment received 400 mg, 600 mg, or 800 mg KETEK once daily for 5 days. There was a 1.4-fold increase in $C_{max,ss}$, and a 1.9-fold increase in AUC $(0\text{-}24)_{ss}$ at 800 mg multiple doses in the severely renally impaired group (CL_{CR} < 30 mL/min) compared to healthy volunteers. Renal excretion may serve as a compensatory elimination pathway for telithromycin in situations where metabolic clearance is impaired. Patients with severe renal impairment are prone to conditions that may impair their metabolic clearance. Therefore, in the presence of severe renal

impairment (CL_{CR} < 30 mL/min), a reduced dosage of KETEK is recommended. (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.**)

In a single-dose study in patients with end-stage renal failure on hemodialysis (n=10), the mean C_{max} and AUC values were similar to normal healthy subjects when KETEK was administered 2 hours post-dialysis. However, the effect of dialysis on removing telithromycin from the body has not been studied.

Multiple insufficiency: The effects of co-administration of ketoconazole in 12 subjects (age ≥ 60 years), with impaired renal function were studied (CL_{CR}= 24 to 80 mL/min). In this study, when severe renal insufficiency (CL_{CR} < 30 mL/min, n=2) and concomitant impairment of CYP 3A4 metabolism pathway were present, telithromycin exposure (AUC (0-24)) was increased by approximately 4- to 5-fold compared with the exposure in healthy subjects with normal renal function receiving telithromycin alone. In the presence of severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} < 30 mL/min), with coexisting hepatic impairment, a reduced dosage of KETEK is recommended. (**See PRECAUTIONS, General** and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.**)

Geriatric: Pharmacokinetic data show that there is an increase of 1.4-fold in exposure (AUC) in 20 patients ≥ 65 years of age with community acquired pneumonia in a Phase III study, and a 2.0-fold increase in exposure (AUC) in 14 subjects ≥ 65 years of age as compared with subjects less than 65 years of age in a Phase I study. No dosage adjustment is required based on age alone.

Drug-drug interactions

Studies were performed to evaluate the effect of CYP 3A4 inhibitors on telithromycin and the effect of telithromycin on drugs that are substrates of CYP 3A4 and CYP 2D6. In addition, drug interaction studies were conducted with several other concomitantly prescribed drugs.

CYP 3A4 inhibitors:

Itraconazole: A multiple-dose interaction study with itraconazole showed that C_{max} of telithromycin was increased by 22% and AUC by 54%.

Ketoconazole: A multiple-dose interaction study with ketoconazole showed that C_{max} of telithromycin was increased by 51% and AUC by 95%.

Grapefruit juice: When telithromycin was given with 240 mL of grapefruit juice after an overnight fast to healthy subjects, the pharmacokinetics of telithromycin were not affected.

CYP 3A4 substrates:

Cisapride: Steady-state peak plasma concentrations of cisapride (an agent with the potential to increase QT interval) were increased by 95% when co-administered with repeated doses of telithromycin, resulting in significant increases in QTc. (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS.**)

Simvastatin: When simvastatin was co-administered with telithromycin, there was a 5.3-fold increase in simvastatin C_{max}, an 8.9-fold increase in simvastatin AUC, a 15-fold increase in the simvastatin active metabolite C_{max}, and a 12-fold increase in the simvastatin active metabolite AUC. (See **PRECAUTIONS.**)

In another study, when simvastatin and telithromycin were administered 12 hours apart, there was a 3.4-fold increase in simvastatin C_{max}, a 4.0-fold increase in simvastatin AUC, a 3.2-fold increase in the active metabolite C_{max}, and a 4.3-fold increase in the active metabolite AUC. (See **PRECAUTIONS.**)

Midazolam: Concomitant administration of telithromycin with intravenous or oral midazolam resulted in 2- and 6-fold increases, respectively, in the AUC of midazolam due to inhibition of CYP 3A4-dependent metabolism of midazolam. (See **PRECAUTIONS.**)

CYP 2D6 substrates:

Paroxetine: There was no pharmacokinetic effect on paroxetine when telithromycin was co-administered.

Metoprolol: When metoprolol was co-administered with telithromycin, there was an increase of approximately 38% on the C_{max} and AUC of metoprolol, however, there was no effect on the elimination half-life of metoprolol. Telithromycin exposure is not modified with concomitant single-dose administration of metoprolol. (See **PRECAUTIONS, Drug interactions.**)

Other drug interactions:

Digoxin: The plasma peak and trough levels of digoxin were increased by 73% and 21%, respectively, in healthy volunteers when co-administered with telithromycin. However, trough plasma concentrations of digoxin (when equilibrium between plasma and tissue concentrations has been achieved) ranged from 0.74 to 2.17 ng/mL. There were no significant changes in ECG parameters and no signs of digoxin toxicity. (See **PRECAUTIONS.**)

Theophylline: When theophylline was co-administered with repeated doses of telithromycin, there was an increase of approximately 16% and 17% on the steady-state C_{max} and AUC of theophylline. Co-administration of theophylline may worsen gastrointestinal side effects such as nausea and vomiting, especially in female patients. It is recommended that telithromycin should be taken with theophylline 1 hour apart to decrease the likelihood of gastrointestinal side effects.

Sotalol: Telithromycin has been shown to decrease the C_{max} and AUC of sotalol by 34% and 20%, respectively, due to decreased absorption.

Warfarin: When co-administered with telithromycin in healthy subjects, there were no pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic effects on racemic warfarin.

Oral contraceptives: When oral contraceptives containing ethinyl estradiol and levonorgestrel were co-administered with telithromycin, the steady-state AUC of ethinyl estradiol did not change and the steady-state AUC of levonorgestrel was increased by 50%. The pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamic study showed that telithromycin did not interfere with the antiovulatory effect of oral contraceptives containing ethinyl estradiol and levonorgestrel.

Ranitidine, antacid: There was no clinically relevant pharmacokinetic interaction of ranitidine or antacids containing aluminum and magnesium hydroxide on telithromycin.

Rifampin: During concomitant administration of rifampin and KETEK in repeated doses, C_{max} and AUC of telithromycin were dereased by 79%, and 86%, respectively. (See **PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions.**)

Microbiology

Telithromycin belongs to the ketolide class of antibacterials and is structurally related to the macrolide family of antibiotics. Telithromycin concentrates in phagocytes where it exhibits activity against intracellular respiratory pathogens. *In vitro*, telithromycin has been shown to demonstrate concentration-dependent bactericidal activity against isolates of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* (including multi-drug resistant isolates [MDRSP*]).

*MDRSP=Multi-drug resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* includes isolates known as PRSP (penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*), and are isolates resistant to two or more of the following antimicrobials: penicillin, 2nd generation cephalosporins (e.g., cefuroxime), macrolides, tetracyclines, and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.

Mechanism of action

Telithromycin blocks protein synthesis by binding to domains II and V of 23S rRNA of the 50S ribosomal subunit. By binding at domain II, telithromycin retains activity against gram-positive cocci (e.g., *Streptococcus pneumoniae*) in the presence of resistance mediated by methylases (*erm* genes) that alter the domain V binding site of telithromycin. Telithromycin may also inhibit the assembly of nascent ribosomal units.

Mechanism of resistance

Staphylococcus aureus and *Streptococcus pyogenes* with the constitutive macrolide-lincosamide-streptogramin B ($cMLS_B$) phenotype are resistant to telithromycin.

Mutants of *Streptococcus pneumoniae* derived in the laboratory by serial passage in subinhibitory concentrations of telithromycin have demonstrated resistance based on L22 riboprotein mutations (telithromycin MICs are elevated but still within the susceptible range), one of two reported mutations affecting the L4 riboprotein, and production of K-peptide. The clinical significance of these laboratory mutants is not known.

Cross resistance

Telithromycin does not induce resistance through methylase gene expression in erythromycin-inducibly resistant bacteria, a function of its 3-keto moiety. Telithromycin has not been shown to induce resistance to itself.

List of Microorganisms

Telithromycin has been shown to be active against most strains of the following microorganisms, both *in vitro* and in clinical settings as described in the **INDICATIONS AND USAGE** section.

Aerobic gram-positive microorganisms

Streptococcus pneumoniae (including multi-drug resistant isolates [MDRSP*])

*MDRSP=Multi-drug resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* includes isolates known as PRSP (penicillin-resistant *S. pneumoniae*), and are isolates resistant to two or more of the following antimicrobials: penicillin, 2nd generation cephalosporins (e.g., cefuroxime), macrolides, tetracyclines, and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.

Aerobic gram-negative microorganisms

Haemophilus influenzae

Moraxella catarrhalis

Other microorganisms

Chlamydophila (Chlamydia) pneumoniae

Mycoplasma pneumoniae

The following *in vitro* data are available, **but their clinical significance is unknown**.

At least 90% of the following microorganisms exhibit *in vitro* minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs) less than or equal to the susceptible breakpoint for telithromycin. However, the safety and efficacy of telithromycin in treating clinical infections due to these microorganisms have not been established in adequate and well-controlled clinical trials.

Aerobic gram-positive microorganisms

Staphylococcus aureus (methicillin and erythromycin susceptible isolates only)

Streptococcus pyogenes (erythromycin susceptible isolates only)

Streptococci (Lancefield groups C and G)

Other microorganisms

Legionella pneumophila

Susceptibility Test Methods

When available, the clinical microbiology laboratory should provide cumulative results of *in vitro* susceptibility test results for antimicrobial drugs used in local hospitals and practice areas to the physician as periodic reports that describe the susceptibility profile of nosocomial and community-acquired pathogens. These reports should aid the physician in selecting the most effective antimicrobial.

Dilution techniques:

Quantitative methods are used to determine antimicrobial minimum inhibitory concentrations (MICs). These MICs provide estimates of the susceptibility of bacteria to antibacterial compounds. The MICs should be determined using a standardized procedure. Standardized procedures are based on dilution methods (broth or agar dilution)[1,3] or equivalent with standardized inoculum and concentrations of telithromycin powder. The MIC values should be interpreted according to criteria provided in Table 3.

Diffusion techniques:

Quantitative methods that require measurement of zone diameters also provide reproducible estimates of the susceptibility of bacteria to antibiotics. One such standardized procedure[2,3] requires the use of standardized inoculum concentrations. This procedure uses paper disks impregnated with 15 µg telithromycin to test the susceptibility of microorganisms to telithromycin. Disc diffusion zone sizes should be interpreted according to criteria in Table 3.

Table 3. Susceptibility Test Result Interpretive Criteria for Telithromycin

	Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (µg/mL)			Disk Diffusion (zone diameters in mm)		
Pathogen	S	I	R	S	I	R
Streptococcus pneumoniae	≤ 1	2	≥ 4	≥ 19	16-18	≤ 15
Haemophilus influenzae	≤ 4	8	≥ 16	≥ 15	12-14	≤ 11

A report of "Susceptible" indicates that the antimicrobial is likely to inhibit growth of the pathogen if the antibacterial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable. A report of "Intermediate" indicates that the result should be considered equivocal, and, if the microorganism is not fully susceptible to alternative, clinically feasible drugs, the test should be repeated. This category implies possible clinical applicability in body sites where the drug is physiologically concentrated or in situations where high dosage of drug can be used. This category also provides a buffer zone that prevents small uncontrolled technical factors

from causing major discrepancies in interpretation. A report of "Resistant" indicates that the antimicrobial is not likely to inhibit growth of the pathogen if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable; other therapy should be selected.

Quality control:

Standardized susceptibility test procedures require the use of quality control microorganisms to determine the performance of the test procedures[1,2,3]. Standard telithromycin powder should provide the MIC ranges for the quality control organisms in Table 4. For the disk diffusion technique, the 15-µg telithromycin disk should provide the zone diameter ranges for the quality control organisms in Table 4.

Table 4. Acceptable Quality Control Ranges for Telithromycin

QC Strain	Minimum Inhibitory Concentrations (µg/mL)	Disk Diffusion (Zone diameter in mm)
Streptococcus pneumoniae ATCC 49619	0.004-0.03	27-33
Haemophilus influenzae ATCC 49247	1.0-4.0	17-23

ATCC = American Type Culture Collection

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

KETEK tablets are indicated for the treatment of community-acquired pneumonia (of mild to moderate severity) due to *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, (including multi-drug resistant isolates [MDRSP*]), *Haemophilus influenzae*, *Moraxella catarrhalis, Chlamydophila pneumoniae*, or *Mycoplasma pneumoniae*, for patients 18 years old and above.

*MDRSP, Multi-drug resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae* includes isolates known as PRSP (penicillin-resistant *Streptococcus pneumoniae*), and are isolates resistant to two or more of the following antibiotics: penicillin, 2nd generation cephalosporins, e.g., cefuroxime, macrolides, tetracyclines and trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole.

To reduce the development of drug-resistant bacteria and maintain the effectiveness of KETEK and other antibacterial drugs, KETEK should be used only to treat infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by susceptible bacteria. When culture and susceptibility information are available, they should be considered in selecting or modifying antibacterial therapy. In the absence of such data, local epidemiology and susceptibility patterns may contribute to the empiric selection of therapy.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

KETEK is contraindicated in patients with myasthenia gravis. Exacerbations of myasthenia gravis have been reported in patients and sometimes occurred within a few hours of the first dose of telithromycin. Reports have included fatal and life-threatening acute respiratory failure with a rapid onset and progression.

KETEK is contraindicated in patients with previous history of hepatitis and/or jaundice associated with the use of KETEK tablets, or any macrolide antibiotic.

KETEK is contraindicated in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to telithromycin and/or any components of KETEK tablets, or any macrolide antibiotic.

Concomitant administration of KETEK with cisapride or pimozide is contraindicated. (See **CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY, Drug-drug Interactions** and **PRECAUTIONS**.)

WARNINGS

Hepatotoxicity

Acute hepatic failure and severe liver injury, in some cases fatal, have been reported in patients treated with KETEK. *These hepatic reactions included fulminant hepatitis and hepatic necrosis leading to liver* transplant, and were observed during or immediately after treatment. In some of these cases, liver injury progressed rapidly and occurred after administration of a few doses of KETEK. (See **ADVERSE REACTIONS**.) Physicians and patients should monitor for the appearance of signs or symptoms of hepatitis, such as fatigue, malaise, anorexia, nausea, jaundice, bilirubinuria, acholic stools, liver tenderness or hepatomegaly. **Patients with signs or symptoms of hepatitis must be advised to discontinue KETEK and immediately seek medical evaluation, which should include liver function tests.** (See **ADVERSE REACTIONS, PRECAUTIONS**, Information to Patients.) If clinical hepatitis or transaminase elevations combined with other systemic symptoms occur, KETEK should be permanently discontinued.

Ketek must not be re-administered to patients with a previous history of hepatitis and/or jaundice associated with the use of KETEK tablets, or any macrolide antibiotic. (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS**.)

In addition, less severe hepatic dysfunction associated with increased liver enzymes, hepatitis and in some cases jaundice was reported with the use of KETEK. These events associated with less severe forms of liver toxicity were reversible.

QTc prolongation

Telithromycin has the potential to prolong the QTc interval of the electrocardiogram in some patients. QTc prolongation may lead to an increased risk for ventricular arrhythmias, including torsades de pointes. Thus, telithromycin should be avoided in patients with congenital prolongation of the QTc interval, and in patients with ongoing proarrhythmic conditions such as uncorrected hypokalemia or hypomagnesemia, clinically significant bradycardia, and in patients receiving Class IA (e.g., quinidine and procainamide) or Class III (e.g., dofetilide) antiarrhythmic agents.

Cases of torsades de pointes have been reported post-marketing with KETEK. In clinical trials, no cardiovascular morbidity or mortality attributable to QTc prolongation occurred with telithromycin treatment in 4780 patients in clinical trials, including 204 patients having a prolonged QTc at baseline.

Visual disturbances*

KETEK may cause visual disturbances particularly in slowing the ability to accommodate and the ability to release accommodation. Visual disturbances included blurred vision, difficulty focusing, and diplopia. Most events were mild to moderate; however, severe cases have been reported.

Loss of consciousness*

There have been post-marketing adverse event reports of transient loss of consciousness including *some cases associated with vagal syndrome.*

Because of potential visual difficulties or loss of consciousness, patients should attempt to minimize activities such as driving a motor vehicle, operating heavy machinery or engaging in other hazardous activities during treatment with KETEK. If patients experience visual disorders or loss of consciousness while taking KETEK, patients should not drive a motor vehicle, operate heavy machinery or engage in other hazardous activities.** (See **PRECAUTIONS, *Information for Patients.)

PSEUDOMEMBRANOUS COLITIS

Clostridium difficile associated diarrhea (CDAD) has been reported with use of nearly all antibacterial agents, including KETEK, and may range in severity from mild diarrhea to fatal colitis. Treatment with antibacterial agents alters the normal flora of the colon leading to overgrowth of *C. difficile*.

C. difficile produces toxins A and B which contribute to the development of CDAD. Hypertoxin producing strains of *C. difficile* cause increased morbidity and mortality, as these infections can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy and may require colectomy. CDAD must be considered in all patients who present with diarrhea following antibiotic use. Careful medical history is necessary since CDAD has been reported to occur over two months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

If CDAD is suspected or confirmed, ongoing antibiotic use not directed against *C. difficile* may need to be discontinued. Appropriate fluid and electrolyte management, protein supplementation, antibiotic treatment of C *difficile,* and surgical evaluation should be instituted as clinically indicated.

PRECAUTIONS

General

Prescribing KETEK in the absence of a proven or strongly suspected bacterial infection or a prophylactic indication is unlikely to provide benefit to the patient and increases the risk of the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

Telithromycin is principally excreted via the liver and kidney. Telithromycin may be administered without dosage adjustment in the presence of hepatic impairment. In the presence of severe renal impairment (CL_{CR} < 30 *mL/min), a reduced dosage of* KETEK is recommended. (See **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.**)

Information for patients

A Medication Guide is provided to patients when Ketek is dispensed. Patients should be instructed to read the *MedGuide when Ketek is received. In addition, the complete text of the MedGuide is reprinted at the end of this* document.

The following information and instructions should be communicated to the patient.

- KETEK may cause problems with vision particularly when looking quickly between objects close by and objects far away. These events include blurred vision, difficulty focusing, and objects looking doubled. Most events were mild to moderate; however, severe cases have been reported. Problems with vision were reported as having occurred after any dose during treatment, but most occurred following the first or second dose. These problems lasted several hours and in some patients came back with the next dose. (See **WARNINGS** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS.**)

Patients should be advised that avoiding quick changes in viewing between objects in the distance and objects nearby may help to decrease the effects of these visual difficulties.

- **Because of potential visual difficulties or loss of consciousness, patients should attempt to *minimize activities such as driving a motor vehicle, operating heavy machinery or engaging in* other hazardous activities during treatment with KETEK.**

If patients experience visual difficulties or loss of consciousness / fainting
- patients should seek advice from their physician before taking another dose
- patients should not drive a motor vehicle, operate heavy machinery, or engage in otherwise hazardous activities.

Patients should also be advised:
- **Ketek is contraindicated in patients with myasthenia gravis.** (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS.**)

- of the possibility of liver injury, associated with KETEK, which in rare cases may be severe. **Patients developing signs or symptoms of liver injury should be instructed to discontinue KETEK and seek medical attention immediately.** Symptoms of liver injury may include nausea, fatigue, anorexia, jaundice, dark urine, light-colored stools, pruritus, or tender abdomen. Ketek must not be taken by patients with a