

# Chewable DGL

Relief of Gastrointestinal and Respiratory Symptoms

Available in 60 chewable tablets

Chewable DGL is a great-tasting chewable tablet providing a clinically effective concentration of deglycyrrhizinated licorice in a convenient tablet dosage form. Licorice relieves a broad range of gastrointestinal and respiratory symptoms.

- Clinically effective 400mg dose of deglycyrrhizinated licorice per tablet.
- Formulated to enhance absorption by the gastric mucosa for improved efficacy and to prevent adverse symptoms associated with licorice.
- Great tasting chewable tablets naturally sweetened with xylitol and stevia for improved compliance.
- Suitable for vegans and vegetarians.



AUSTRALIAN REGISTERED THERAPEUTIC BLENDED PRODUCT  
AUSTL – 321100

## Active Ingredients

Each chewable tablet contains:



|  |        |
|--|--------|
| Licorice ( <i>Glycyrrhiza glabra</i> ) extract | 400 mg |
| Equivalent to dry root                         | 4 g    |

**Directions for use:** Adults: Chew 1 tablet 20 minutes prior to each meal or as directed by a health care practitioner.

## Key Features & Benefits

Chewable DGL provides a clinically effective concentration of deglycyrrhizinated licorice, the form associated with the most significant gastric mucosal absorption and clinical efficacy. The anti-inflammatory, mucoprotective, demulcent and expectorant actions of licorice supports its therapeutic effects for the relief of symptoms of gastrointestinal inflammation, abdominal bloating, pain and heartburn, clearing of excess respiratory tract mucous and soothing irritated mucous membrane tissues.

### Clinical Evidence

Licorice has been used as a food and medicine since ancient times in Greek, Roman, Chinese, Ayurvedic and Egyptian traditional systems, with the earliest record of its use being in 2100 BC.<sup>1-4</sup> Traditional therapeutic applications for licorice in such paradigms included as a demulcent, expectorant and antitussive for gastrointestinal (gastritis, peptic ulcers, parasites, diarrhoea, dysentery, stomach-ache, gastric ulcers and vomiting) and respiratory issues (cold, influenza, throat and bronchial infections).<sup>1-4</sup>

Constituents present in licorice include flavonoids, phenolic compounds, saponins, triterpenes, tannins, alkaloids, volatile oils, sterols and nutritional compounds (carbohydrates, pectins, lipids, amino acids, mineral salts [calcium, magnesium, selenium, manganese, zinc and copper]).<sup>1-3</sup> The removal of glycyrrhizin from licorice minimises the effects associated with high-dose and chronic use of non-deglycyrrhizinated licorice (i.e. elevated blood pressure and fluid retention),<sup>3</sup> and increases gastric mucosal absorption of licorice, enhancing clinical efficacy.

## Gastrointestinal ulceration and inflammation

The beneficial effects of licorice for gastrointestinal tissue inflammation and gastric and duodenal ulceration is attributed to several mechanisms.

Such mechanisms demonstrated by licorice and its constituents include antioxidant and anti-inflammatory (inhibition of nitric oxide, interleukin (IL)1 $\beta$ , -6, -12, major histocompatibility complex class I and II, tumour necrosis factor  $\alpha$ , prostaglandins-2, COX-2 and nuclear factor kappa- $\beta$ ) and probiotic effects; increasing gastric mucous synthesis and secretion and blood supply to damaged mucosal tissue; prolonging the lifespan and healing of gastric mucosal and GIT epithelial cells by increasing cell mitotic activity and reducing pepsin concentrations.<sup>1,3,5,6-10</sup>

Along with the capacity to support gastric healing, licorice has also been shown to inhibit the formation and growth of gastric lesions, promote healing of ulcerated tissues and increase eradication of *Helicobacter pylori* in the presence of peptic ulcer disease.<sup>3,7,11,12</sup> The German Commission E approves licorice for the treatment of gastric and duodenal ulcers, and preliminary and clinical trial data have demonstrated the efficacy of deglycyrrhized licorice for gastric, peptic, duodenal and colonic ulcers.<sup>3,9,13</sup>

In vitro evidence has demonstrated that licorice has prebiotic properties, increasing *Bacteroides* spp. concentrations and reducing relative abundance of opportunistic pathogens *Enterococcus faecalis* and *Klebsiella pneumoniae*.<sup>8</sup>

## Respiratory tract infections

Licorice has a long history of use for respiratory tract symptoms and infections, and current evidence demonstrates the well-established clinical benefits for such conditions are due to anti-inflammatory, antibacterial, antiviral, expectorant and antitussive mechanisms of licorice and its constituents.<sup>1,3,16-20</sup>

Licorice has exhibited antiviral activity against influenza (stimulating T-cell interferon-gamma synthesis, inhibition of endocytotic activity and viral particle uptake) and human respiratory syncytial virus (inhibits cellular attachment and penetration into airway epithelial host cells).<sup>3,18,19,20</sup>

It has also demonstrated significant antibacterial and antimicrobial activity against Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria associated with respiratory infections, pneumonia and acute pharyngitis (*Staphylococcus aureus*, *Streptococcus pyogenes*, *S. mutans*, *S. pneumoniae*, *K. pneumoniae*, *Enterobacter aerogenes*).<sup>3,17</sup>

Other effects of licorice supporting its use for respiratory infection and symptoms include promotion of tracheal mucous secretion and relaxation, expulsion of upper respiratory mucous, stimulating mucosal cell interferon- $\beta$  secretion and modulating immune leukocyte response to tissue antigens.<sup>1,3,16</sup>

## Functional dyspepsia

Licorice has been shown to be beneficial in subjects with functional dyspepsia improving clinical symptoms.<sup>12,14,15</sup>

In a randomised double blind, placebo-controlled multicentre trial, the efficacy of deglycyrrhized licorice when used for 30 days was investigated in subjects with functional dyspepsia.<sup>15</sup> The primary outcomes were changes to the severity of symptoms (i.e. upper abdominal fullness and pain, belching, bloating, early satiety, nausea, vomiting, regurgitation, heartburn and loss of appetite) and global assessment of efficacy (short-form Nepean Dyspepsia Index [NPI]). Deglycyrrhized licorice resulted in significant improvements in the severity of symptoms scores on days 15 and 30 ( $p < .05$ ) and the NPI compared with placebo ( $p < .05$ ), demonstrating significant efficacy of DGL for the management of functional dyspepsia symptoms.

**WARNINGS:** Consult a health care practitioner if symptoms persist or worsen. Products containing xylitol may have a laxative effect or cause diarrhoea.

## References

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