SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Contractubex Gel

Active substances: Extr. Cepae, heparin sodium, allantoin

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

100 g gel contains:

Active substances:

Extr. Cepae	10.0 g
Heparin sodium	5000 IU
Allantoin	1.0 g

Excipients: sorbic acid, methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate
For a full list of excipients, see section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Gel

Opaque gel of light beige to light brown colour

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

Hypertrophic, keloid, movement-restricting and cosmetically disfiguring scars after operations, amputations, burns and accidents; contractures such as Dupuytren's contracture and traumatic tendon contractures; cicatricial strictures (atrophic scars). Contractubex is used to treat these types of scars once the lesions have closed.

4.2 Posology and method of administration

Apply to the skin or scar tissue several times daily and gently massage in until the gel has been completely absorbed. In the case of old, hard scars, allow the gel to take effect overnight under a dressing.

Depending on the extent and thickness of the scar or contracture, treatment will be necessary for several weeks or months. Particularly when treating fresh scars, physical irritants such as extreme cold, UV light or heavy massaging should be avoided.

Paediatric population

In children *from* 1 year of age the gel can be applied once or twice daily to the scar tissue, according to the studies performed.

The safety and efficacy of Contractubex in children *under* 1 year of age has not been established. No data are available.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substances Extr. Cepae, heparin sodium, or allantoin, to sorbic acid or methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate (parabens) or any of the other ingredients

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Contractubex contains methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate, which may cause allergic reactions (possibly delayed). Contractubex contains sorbic acid, which may cause local skin reactions, e.g. contact dermatitis.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No studies of interactions have been performed.
No evidence of interactions is known to date.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Risks during pregnancy and lactation are unknown to date.
No data on fertility are available.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

Not relevant.

4.8 Undesirable effects

The frequencies of undesirable effects are based on the following categories:

Very common	(≥1/10)
Common	(≥1/100, <1/10)
Uncommon	(≥1/1000, <1/100)
Rare	(≥1/10000, <1/1000)
Very rare	(<1/10000)
Not known	(Frequency cannot be estimated from the available data.)

The most commonly reported side effects were local reactions at the treatment site.

The following undesirable effects were reported from a pharmacoepidemiological retrospective cohort study in 592 patients treated with Contractubex (2005) which investigated efficacy and tolerability of Contractubex versus local corticoid treatment:

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:
Common: pruritus, erythema, telangiectasis, scar atrophy
Uncommon: hyperpigmentation of the skin, skin atrophy

The undesirable effects listed below were reported spontaneously:

Infections and infestations:
Frequency unknown: pustular rash

Immune system disorders:
Frequency unknown: hypersensitivity (allergic reaction)

Nervous system disorders:
Frequency unknown: paraesthesia

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:
Frequency unknown: urticaria, rash, pruritus, erythema, skin irritation, papules, inflammation of the skin, burning sensation in the skin, feeling of tightness in the skin, contact dermatitis

General disorders and administration site conditions:
Frequency unknown: swelling, pain at the application site, application site exfoliation

In general, Contractubex is very well tolerated, even in long-term use. The itching, which has uncommonly been observed during treatment with Contractubex, is the manifestation of the desired cicatricial change, and generally does not require discontinuation of treatment.

For EU-member states include the following paragraph surrounded by triangles < >, delete the triangles and adapt the national reporting system]

<Reporting of suspected adverse reactions
Reporting suspected adverse reactions after authorisation of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit/risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions via <the national reporting system listed in Appendix V*>.>

4.9 Overdose

No case of overdose has been reported.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: other cicatrizants

ATC code: D03AX

Contractubex has an antiproliferative, antiphlogistic, loosening and smoothing effect on scar tissue.

Extr. Cepae acts as an antiphlogistic by inhibiting the release of inflammation mediators and has an antiallergic effect. Extr. Cepae inhibits the growth of fibroblasts of various origins and of keloid fibroblasts in particular. In addition to a mitogenic inhibitory effect, the drug has been shown to diminish the formation of extracellular matrix constituents from fibroblasts (e.g. proteoglycans).

Furthermore, Extr. Cepae has a bactericidal action. These properties stimulate primary wound healing and counteract unphysiological scar formation.

Heparin is antiphlogistic, antiallergic, antiproliferative and increases tissue hydration. It also has a loosening effect on collagen structure.

For the treatment of scars, the anti-inflammatory effect of heparin and its effect on the constituents of the connective tissue matrix are more important than its known antithrombotic action.

Allantoin promotes wound healing; it has an epithelialising effect and increases the tissue's water-binding capacity. In addition, its keratolytic and penetration-promoting properties improve the efficacy of the other active ingredients of Contractubex.

Furthermore, allantoin has a soothing effect, which relieves the pruritus often associated with scar formation.

The synergistic effect of this combination of active ingredients lies in the superadditive inhibition of fibroblast proliferation and especially of pathologically increased collagen synthesis.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Not applicable.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

According to present knowledge, there is no toxicological risk, especially with regard to mutagenic, teratogenic and carcinogenic effects.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sorbic acid
Methyl-4-hydroxybenzoate
Macrogol 200
Xanthan gum
Purified water
Fragrances.

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not applicable.

6.3 Shelf-life

3 years
The shelf life after opening is 6 months.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 25 °C.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

The gel is packed in aluminium tubes. Original packs of 10 g, 20 g, 30 g, 50 g, and 100 g gel and a hospital pack of 500 g gel are available.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal

No special requirements.

7. MARKETING AUTHORIZATION HOLDER

Merz Pharmaceuticals GmbH
Eckenheimer Landstraße 100
60318 Frankfurt/Main
Germany

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION NUMBER

<To be completed nationally.>

9. DATE OF FIRST AUTHORISATION / RENEWAL OF AUTHORISATION

<To be completed nationally.>

10. DATE OF REVISION OF THE TEXT

<To be completed nationally.>