

Acetazolamide

Availability date: Mar 7,2011¹

Products listed in Saskatchewan formulary:²

Apo-acetazolamide 250 mg	tablet	00545015	AAP
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Products listed on Drug Product Database:³

00295019	Acetazolam	Valeant Canada LP	acetazolamide	250 mg
00545015	Acetazolamide	AA Pharma INC	acetazolamide	250 mg

Uses:

Glaucoma⁴

Systemic carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (CAI) are rarely used for glaucoma on account of side effects. Methazolamide is an alternative CAI indicated for glaucoma and is dosed 50 to 100 mg twice to three times daily. For reference, acetazolamide is dosed at 250 mg to 1g per day in divided doses.

Altitude Sickness⁵⁻⁷

Acetazolamide is the preferred agent as it aids acclimatization; however, dexamethasone can be used for both prophylaxis and treatment.

Dose:

Prophylaxis: Exercising or ascension >4000 m use 4 mg PO q6h

Sedentary use 2 mg PO q6 h or 4 mg q12 h

Treatment: 4 mg PO q6h for acute mountain sickness; in high altitude cerebral edema, start with 8 mg PO and continue with 4 mg PO q6h

Edema⁸

Acetazolamide is generally a last resort for edema and best to consult a specialist since measures such as ultrafiltration may be required.

Seizure disorder⁸

Acetazolamide is rarely used as an anticonvulsant; consult specialist.

References:

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4. Lesk MR, Rafuse P. Glaucoma. In: Gray Jean, editor. e-Therapeutics+ [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2007 [updated 2010 Jul; cited 2011 Feb 10]. Available from: <http://www.e-therapeutics.ca>. Also available in paper copy from the publisher.
5. Gallagher SA, Hackett P. Acute mountain sickness and high altitude cerebral edema. In: UpToDate, Rose, BD (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2011.
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8. e-CPS [Internet]. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; c2011 [updated 2005 Nov; cited 2011 Feb 10]. Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitors: Systemic [CPhA monograph]. Available from: <http://www.e-cps.ca>. Also available in paper copy from the publisher.