**Acetazolamide**

Availability date: Mar 7, 2011

Products listed in Saskatchewan formulary:

| Apo-acetazolamide 250 mg tablet | 00545015 AAP |

Products listed on Drug Product Database:

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

**Uses:**

**Glaucoma**

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 1 g per day in divided doses.

**Altitude Sickness**

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

**Edema**

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

**Seizure disorder**

Acetazolamide is rarely used as an anticonvulsant; consult specialist.
References:

5. Gallagher SA, Hackett P. Acute mountain sickness and high altitude cerebral edema. In: UpToDate, Rose, BD (Ed), UpToDate, Waltham, MA, 2011.