

Acebutolol Tablet Shortage

Several brands of acebutolol 100 mg, 200 mg and 400 mg tablets are approved for marketing by Health Canada¹ and are on the Saskatchewan Drug Plan Formulary.²

Health Canada approved indications^{3,4}:

- hypertension, mild to moderate
- angina pectoris

Off-label uses^{3,4}:

- arrhythmias
- post myocardial infarction

Use Table 1 to determine alternate agents according to indication and patient needs. In most cases, metoprolol will likely be a suitable alternative. Use Table 2 to find dose ranges of the different indications.

	Acebutolol	Implications	Alternative β B
Indication	HTN		bisoprolol, carvedilol, labetalol, metoprolol, nadolol, nebivolol, pindolol, propranolol, timolol
	Angina		atenolol, bisoprolol, carvedilol, labetalol, metoprolol, nadolol, pindolol, propranolol, timolol
	Arrhythmia		metoprolol, nadolol (SVA), propranolol (SVA, VA), sotalol (SVA, VA)
	Post MI		atenolol, bisoprolol, carvedilol, metoprolol, nadolol, propranolol, timolol
Cardioselective	Yes	Preferred for patients at risk of hypoglycemia. Preferred for patients with mild-moderate reversible airway disease.	atenolol, bisoprolol, metoprolol, nebivolol*
ISA	Yes	May have less negative effects on heart rate (e.g. if bradycardia on other β Bs)	pindolol
Lipophilic	No (low)	Possibly may be associated with fewer CNS effects	atenolol, labetalol, nadolol, sotalol
*At doses <10 mg daily and not in poor 2D6 metabolizers. AF = atrial fibrillation; β B= beta-blockers; HTN = hypertension; ISA = intrinsic sympathomimetic activity; SVA= supraventricular arrhythmia; VA= ventricular arrhythmia			

Table 2: Dose Ranges of Beta Blockers by Indication ^{3,5-7}				
Beta Blocker	Hypertension	Angina Pectoris	Arrhythmia	Post-MI Target Dose
Acebutolol	100 to 400 mg BID	200 to 300 mg BID	VA 200 mg to 600 mg BID	200 mg BID
Atenolol		50 to 200 mg QD		100 mg QD
Bisoprolol	5 to 20 mg QD	2.5 to 20 mg QD		10 mg QD
Carvedilol	3.125 to 25 mg BID	3.125 to 25 mg BID		25 mg BID
Labetalol	100 to 600 mg BID	100 mg QD to 600 mg BID		
Metoprolol	RR 50 to 200 mg BID	RR 50 to 200 mg BID	RR 50 mg BID or TID up to 300 mg/day	RR 100 mg BID
	SR 100 to 200 mg QD	SR 100 to 200 mg QD		SR 100 to 200 mg QD
Nadolol	40 to 320 mg QD	40 mg to 160 mg BID	40 mg to 160 mg/day in 1 or 2 doses	40 mg to 160 mg/day in 1 or 2 doses
Nebivolol	5 to 20 mg QD			
Pindolol	5 to 15 mg BID or TID up to 45 mg daily	15 mg to 40 mg daily in 3 to 4 doses		
Propranolol	RR 40 mg BID up to 320 mg daily in 3 or 4 doses	RR 10 to 40 mg BID up to 160 mg BID	RR 10 to 30 mg TID or QID up to 160 mg/day in divided doses	RR 40 to 60 mg TID up to 240 mg/day in 2 to 4 doses
	LA 60 to 320 mg QD	LA 80 mg to 320 mg QD	LA 80 to 160 mg QD	
Sotalol			VA & SVA: 80 mg BID up to 320 mg/day	
Timolol	5 to 10 mg BID up to 60 mg daily	5 mg BID up to 15 mg TID		10 mg BID

BID= twice daily; LA= long acting; MI= myocardial infarction; QD= once daily; RR= regular release; SR = slow release; SVA= supraventricular arrhythmia; TID = three times daily; VA=ventricular arrhythmia

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