



## Losartan Recall

Due to the presence of a potentially carcinogenic contaminant: N-nitroso-N-methyl-4-aminobutyric acid (referred as “NMBA”), Health Canada has recalled Teva-Losartan / HCTZ 50/12.5mg. As a precaution, Teva, Apotex, Pharmascience, and Pro-Doc have voluntarily recalled other losartan products. For details see: <https://healthycanadians.gc.ca/recall-alert-rappel-avis/hc-sc/2019/69272a-eng.php>. At this time, no other manufacturers have recalled their losartan products.

As we anticipate that this recall may soon affect all losartan brands, alternative angiotensin receptor II blockers (ARBs) may have to be substituted. Losartan is indicated for hypertension and diabetic nephropathy. While all ARBs are indicated for hypertension, not all are indicated (or have data to support their use) for heart failure and diabetic nephropathy. The table below indicates dosing of ARBs based on outcome data. As indicated, these are estimated equivalencies and patients will need to be monitored following the switch.

Doses of Angiotensin Receptor Blockers for Various Indications						
ARB	HYPERTENSION Approximate Equivalent Daily Dose <sup>1-3</sup>	HYPERTENSION Daily Dose Range <sup>4,5</sup>	HEART FAILURE Target Dose <sup>6,7</sup>	POST-MI Target Dose <sup>8,9</sup>	DIABETIC NEPHRO- PATHY Usual Dose <sup>4,5</sup>	CV RISK REDUCTION Usual Dose <sup>4,5</sup>
losartan	50 mg	25-100 mg	150 mg daily*		50-100 mg daily	
azilsartan	40 mg	20-80 mg				
candesartan	8-16 mg	4-32 mg	32 mg daily	32 mg daily*		
eprosartan	600 mg	400-800 mg				
irbesartan	150 mg	75-300 mg	No difference from placebo		300 mg daily	
valsartan	80 mg	80-320 mg	160 mg BID	160 mg BID		
olmesartan	20 mg	10-40 mg				
telmisartan	40 mg	40-80 mg				80 mg daily

\*no official indication ARB= angiotensin II receptor blocker; CV = cardiovascular; MI= myocardial infarction

The potential risk of cancer from NMBA comes with long-term exposure only. As there is no immediate risk to patients, Health Canada recommends continuing losartan medications until changes can be made by the healthcare provider.

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