

Breastfeeding: Use not recommended. Low excretion expected, but no safety data on drug in infants.

Common dosage range

Adult Dose

Initial dose: 50 mg daily, gradually increased to 50 mg three times daily. A further increase may be necessary after 4 to 8 weeks. Average adult dose is 100 mg three times daily. Maximum daily dose 600 mg.

acetazolamide

systemic carbonic anhydrase inhibitor

Cautionary advisory labels: 10a, B

Notes

- Contraindicated in sulphonamide allergy.

Changes to faeces: Black discoloration.

Renal impairment: Reduce dose if moderate impairment, contraindicated if impairment is severe.

Pregnancy: B3. Consider risk of congenital malformation against dangers of uncontrolled epilepsy.

Breastfeeding: Use with caution. Low excretion expected. Consider risk of adverse effects experienced by infant against benefit of seizure control in mother.

Common dosage range

Adult dose

Chronic open-angle glaucoma, epilepsy: oral, 250 mg–1 g per 24 hours, in divided doses.

Perioperative reduction of intraocular pressure: oral/IV, initially 250–500 mg; thereafter 250 mg every 4 hours as required (maximum 1 g daily).

Congestive heart failure, drug-induced oedema: see Product Information.

Paediatric dose

Glaucoma: oral, 5–10 mg/kg (up to 250 mg) every 6 hours (under specialist supervision). Maximum daily dose 1 g.

Epilepsy: 4–30 mg/kg daily in divided doses, up to 750 mg daily.

aciclovir

guanine analogue antiviral

Cautionary advisory labels: D (oral)—some packaging contains more units than for the treatment for one episode, e.g. episodic treatment of recurrent disease

Notes

- Take at regular intervals.
- If five doses daily are prescribed, take at 4 hourly intervals while awake.
- Maintain adequate fluid intake (1.5–2 L/day) to prevent crystallisation in renal tubules.

Pregnancy: B3. Use with caution during the first trimester, but may be used during second and third trimester. Seek advice from an infectious diseases or HIV specialist.

Breastfeeding: Safe to use. Moderate amounts excreted into breast milk, but dose received by infant expected to be lower than that used in neonates.

Breastfeeding is not recommended in women with HIV because of the risk of viral transmission to the infant.

Common dosage range

Adult dose

Oral, 200–800 mg up to 5 times daily depending on the condition being treated.

IV, 5–10 mg/kg over 1 hour administered every 8 hours.

Paediatric dose

3 months – 12 years

Herpes simplex (non-encephalitis), Herpes zoster with complications: 250 mg/m² IV every 8 hours.

Herpes simplex encephalitis, shingles (eye involvement), chickenpox encephalitis: 500 mg/m² IV every 8 hours.

Herpes simplex (non-encephalitis): oral, <2 years of age, 100 mg five times daily; 2 years and over, 200 mg five times daily.

Infants <3 months, immunocompromised, prevention: see Product Information.

acitretin

oral retinoid

Cautionary advisory labels: 2 (women), 5, 8, B

Notes

- Monitor LFTs and blood.
- Female
 - Effective birth control required one month before, during and 2 years after therapy.
- Male and Female
 - Do not donate blood for at least one year after discontinuing treatment.
 - May cause dry skin and mucous membranes and changes in vision.

Hepatic impairment (severe): Contraindicated.

Renal impairment (severe): Contraindicated.