

PO-EXT REL: Onset 2 hr, peak 3-6 hr, duration 18-24 hr

IV: Onset 2 min, peak 15 min, duration 4-5 hr

INTERACTIONS

Increase: action of—amphetamines, flecainide, phenytoin, procainamide, quinidine, anticholinergics, methamphetamine, mecamylamine, ePHEDrine, memantine, mexiletine, folic acid antagonists; monitor for increased action of each patient

Increase: excretion of lithium, primidone

Increase: alpha/beta blockers, antihypertensives, hypotensive effect; monitor drug levels

Increase: osteomalacia—carbamazepine, ethotoin

Increase: toxicity—salicylates, cyclosporine

Increase: hypokalemia—corticosteroids, amphotericin B, corticotropin, ACTH

Increase: cardiac toxicity if hypokalemia develops—arsenic trioxide, cardiac glycosides, levomethadyl

Increase: renal stone formation, heat stroke—topiramate (avoid concurrent use)

Drug/Lab Test

Increase: glucose, uric acid

Decrease: thyroid iodine uptake, sodium, Hct/Hgb, WBC, platelets

False positive: urinary protein, 17 hydroxysteroid

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

Assess:

Black Box Warning: Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis, blood dyscrasias; discontinue if these occur

- **Edema:** weight daily, I&O daily to determine fluid loss; effect of product may be decreased if used daily; monitor geriatric patients for dehydration
- **Ocular status:** intraocular pressure, ophthalmologic examination
- **B/P lying, standing; postural hypotension** may occur

- **Electrolytes:** potassium, sodium, chloride; also BUN, blood glucose, CBC, serum creatinine, blood pH, ABGs, LFTs; I&O, platelet count, patient may need to be on a high-potassium diet; identify signs of hypokalemia (vomiting, fatigue, weakness)

- **Seizures:** neurologic status: provide seizure precautions

- **Beers:** avoid in older adults unless safer alternative is not available; may cause ataxia, impaired psychomotor function

- **Pregnancy/breastfeeding:** If pregnancy is planned or suspected or if breastfeeding. Use in pregnancy only if benefits outweigh fetal risk. Women who are pregnant should enroll in the AED Pregnancy Registry (888-233-2334)

Evaluate:

- **Therapeutic response:** improvement in edema of feet, legs, sacral area daily if medication is being used for HF; decrease in aqueous humor if medication is being used for glaucoma; decreased frequency of seizures, prevention of altitude sickness

Teach patient/family:

- To take exactly as prescribed; if dose is missed, take as soon as remembered; not to double dose; to take with food for GI symptoms; not to crush, chew open capsules

- **Altitude sickness:** to avoid rapid ascent

- **Diabetic:** that drug may alter blood glucose and to monitor blood glucose

- To use sunscreen to prevent photosensitivity, to avoid prolonged sun exposure, phototoxicity may occur

- To avoid hazardous activities if drowsiness occurs

- **To report nausea, vertigo, rapid weight gain, change in stools, weakness, numbness, rash, sore throat, bleeding/bruising; Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis (blistering, red rash that spreads)**