PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

[Pr] AURO-LOSARTAN HCT

Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets

50 mg/12.5 mg, 100 mg/12.5 mg and 100 mg/25 mg

House Standard

Angiotensin II Receptor Antagonist and Diuretic

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CANADA

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PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	All Non-medicinal Ingredients
oral	tablet 50 mg/12.5 mg, 100 mg/12.5 mg and 100 mg/25 mg	Tablet core: Cellulose microcrystalline, lactose monohydrate pregelatinized starch, silica colloidal anhydrous, and magnesium stearate. Film coat: Hypromellose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, titanium dioxide. Additionally AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg and 100 mg/25 mg contains Quinoline Yellow Aluminium lake. AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg contains 4.24 mg (<1 mmol) of potassium and AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/12.5 mg and AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg contain 8.48 mg (<1 mmol) of potassium, as losartan potassium.

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT (losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide) is indicated for the treatment of essential hypertension in patients for whom combination therapy is appropriate.

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is not indicated as the initial therapy for essential hypertension, except in patients with severe essential hypertension (Sitting DBP ≥110 mmHg) for whom the benefit of a prompt blood pressure reduction exceeds the risk of initiating combination therapy in these patients (see CLINICAL TRIALS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Geriatrics (>65 years of age): No overall differences in safety or effectiveness were observed between these patients and younger patients, but greater sensitivity of some older individuals cannot be ruled out (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): No data are available.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

- Patients who are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation. For a complete listing, see the DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING section of the product monograph.
- Because of the hydrochlorothiazide component, AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is also contraindicated in patients with anuria, and in patients who are hypersensitive to other sulfonamide-derived drugs.
- Concomitant use of angiotensin receptor antagonists (ARBs) –including AURO-LOSARTAN HCT - or of angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) with aliskiren-containing drugs in patients with diabetes mellitus (type 1 or type 2) or moderate to severe renal impairment (GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m^2) is contraindicated (see **WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS, Dual Blockade of the Renin-Angiotensin System (RAS) and Renal,** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Dual Blockade of the Renin-Angiotensin-System (RAS) with ACEIs, ARBs or aliskiren-containing drugs**).

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warnings and Precautions

When used in pregnancy, angiotensin receptor (AT_1) blockers (ARB) can cause injury or even death of the developing fetus. When pregnancy is detected, AURO-LOSARTAN HCT should be discontinued as soon as possible (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Special Populations).

Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis

Non-melanoma Skin Cancer

An increased risk of non-melanoma skin cancer (NMSC) [basal cell carcinoma (BCC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) of the skin] after hydrochlorothiazide therapy was reported in some epidemiological studies. The risk may be higher with increasing cumulative use (see ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post Market Adverse Drug Reactions). The photosensitizing action of hydrochlorothiazide may be a possible mechanism for NMSC (see TOXICOLOGY, Carcinogenicity – Hydrochlorothiazide).

Patients taking hydrochlorothiazide should be informed of the potential risk of NMSC. They should be advised to regularly check their skin for new lesions as well as changes to existing ones, and to promptly report any suspicious skin lesions. Patients should also be advised to limit exposure to sunlight, to avoid the use of indoor tanning equipment, and to use adequate protection (e.g. a broad spectrum sunscreen with a SPF of 30 or higher, clothing, and a hat) when exposed to sunlight or UV light to minimize the risk of skin cancer.

Alternatives to hydrochlorothiazide may be considered for patients who are at a particularly high risk for NMSC (e.g., light coloured skin, known personal or family history of skin cancer, ongoing immunosuppressive therapy, etc.) (see ADVERSE REACTIONS, Post Market Adverse Drug Reactions).

Cardiovascular

Hypotension: Occasionally, symptomatic hypotension has occurred after administration of losartan, in some cases after the first dose. It is more likely to occur in patients who are volume-depleted by diuretic therapy, dietary salt restriction, dialysis, diarrhea, or vomiting. In these patients, because of the potential fall in blood pressure, therapy should be started under close medical supervision. Similar considerations apply to patients with ischemic heart or cerebrovascular disease, in whom an excessive fall in blood pressure could result in myocardial infarction or cerebrovascular accident.

Valvular Stenosis: There is concern on theoretical grounds that patients with aortic stenosis might be at particular risk of decreased coronary perfusion when treated with vasodilators because they do not develop as much afterload reduction.

Dual blockade of the Renin-Angiotensin System (RAS)

There is evidence that co-administration of angiotensin receptor antagonists (ARBs), such as AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, or of angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitors (ACEIs) with aliskiren increases the risk of hypotension, syncope, stroke, hyperkalemia and deterioration of renal function, including renal failure, in patients with diabetes mellitus (type 1 or type 2) and/or moderate to severe renal impairment (GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m^2). Therefore, the use of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT in combination with aliskiren-containing drugs is contraindicated in these patients. Co-administration of ARBs, including AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, with other agents blocking the RAS, such as ACEIs or aliskiren-containing drugs, is not recommended in any patients, as adverse outcomes cannot be excluded.

Endocrine and Metabolism

Metabolism: Hyperuricemia may occur or acute gout may be precipitated in certain patients receiving thiazide therapy.

Thiazides may decrease serum PBI levels without signs of thyroid disturbance.

Thiazides have been shown to increase excretion of magnesium; this may result in hypomagnesemia.

Thiazides may decrease urinary calcium excretion. Thiazides may cause intermittent and slight elevation of serum calcium in the absence of known disorders of calcium metabolism. Marked hypercalcemia may be evidence of hidden hyperparathyroidism. Thiazides should be discontinued before carrying out tests for parathyroid function.

Increases in cholesterol, triglyceride and glucose levels may be associated with thiazide diuretic therapy.

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

Patients with Liver Impairment: Based on pharmacokinetic data which demonstrate significantly increased plasma concentrations of losartan and its active metabolite in cirrhotic

patients after administration of losartan potassium, a lower dose should be considered for patients with hepatic impairment, or a history of hepatic impairment (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION and DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY).

Thiazides should be used with caution in patients with impaired hepatic function or progressive liver disease, since minor alterations of fluid and electrolyte balance may precipitate hepatic coma.

Ophthalmologic

Acute Myopia and Secondary Angle-Closure Glaucoma: Hydrochlorothiazide, a sulphonamide, can cause an idiosyncratic reaction, resulting in acute transient myopia and acute angle-closure glaucoma. Symptoms include acute onset of decreased visual acuity or ocular pain and typically occur within hours to weeks of drug initiation. Untreated acute angle-closure glaucoma can lead to permanent vision loss.

The primary treatment is to discontinue hydrochlorothiazide as rapidly as possible. Prompt medical or surgical treatments may need to be considered if the intraocular pressure remains uncontrolled. Risk factors for developing acute angle-closure glaucoma may include a history of sulphonamide or penicillin allergy.

Renal

Renal Impairment: As a consequence of inhibiting the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, changes in renal functions have been reported in susceptible individuals. In patients whose renal function may depend on the activity of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system, such as patients with bilateral renal artery stenosis, unilateral renal artery stenosis to a solitary kidney, or severe congestive heart failure, treatment with agents that inhibit this system has been associated with oliguria, progressive azotemia, and rarely, acute renal failure and/or death. In susceptible patients, concomitant diuretic use may further increase risk.

Increases in Serum Potassium: Concomitant use of other drugs that may increase serum potassium may lead to hyperkalemia (see DRUG INTERACTIONS).

The use of ARBs – including AURO-LOSARTAN HCT – or of ACEIs with aliskiren-containing drugs is contraindicated in patients with moderate to severe renal impairment (GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m^2). (See **CONTRAINDICATIONS** and **DRUG INTERACTIONS, Dual Blockade of the Renin-Angiotensin-System (RAS) with ARBs, ACEIs, or aliskiren-containing drugs**).

Use of losartan should include appropriate assessment of renal function.

Thiazides should be used with caution.

Because of the hydrochlorothiazide component, AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is not recommended in patients with severe renal impairment (creatinine clearance ≤30 mL/min).

Azotemia: Azotemia may be precipitated or increased by hydrochlorothiazide. Cumulative effects of the drug may develop in patients with impaired renal function. If increasing azotemia and oliguria occur during treatment of severe progressive renal disease the diuretic should be discontinued.

Sensitivity/Resistance

Hypersensitivity Reactions: Sensitivity reactions to hydrochlorothiazide may occur in patients with or without a history of allergy or bronchial asthma.

The possibility of exacerbation or activation of systemic lupus erythematosus has been reported in patients treated with hydrochlorothiazide.

Photosensitivity:
Photosensitivity reactions have been reported with the use of thiazide diuretics.
If photosensitivity reactions occur during treatment with hydrochlorothiazide-containing drugs, treatment should be stopped.

Special Populations

Pregnant Women: Drugs that act directly on the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone-system (RAAS) can cause fetal and neonatal morbidity and death when administered to pregnant women. When pregnancy is detected, AURO-LOSARTAN HCT should be discontinued as soon as possible.

The use of ARB is not recommended during pregnancy. Epidemiological evidence regarding the risk of teratogenicity following exposure to angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (another class of therapeutic products interfering with the RAAS) during the first trimester of pregnancy has not been conclusive; however a small increase in risk cannot be excluded. Given the current evidence available on the risk with ARB, similar risks may exist for this class of drugs. Patients planning pregnancy should be changed to alternative anti-hypertensive treatments which have an established safety profile for use in pregnancy. When pregnancy is diagnosed, treatment with angiotensin II antagonists should be stopped immediately, and, if appropriate, alternative therapy should be started.

The use of ARBs during the second and third trimesters is known to induce human fetotoxicity (decreased renal function; oligohydramnios, skull ossification retardation) and neonatal toxicity (renal failure, hypotension, hyperkalemia).

Infants with a history of *in utero* exposure to ARBs should be closely observed for hypotension, oliguria, and hyperkalemia. If oliguria occurs, attention should be directed toward support of blood pressure and renal perfusion. Exchange transfusion or dialysis may be required as means of reversing hypotension and/or substituting for impaired renal function; however, limited experience with those procedures has not been associated with significant clinical benefit. Neither losartan nor the active metabolite can be removed by hemodialysis.

Thiazides cross the placental barrier and appear in cord blood. The routine use of diuretics in otherwise healthy pregnant women is not recommended and exposes mother and fetus to

unnecessary hazard including fetal or neonatal jaundice, thrombocytopenia and possibly other adverse experiences which have occurred in the adult. Diuretics do not prevent development of toxemia of pregnancy and there is no satisfactory evidence that they are useful in the treatment of toxemia.

Animal data

Losartan potassium has been shown to produce adverse effects in rat fetuses and neonates, which include decreased body weight, mortality and/or renal toxicity. Significant levels of losartan and its active metabolite were shown to be present in rat milk. Based on pharmacokinetic assessments, these findings are attributed to drug exposure in late gestation and during lactation.

Nursing Women: It is not known whether losartan or its active metabolite are excreted in human milk, but significant levels of both of these compounds have been found in the milk of lactating rats. Thiazides appear in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of their potential for affecting the nursing infant adversely, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatrics (<18 years of age): AURO-LOSARTAN HCT has not been studied in children, therefore use in this age group is not recommended.

Geriatrics (>65 years of age): No overall differences in safety were observed between elderly patients and younger patients, but appropriate caution should nevertheless be used when prescribing to the elderly, as increased vulnerability to drug effect is possible in this patient population.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Adverse Drug Reaction Overview

Losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide has been evaluated for safety in 2498 patients treated for essential hypertension. Of these, 1088 were treated with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide monotherapy in controlled clinical trials. In open studies, 926 patients were treated with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide for a year or more.

The following potentially serious adverse reactions have been reported rarely with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide in controlled clinical trials: syncope, hypotension.

In controlled clinical trials, discontinuations of therapy due to clinical adverse experiences occurred in 2.4% and 2.1% of patients treated with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide and placebo, respectively.

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug

reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.

In double-blind controlled clinical trials, the following adverse experiences were reported with losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide in ≥1% of patients, regardless of drug relationship:

	Losartan Potassium-Hydrochlorothiazide (n=1088)	**Losartan Alone (n=655)**	**Hydrochlorothiazide (n=272)**	**Placebo (n=187)**
Body as a Whole				
Abdominal pain	1.3	0.9	1.8	1.1
Asthenia/fatigue	3.1	2.9	5.1	3.7
Edema/swelling	1.2	0.6	2.9	1.6
Cardiovascular				
Palpitation	1.6	1.5	1.1	0
Digestive				
Diarrhea	1.6	1.8	0.4	2.1
Nausea	1.5	1.2	0	2.1
Musculoskeletal				
Back pain	2.9	1.1	0	0.5
Nervous/Psychiatric				
Dizziness	5.8	3.7	3.7	3.2
Headache	8.0	10.5	14.0	15.0
Respiratory				
Bronchitis	1.1	1.2	0.4	1.6
Cough Influenza	2.2 1.2	2.1 0.2	1.1 0.7	2.1 0.5
Pharyngitis	1.2	0.8	1.8	1.6
Sinusitis	1.0	0.9	2.2	0.5
Upper respiratory infection	5.8	4.6	5.5	4.8
Skin				
Rash	1.3	0.5	1.5	0.5

In these controlled clinical trials for essential hypertension, dizziness was the only adverse experience, occurring in more than 1% of cases, that was reported as drug-related, and that

occurred at a greater incidence in losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide-treated (3.3%) than placebo-treated (2.1%) patients.

Severe Hypertension (SiDBP ≥110 mmHg): The adverse experience profile for patients with severe hypertension (SiDBP ≥110 mmHg) treated with losartan/hydrochlorothiazide as initial therapy was similar to the adverse experience profile in patients treated with losartan monotherapy at the time of first dose, at 4 weeks of therapy, and at 6 weeks of therapy. Additionally, the adverse experience rates for hypotension, syncope, dizziness, and increased serum creatinine (all of which are signs and symptoms of hypoperfusion) did not differ between the treatment groups.

Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions (<1%)

In double-blind, controlled clinical trials with losartan potassium alone, the following adverse experiences were reported at an occurrence rate of less than 1%, regardless of drug relationship: orthostatic effects, somnolence, vertigo, epistaxis, tinnitus, constipation, malaise, rash.

Abnormal Hematologic and Clinical Chemistry Findings

Liver Function Tests: Rarely, elevations of liver enzymes and/or serum bilirubin have occurred.

Hyperkalemia: In controlled hypertensive trials with losartan monotherapy and losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide, a serum potassium >5.5 mEq/L occurred in 1.5% and 0.7% of patients, respectively. However, no patient discontinued losartan or losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide therapy due to hyperkalemia.

Serum Creatinine, Blood Urea Nitrogen (BUN): Minor increases in blood urea nitrogen (1.0%) and serum creatinine (1.0%) were observed in patients with essential hypertension treated with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide. More marked increases have also been reported and were more likely to occur in patients with bilateral renal artery stenosis (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS).

Minor increases in blood urea nitrogen (BUN) or serum creatinine were observed in less than 1.1 percent of patients with essential hypertension treated with losartan potassium alone. In clinical studies, no patient discontinued taking losartan potassium alone due to increased BUN or serum creatinine.

No other adverse experiences have been reported with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide which have not been reported with losartan or hydrochlorothiazide individually.

Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

The following additional adverse reactions have been reported in post-marketing experience with losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide and/or in clinical trials or post-marketing use with the individual components:

Blood and Lymphatic System Disorders: Thrombocytopenia, anemia, aplastic anemia,

hemolytic anemia, leukopenia, and agranulocytosis.
Cardiac Disorders: Palpitation, tachycardia.
Eye Disorders: Xanthopsia, transient blurred vision.
Gastrointestinal Disorders: Dyspepsia, abdominal pain, gastric irritation, cramping, diarrhea, constipation, nausea, vomiting, pancreatitis, sialoadenitis.
General Disorders and Administration Site Conditions: Chest pain, edema/swelling, malaise, fever, weakness.
Hepatobiliary Disorders: Hepatitis, jaundice (intrahepatic cholestatic jaundice).
Immune System Disorders: Anaphylactic reactions, angioedema (including swelling of the larynx and glottis causing airway obstruction and/or swelling of the face, lips, and/or tongue and pharynx, requiring therapeutic intervention in some cases) has been reported rarely in patients treated with losartan. Some patients previously experienced angioedema with ACE inhibitors.
Investigations: Liver function abnormalities.
Metabolism and Nutrition Disorders: Anorexia, hyperglycemia, hyperuricemia, electrolyte imbalance including hyponatremia and hypokalemia.
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: Back pain, muscle cramps, muscle spasm, myalgia, arthralgia.

Non-melanoma skin cancer
Some pharmacoepidemiological studies have suggested a higher risk of squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) and basal cell carcinoma (BCC) of the skin with increasing use of hydrochlorothiazide. A systematic review and meta-analysis undertaken by Health Canada suggested that, with important uncertainty, the use of hydrochlorothiazide for several years (>3 years) could lead to:

- 122 additional cases (95% CI, from 112 to 133 additional cases) of SCC per 1000 treated patients compared with non-use of hydrochlorothiazide (meta-analysis of 3 observational studies);
- 31 additional cases (95% CI, from 24 to 37 additional cases) of BCC per 1000 treated patients compared with non-use of hydrochlorothiazide (meta-analysis of 2 observational studies).

Nervous System Disorders: Dysgeusia, headache, migraine, paraesthesias.
Psychiatric Disorders: Insomnia, restlessness.
Renal and Urinary Disorders: Glycosuria, renal dysfunction, interstitial nephritis, renal failure.
Reproductive System and Breast Disorders: Erectile dysfunction/impotence.
Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: Cough, nasal congestion, pharyngitis, sinus disorder, upper respiratory infection, respiratory distress (including pneumonitis and pulmonary edema) and Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome have been reported rarely in post-marketing experience.
Skin and Subcutaneous Tissue Disorders: Rash, pruritus, purpura (including Henoch-Schoenlein purpura), toxic epidermal necrolysis, urticaria, erythroderma, photosensitivity, cutaneous lupus erythematosus.
Vascular Disorders: Dose-related orthostatic effects, necrotizing angiitis (vasculitis) (cutaneous vasculitis).

Cases of muscle pain, muscle weakness, myositis and rhabdomyolysis have been reported in patients receiving angiotensin II receptor blockers.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Drug-Drug Interactions

The drugs listed in this table are based on either drug interaction case reports or studies, or potential interactions due to the expected magnitude and seriousness of the interaction (i.e., those identified as contraindicated).

Proper Name	Ref.	Effect	Clinical comment
Agents Increasing Serum Potassium		Concomitant use of potassium-sparing diuretics (e.g., spironolactone, triamterene, amiloride), potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium, or other drugs that may increase serum potassium (e.g., trimethoprim-containing products) may lead to increases in serum potassium.	Since losartan decreases the production of aldosterone, potassium-sparing diuretics or potassium supplements should be given only for documented hypokalemia and with frequent monitoring of serum potassium when losartan therapy is instituted. Potassium-containing salt substitutes or other drugs that may increase serum potassium should also be used with caution. Concomitant thiazide diuretic use may attenuate any effect that losartan may have on serum potassium.
Alcohol, barbiturates, or narcotics	C	Potentiation of orthostatic hypotension may occur.	Avoid alcohol, barbiturates or narcotics, especially with initiation of therapy.
Amphotericin B	T	Amphotericin B increases the risk of hypokalemia induced by thiazide diuretics	Monitor serum potassium level.
Antidiabetic agents (e.g. CT insulin and oral hypoglycemic agents)	CT	Thiazide-induced hyperglycemia may compromise blood sugar control. Depletion of serum potassium augments glucose intolerance	Monitor glycemic control, supplement potassium if necessary, to maintain potassium levels, and adjust diabetes medications as required.
Antihypertensive drugs	CT	Hydrochlorothiazide may potentiate the action of other antihypertensive drugs (e.g. guanethidine, methyldopa, betablockers, vasodilators, calcium channel blockers, ACEI, ARB, and direct renin inhibitors).	
Antineoplastic drugs, including cyclophosphamide and methotrexate	C	Concomitant use of thiazide diuretics may reduce renal excretion of cytotoxic agents and enhance their myelosuppressive effects.	Hematological status should be closely monitored in patients receiving this combination. Dose adjustment of cytotoxic agents may be required.
Bile acid sequestrants, eg. cholestyramine and Colestipol Resins	CT	Absorption of hydrochlorothiazide is impaired in the presence of anionic exchange resins. Single doses of	Give thiazide 2-4 hours before or 6 hours after the bile acid sequestrant. Maintain a consistent sequence of

Proper Name	Ref.	Effect	Clinical comment
		either cholestyramine or colestipol resins bind the hydrochlorothiazide and reduce its absorption from the gastrointestinal tract by up to 85 and 43 percent, respectively.	administration. Monitor blood pressure, and increase dose of thiazide, if necessary.
Calcium and vitamin D supplements	C	Thiazides decrease renal excretion of calcium and increase calcium release from bone.	Monitor serum calcium, especially with concomitant use of high doses of calcium supplements. Dose reduction or withdrawal of calcium and/or vitamin D supplements may be necessary.
Carbamazepine	C	Carbamazepine may cause clinically significant hyponatremia. Concomitant use with thiazide diuretics may potentiate hyponatremia.	Monitor serum sodium levels. Use with caution.
Corticosteroids, and adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) or Glycyrrhizin (found in liquorice)	T	Intensified electrolyte depletion, particularly hypokalemia, may occur	Monitor serum potassium, and adjust medications, as required.
Digoxin	CT	Thiazide-induced electrolyte disturbances may predispose to digitalis-induced arrhythmias.	In 9 healthy volunteers, when a single oral dose of 0.5 mg digoxin was administered to patients receiving losartan for 11 days, digoxin AUC and digoxin Cmax ratios, relative to placebo, were found to be 1.06 (90% C.I. 0.98–1.14) and 1.12 (90% C.I. 0.97–1.28), respectively. The effect of losartan on steady-state pharmacokinetics of cardiac glycosides is not known.
Drugs that alter GI motility, i.e., anti-cholinergic agents, such as atropine and prokinetic agents, such as metoclopramide, domperidone	CT, T	Bioavailability of thiazide diuretics may be increased by anticholinergic agents due to a decrease in gastrointestinal motility and gastric emptying. Conversely, prokinetic drugs may decrease the bioavailability of thiazide diuretics.	Dose adjustment of thiazide may be required.
Diuretics	CT	Patients on diuretics, and especially those in whom diuretic therapy was recently instituted, may occasionally experience an excessive reduction of blood pressure after initiation of therapy	The possibility of symptomatic hypotension with losartan potassium can be minimized by discontinuing the diuretic or increasing the salt intake prior to initiation of treatment with

Proper Name	Ref.	Effect	Clinical comment
		with losartan potassium.	losartan potassium.
Dual blockage of the Renin-Angiotensin-System (RAS) with ARBs, ACEIs or aliskiren-containing drugs	T	Dual Blockade of the Renin-Angiotensin-System (RAS) with ARBs, ACEIs or aliskiren-containing drugs is contraindicated in patients with diabetes and/or renal impairment, and is not recommended in any other patients, as adverse outcomes cannot be excluded.	See CONTRAINDICATIONS and WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Dual Blockade of the Renin-Angiotensin-System (RAS).
Drugs Affecting Cytochrome P450 System	CT	Rifampin, an inducer of drug metabolism, decreases the concentrations of the active metabolite of losartan. In humans, two inhibitors of P450 3A4 have been studied. Ketoconazole did not affect the conversion of losartan to the active metabolite after intravenous administration of losartan, and erythromycin had no clinically significant effect after oral losartan administration. Fluconazole, an inhibitor of P450 2C9, decreased active metabolite concentration. The pharmacodynamic consequences of concomitant use of losartan and inhibitors of P450 2C9 have not been examined. When losartan was administered to 10 healthy male volunteers as a single dose in steady-state conditions of phenobarbital, a cytochrome P450 inducer, losartan AUC, relative to baseline, was 0.80 (90% C.I. 0.72–0.88), while AUC of the active metabolite, E-3174, was 0.80 (90% C.I. 0.78–0.82). When losartan was administered to 8 healthy male volunteers as a single dose in steady-state conditions of cimetidine, a cytochrome P450 inhibitor, losartan AUC, relative to baseline, was 1.18 (90% C.I. 1.10–1.27), while AUC of the active metabolite, E-3174, was 1.00 (90% C.I. 0.92–1.08).	

Proper Name	Ref.	Effect	Clinical comment
Gout medications (allopurinol, uricosurics, xanthine oxidase inhibitors)	T, RC	Thiazide-induced hyperuricemia may compromise control of gout by allopurinol and probenecid. The co-administration of hydrochlorothiazide and allopurinol may increase the incidence of hypersensitivity reactions to allopurinol.	Dosage adjustment of gout medications may be required.
Lithium Salts	CT	As with other drugs which eliminate sodium, lithium clearance may be reduced in the presence of losartan. Therefore, serum lithium levels should be monitored carefully if lithium salts are to be administered with losartan.	Lithium generally should not be given with diuretics. Diuretic agents reduce the renal clearance of lithium and add a high risk of lithium toxicity.

Proper Name	Ref.	Effect	Clinical comment
Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) Including Cyclooxygenase-2 Inhibitors	CT	In some patients, the administration of a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agent including a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor can reduce the diuretic, natriuretic, and antihypertensive effects of loop, potassium-sparing and thiazide diuretics. Therefore, when losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents are used concomitantly, the patient should be observed closely to determine if the desired effect of the diuretic is obtained. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including indomethacin and selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors (COX-2 inhibitors) may reduce the effect of diuretics and other antihypertensive drugs. Therefore, the antihypertensive effect of angiotensin II receptor antagonists or ACE inhibitors may be attenuated by NSAIDs including selective COX-2 inhibitors. In some patients with compromised renal function (e.g., elderly patients or patients who are volume-depleted, including those on diuretic therapy) who are being treated with NSAIDS, including selective COX-2 inhibitors, the co-administration of angiotensin II receptor antagonists or ACE inhibitors may result in a further deterioration of renal function. Cases of acute renal failure, usually reversible, have been reported. Therefore, this combination should be administered with caution in this patient population.	If combination use is necessary, monitor renal function, serum potassium, and blood pressure closely. Dose adjustments may be required.
Pressor Amines (e.g. norepinephrine)	T	In the presence of diuretics possible decreased response to	

Proper Name	Ref.	Effect	Clinical comment
		pressor amines may be seen but not sufficient to preclude their use.	
Selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs, e.g. citalopram, escitalopram, sertraline)	T, C	Concomitant use with thiazide diuretics may potentiate hyponatremia.	Monitor serum sodium levels. Use with caution.
Skeletal muscle relaxants of the curare family, eg., d-tubocurare	C	Thiazide drugs may increase the responsiveness of some skeletal muscle relaxants, such as curare derivatives	
Topiramate	CT	Additive hypokalemia. Possible thiazide-induced increase in topiramate serum concentrations.	Monitor serum potassium and topiramate levels.
Warfarin		Losartan administered for 7 days did not affect the pharmacokinetics or pharmacodynamic activity of a single dose of warfarin.	The effect of losartan on steady-state pharmacokinetics of warfarin is not known.

C=Case Study; RCS=Retrospective Cohort Study; CT=Clinical Trial; T=Theoretical

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dosing Considerations

- **Dosage must be individualized.**
- **The fixed combination is not for initial therapy, except for severe hypertension.**
- **The dose of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT should be determined by the titration of the individual components.**

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

Hypertension: Once the patient has been stabilized on the individual components as described below, either one tablet AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg or 100 mg/12.5 mg, or one tablet AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg once daily may be substituted if the doses on which the patient was stabilized are the same as those in the fixed combination. The maximum dose is one tablet AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg once daily (see INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE).

Severe Hypertension (SiDBP ≥110 mmHg): The starting dose of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT for initial treatment of severe hypertension is one tablet of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg once daily. For patients who do not respond adequately to AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg after 2 to 4 weeks of therapy, the dosage may be increased to one tablet of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg once daily. The maximum dose is one tablet of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg once daily.

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT may be administered with or without food, however it should be taken consistently with respect to food intake.

Losartan Monotherapy: The usual starting dose of losartan monotherapy is 50 mg once daily.

Dosage should be adjusted according to blood pressure response. The maximal antihypertensive effect is attained 3-6 weeks after initiation of therapy.

The usual dose range for losartan is 50 to 100 mg once daily. A dose of 100 mg daily should not be exceeded, as no additional antihypertensive effect is obtained with higher doses.

In most patients taking losartan 50 mg once daily, the antihypertensive effect is maintained. In some patients treated once daily, the antihypertensive effect may diminish toward the end of the dosing interval. This can be evaluated by measuring the blood pressure just prior to dosing to determine whether satisfactory control is being maintained for 24 hours. If it is not, either twice daily administration with the same total daily dosage, or an increase in the dose should be considered. If blood pressure is not adequately controlled with losartan alone, a non-potassium-sparing diuretic may be administered concomitantly.

For patients with volume-depletion, a starting dose of 25 mg once daily should be considered (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hypotension and DRUG INTERACTIONS).

Diuretic Treated Patients: In patients receiving diuretics, losartan therapy should be initiated with caution, since these patients may be volume-depleted and thus more likely to experience hypotension following initiation of additional antihypertensive therapy. Whenever possible, all diuretics should be discontinued two to three days prior to the administration of losartan, to reduce the likelihood of hypotension (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hypotension and DRUG INTERACTIONS, Diuretics). If this is not possible because of the patient's condition, losartan should be administered with caution and the blood pressure monitored closely. Thereafter, the dosage should be adjusted according to the individual response of the patient.

Dosage Adjustment in Renal Impairment: No initial dosage adjustment in losartan is usually necessary for patients with renal impairment, including those requiring hemodialysis. However, appropriate monitoring of these patients is recommended.

The usual regimens of therapy with AURO-LOSARTAN HCT may be followed as long as the patient's creatinine clearance is >30 mL/min. In patients with more severe renal impairment, loop diuretics are preferred to thiazides, so AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is not recommended.

Patients with Liver Impairment: Since dosage adjustment of losartan is required in patients with liver impairment, and thiazide diuretics may precipitate hepatic coma, a fixed combination product such as AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is not advisable (see WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Patients with Liver Impairment).

Geriatrics (>65 years of age): No initial dosage adjustment is necessary for most elderly patients. Appropriate caution should nevertheless be used when prescribing to the elderly, as increased vulnerability to drug effect is possible in this patient population (see WARNINGS

AND PRECAUTIONS, Geriatrics).

Missed Dose
If a dose is missed, an extra dose should not be taken. The usual schedule should be resumed.

OVERDOSAGE

No specific information is available on the treatment of overdosage with AURO-LOSARTAN HCT. Treatment is symptomatic and supportive.

Losartan: Limited data are available in regard to overdosage in humans. The most likely manifestation of overdosage would be hypotension and tachycardia.

If symptomatic hypotension should occur, supportive treatment should be instituted.

Neither losartan nor its active metabolite can be removed by hemodialysis.

Hydrochlorothiazide: The most common signs and symptoms observed are those caused by electrolyte depletion (hypokalemia, hypochloremia, hyponatremia) and dehydration resulting from excessive diuresis. If digitalis has also been administered, hypokalemia may accentuate cardiac arrhythmias.

The degree to which hydrochlorothiazide is removed by hemodialysis has not been established.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre immediately.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action
AURO-LOSARTAN HCT combines the actions of losartan potassium, an angiotensin II receptor antagonist, and that of a thiazide diuretic, hydrochlorothiazide.

Losartan: Losartan potassium antagonizes angiotensin II by blocking the angiotensin type one (AT_1) receptor.

Angiotensin II is the primary vasoactive hormone of the renin-angiotensin system. Its effects include vasoconstriction and the stimulation of aldosterone secretion by the adrenal cortex.

Losartan, and its active metabolite, E-3174, block the vasoconstrictor and aldosterone-secreting effects of angiotensin II by selectively blocking the binding of angiotensin II to AT_1 receptors found in many tissues, including vascular smooth muscle. A second type of angiotensin II receptor has been identified as the AT_2 receptor, but it plays no known role in cardiovascular homeostasis to date. Both losartan and its active metabolite do not exhibit any agonist activity at the AT_1 receptor, and have much greater affinity, in the order of 1000-fold, for the AT_1 receptor

than for the AT_2 receptor. *In vitro* binding studies indicate that losartan itself is a reversible, competitive antagonist at the AT_1 receptor, while the active metabolite is 10 to 40 times more potent than losartan, and is a reversible, non-competitive antagonist of the AT_1 receptor.

Neither losartan nor its active metabolite inhibits angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE), also known as kininase II, the enzyme that converts angiotensin I to angiotensin II and degrades bradykinin, nor do they bind to or block other hormone receptors or ion channels known to be important in cardiovascular regulation.

Hydrochlorothiazide: Hydrochlorothiazide is a diuretic and antihypertensive which interferes with the renal tubular mechanism of electrolyte reabsorption. It increases excretion of sodium and chloride in approximately equivalent amounts. Natriuresis may be accompanied by some loss of potassium and bicarbonate. While this compound is predominantly a saluretic agent, *in vitro* studies have shown that it has a carbonic anhydrase inhibitory action which seems to be relatively specific for the renal tubular mechanism. It does not appear to be concentrated in erythrocytes or the brain in sufficient amounts to influence the activity of carbonic anhydrase in those tissues.

Hydrochlorothiazide is useful in the treatment of hypertension. It may be used alone or as an adjunct to other antihypertensive drugs. Hydrochlorothiazide does not affect normal blood pressure.

Pharmacodynamics

Losartan: Losartan inhibits the pressor effect of angiotensin II. A dose of 100 mg inhibits this effect by about 85% at peak, with 25–40% inhibition persisting for 24 hours. Removal of the negative feedback of angiotensin II causes a 2–3 fold rise in plasma renin activity, and a consequent rise in angiotensin II plasma concentration, in hypertensive patients.

Maximum blood pressure lowering, following oral administration of a single dose of losartan, as seen in hypertensive patients, occurs at about 6 hours.

In losartan-treated patients during controlled trials, there was no meaningful change in heart rate.

There is no apparent rebound effect after abrupt withdrawal of losartan therapy.
Black hypertensive patients show a smaller average blood pressure response to losartan monotherapy than other hypertensive patients.

Hydrochlorothiazide: Onset of the diuretic action following oral administration occurs in 2 hours and the peak action in about 4 hours. Diuretic activity lasts about 6 to 12 hours.

Losartan-Hydrochlorothiazide: The components of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT have been shown to have an additive effect on blood pressure reduction, reducing blood pressure to a greater degree than either component alone.

The antihypertensive effect of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is sustained for a 24-hour period. In clinical studies of at least one year's duration, the antihypertensive effect was maintained with

continued therapy. Despite the significant decrease in blood pressure, administration of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT had no clinically significant effect on heart rate.

Pharmacokinetics

Absorption:

Losartan

Following oral administration, losartan is well absorbed, with systemic bioavailability of losartan approximately 33%. About 14% of an orally-administered dose of losartan is converted to the active metabolite, although about 1% of subjects did not convert losartan efficiently to the active metabolite.

Mean peak concentrations of losartan occur at about one hour, and that of its active metabolite at about 3–4 hours. Although maximum plasma concentrations of losartan and its active metabolite are approximately equal, the AUC of the metabolite is about 4 times greater than that of losartan.

Hydrochlorothiazide
Hydrochlorothiazide is rapidly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract with an oral bioavailability of about 65% to 75%. Peak concentrations of hydrochlorothiazide were reached approximately 2 hours after dosing.

Distribution:

Losartan

Both losartan and its active metabolite are highly bound to plasma proteins, primarily albumin, with plasma free fractions of 1.3% and 0.2% respectively. Plasma protein binding is constant over the concentration range achieved with recommended doses. Studies in rats indicate that losartan crosses the blood-brain barrier poorly, if at all.
The volume of distribution of losartan is about 34 liters, and that of the active metabolite is about 12 liters.

Hydrochlorothiazide
Hydrochlorothiazide crosses the placental but not the blood-brain barrier and is excreted in breast milk.

Metabolism:

Losartan

Losartan is an orally active agent that undergoes substantial first-pass metabolism by cytochrome P450 enzymes. It is converted, in part, to an active carboxylic acid metabolite, E-3174, that is responsible for most of the angiotensin II receptor antagonism that follows oral losartan administration.

Various losartan metabolites have been identified in human plasma and urine. In addition to the active carboxylic acid metabolite, E-3174, several inactive metabolites are formed. *In vitro* studies indicate that the cytochrome P450 isoenzymes 2C9 and 3A4 are involved in the

biotransformation of losartan to its metabolites.

Hydrochlorothiazide

Hydrochlorothiazide is not metabolized.

Excretion:

Losartan

The terminal half-life of losartan itself is about 2 hours, and that of the active metabolite, about 6–9 hours. The pharmacokinetics of losartan and this metabolite are linear with oral losartan doses up to 200 mg and do not change over time. Neither losartan nor its metabolite accumulate in plasma upon repeated once-daily administration.

Total plasma clearance of losartan is about 600 mL/min, with about 75 mL/min accounted for by renal clearance. Total plasma clearance of the active metabolite is about 50 mL/min, with about 25 mL/min accounted for by renal clearance. Both biliary and urinary excretion contribute substantially to the elimination of losartan and its metabolites.

Following oral ^{14}C-labeled losartan, about 35% of radioactivity is recovered in the urine and about 60% in the feces. Following an intravenous dose of ^{14}C-labeled losartan, about 45% of radioactivity is recovered in the urine and 50% in the feces.

Hydrochlorothiazide

Hydrochlorothiazide is eliminated rapidly by the kidney. The plasma half-life is 5.6–14.8 hours when the plasma levels can be followed for at least 24 hours. At least 61% of the oral dose is eliminated unchanged within 24 hours.

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at room temperature (15°C to 30°C). Protect from light.

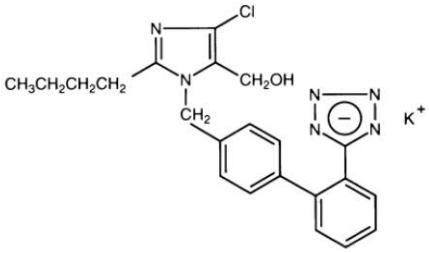
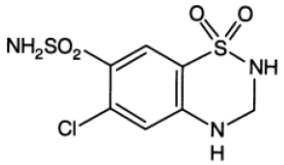
DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Dosage form	**Tablets**		
Strength	**50 mg/12.5 mg**	**100 mg/12.5 mg**	**100 mg/25 mg**
Description	Yellow coloured, oval shaped, beveled edge, biconvex film-coated tablets debossed with 'E' on one side and '48' on the other side. Each AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg tablet contains 50 mg losartan potassium and 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide.	White, oval shaped, beveled edge, biconvex film-coated tablets debossed with 'F' on one side and '74' on the other side. Each AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/12.5 mg tablet contains 100 mg losartan potassium and 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide.	Light yellow coloured, oval shaped, beveled edge, biconvex film-coated tablets debossed with 'E' on one side and '49' on the other side. Each AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg tablet contains 100 mg losartan potassium and 25 mg hydrochlorothiazide.
Composition	**Non-medicinal Ingredients:** **Tablet core**: Cellulose microcrystalline, lactose monohydrate pregelatinized starch, silica colloidal anhydrous, and magnesium stearate. **Film coat**: Hypromellose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, titanium dioxide. Additionally AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg and 100 mg/25 mg contains Quinoline Yellow Aluminium lake.		
Packaging	Blister Pack of 3 x 10's count. HDPE Pack of 14's, 30's, 100's & 500's count.	Blister Pack of 3 x 10's count. HDPE Pack of 14's, 30's, 100's & 500's count.	Blister Pack of 3 x 10's count. HDPE Pack of 14's, 30's, 100's & 500's count.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance

Proper name:	losartan potassium	hydrochlorothiazide
Chemical name:	1H -Imidazole-5-methanol, 2-butyl-4-chloro-1-[[2¢-(lH -tetrazol-5-yl) [1,1¢-biphenyl]-4-yl]methyl]-, monopotassium salt. 2-Butyl-4-chloro-1-[p-(o-lH -tetrazol-5-ylphenyl) benzyl] imidazole-5-methanol, monopotassium salt.	6-Chloro-3, 4-dihydro-2H-1, 2,4-benzothiadiazine-7-sulfonamide-1, 1-dioxide
Molecular formula:	$C_{22}H_{22}ClKN_6O$	$C_7H_8ClN_3O_4S_2$
Molecular mass:	461.01 g/mol	297.74 g/mol
Structural formula:		
Physicochemical properties:	Losartan potassium is a white crystalline powder. It is freely soluble in water, soluble in alcohols, and slightly soluble in common organic solvents, such as acetonitrile and methyl ethyl ketone. Oxidation of the 5-hydroxymethyl group on the imidazole ring results in the active metabolite of Losartan	Hydrochlorothiazide is a white or almost white, crystalline, odorless powder, slightly bitter in taste. Very slightly soluble in water. It dissolves in dilute solutions of alkali hydroxides.

CLINICAL TRIALS

A double blind, randomized, two-treatment, two-sequence, two-period, crossover, single-dose comparative oral bioavailability study of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT (Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide) tablets, 100/25 mg (Test) of Aurobindo Pharma Limited, India manufactured for Auro Pharma Inc. and Hyzaar® DS (Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide) tablets, 100/25 mg (Reference) of Merck Canada Inc., Canada was conducted in 53 healthy, adult, male subjects under fasting conditions.

Summary Table of the Comparative Bio-availability Data

Losartan (1 X 100 mg losartan potassium/25 mg hydrochlorothiazide) From measured data Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test***	**Reference†**	**% Ratio of Geometric Means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
$AUC_{0\rightarrow t}$ (hr.ng/mL)	1151.8 1232.1 (37.0)	1241.6 1325.5 (36.7)	92.8	88.8 – 97.0
$AUC_{0\rightarrow\infty}$ (hr.ng/mL)	1176.8 1255.9 (36.4)	1265.0 1348.3 (36.3)	93.0	89.1 – 97.2
C_{max} (ng/mL)	758.8 877.0 (54.2)	752.1 856.9 (56.4)	100.9	89.7 – 113.4
T_{max}§ (h)	1.0 (0.3 – 3.5)	1.25 (0.5 – 3.0)		
$T_{½}$$ (h)	2.0 (29.2)	2.1 (31.8)		

*AURO-LOSARTAN HCT (Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide) 100/25 mg tablets, by Auro Pharma Inc.

† Hyzaar® DS (Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets 100/25 mg), of Merck Canada Inc., Canada were purchased from Canada.

§ Expressed as the median (range) only.

$ Expressed as arithmetic mean (%CV) only.

Summary Table of the Comparative Bio-availability Data

Hydrochlorothiazide (1 X 100 mg losartan potassium/25 mg hydrochlorothiazide) From measured data Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test***	**Reference†**	**% Ratio of Geometric Means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
$AUC_{0\rightarrow t}$ (hr.ng/mL)	1252.8 1325.8 (31.5)	1181.1 1253.1 (33.0)	106.1	100.1 – 112.4

Hydrochlorothiazide (1 X 100 mg losartan potassium/25 mg hydrochlorothiazide) From measured data Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	**Test***	**Reference†**	**% Ratio of Geometric Means**	**90% Confidence Interval**
$AUC_{0\rightarrow\infty}$ (hr.ng/mL)	1330.4 1400.6 (30.0)	1270.2 1336.4 (30.6)	104.7	99.3 – 110.5
C_{max} (ng/mL)	179.1 190.3 (34.9)	170.8 180.1 (31.9)	104.9	98.1 – 112.2
T_{max}§ (h)	2.0 (1.3 – 5.0)	2.5 (1.0 – 6.0)		
$T_{½}$$ (h)	9.4 (21.1)	9.7 (21.7)		

*AURO-LOSARTAN HCT (Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide) 100/25 mg tablets, by Auro Pharma Inc.

† Hyzaar® DS (Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets 100/25 mg), of Merck Canada Inc., Canada were purchased from Canada.

§ Expressed as the median (range) only.

$ Expressed as arithmetic mean (%CV) only.

The safety and efficacy of losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide as initial therapy for severe hypertension (baseline mean SiDBP ≥110 mmHg confirmed on 2 separate occasions) was demonstrated in a six-week double-blind, randomized, multicenter study of 585 patients with severe hypertension. The primary endpoint was a comparison at 4 weeks of patients who achieved goal diastolic blood pressure (trough SiDBP <90 mmHg) on losartan/hydrochlorothiazide 50 mg/12.5 mg versus patients on losartan 50 mg titrated to 100 mg as needed to reach goal diastolic blood pressure. The secondary endpoint was a comparison at 6 weeks of patients who achieved goal diastolic blood pressure on losartan/hydrochlorothiazide 50 mg/12.5 mg titrated as needed to losartan/hydrochlorothiazide 100 mg/25 mg versus patients on losartan 50 mg titrated to 100 mg and then to 150 mg. In a post-hoc analysis, patients who achieved goal systolic blood pressure (trough SiSBP <140 mmHg) were compared for the 2 treatment groups at 4 and 6 weeks.

After 4 weeks of therapy, more patients who received losartan/hydrochlorothiazide 50 mg/12.5 mg combination therapy reached target diastolic blood pressure than those who received losartan 50 or 100 mg monotherapy (17.6% versus 9.4%, respectively; p=0.007). Similarly, after 6 weeks of therapy, more patients who received the combination regimen reached target diastolic blood pressure than those who received the monotherapy regimen (29.8% versus 12.5%, respectively; p<0.001). Additionally, more patients achieved goal systolic blood pressure on combination therapy versus monotherapy at each time point (week 4: 24.5% versus 11.9%, respectively, p<0.001; week 6: 36.9% versus 14.1%, respectively, p<0.001). The safety and tolerability of losartan/hydrochlorothiazide for patients with severe hypertension were comparable to losartan monotherapy at the time of first dose, at 4 weeks of therapy, and at 6 weeks of therapy.

DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Following oral administration of losartan potassium to patients with mild to moderate alcoholic cirrhosis, AUC of losartan and its active metabolite, E-3174, were about 5-times and 1.7-times greater, respectively, than in young healthy male volunteers. Compared to these normal subjects, the total plasma clearance of losartan in patients with hepatic insufficiency was about 50% lower and the oral bioavailability was about 2-times higher.

In an 8-week controlled study of the incidence of cough in hypertensive patients with a history of cough during ACE inhibitor therapy, the incidence of cough reported by patients receiving losartan potassium or hydrochlorothiazide was similar and was significantly less than in patients rechallenged with an ACE inhibitor. In addition, an overall analysis of double-blind clinical trials in 4131 patients revealed that the incidence of spontaneously reported cough in patients treated with losartan potassium monotherapy (n=2085; 3.1%) or losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide (n=858; 2.6%) was similar to that of patients treated with placebo (n=535; 2.6%) or hydrochlorothiazide alone (n=271; 4.1%), whereas the incidence with ACE inhibitors (n=239) was 8.8%.

TOXICOLOGY

Acute Toxicity: The oral LD_{50} of losartan potassium in male mice is 2248 mg/kg (6744 mg/m^2). Significant lethality was observed in mice and rats after oral administration of 1000 mg/kg (3000 mg/m^2) and 2000 mg/kg (11,800 mg/m^2), respectively (see Table 1).

Table 1 – Acute Toxicity

Losartan

Route	Species	Sex	LD_{50} Values	Maximum Tolerated Dose
Intraperitoneal	Mouse	Female Male	- -	>160 mg/kg to <400 mg/kg
	Rat	Female Male	- -	>100 mg/kg to <200 mg/kg
Intraperitoneal study with active metabolite, E-3174 (L-158,641)	Mice	Female	441.3 mg/kg	-
Oral	Mouse	Female Male	2248 mg/kg -	500 mg/kg to 1000 mg/kg
	Rat	Female Male	- -	~1000 mg/kg
	Dog	Female Male	- -	>160 mg/kg to <320 mg/kg

Chronic Toxicity: The toxic potential of losartan potassium was evaluated in a series of repeated-dose oral toxicity studies of up to three months in monkeys and up to one year in rats and dogs. The toxic potential of losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide was evaluated in repeated-dose oral toxicity studies for up to six months in rats and dogs (see Table 2).

Table 2 – Chronic Toxicity

a) Oral Administration

Losartan

Species	Duration	No. of Animals/Group	Dose mg/kg/day	Effects
Rat (Sprague-Dawley Crl:CD (SD) BR)	5 weeks	12 M + 12 F	0, 15, 45, 135	**Mid- and high-dose males:** slight decrease in body weight gain. **High-dose males:** slight decrease in red blood cell count. **Males, all dosage levels:** decrease in heart weight. **High-dose groups:** slight increases in BUN; focal gastric lesions. **Mid- and high-dose groups:** slight increase in serum chloride. **All dosage levels:** slight increases in serum glucose.
Rat (Sprague-Dawley Crl:CD (SD) BR)	14 weeks	17 M + 17 F	0, 15, 45, 135	**Mid- and high-dose males:** slight decreases in the rate of body weight gain; increase in BUN; grossly evident focal lesions in the gastric mucosa. **High-dose males:** slight decreases in RBC parameters; increase in cholesterol; alkalinization of the urine. **Males, all dosage levels:** decrease in heart weight. **High-dose females:** increase in BUN. **High-dose groups:** increase in sodium, chloride, and/or potassium.
Rat (Sprague-Dawley Crl:CD (SD) BR)	53 weeks	30 M + 30 F	0, 15, 45, 135	**High-dose males:** slight decrease in erythrocyte parameters (week 25); slight increase in serum phosphorus (week 25); focal erosions of the glandular mucosa of the stomach (also noted in one low-dose male). **Mid- and high-dose males:** increases in BUN; decreased heart weight and heart weight relative to brain weight (at terminal necropsy); very slight hyperplasia of juxtaglomerular cells (at interim necropsy). **High-dose females:** increases in BUN; decreased absolute heart weight and heart weight relative to brain weight (at interim necropsy). **Mid- and high-dose females:** slight decreases in food consumption; slight decrease in erythrocyte parameters (high-

Species	Duration	No. of Animals/Group	Dose mg/kg/day	Effects
				dose week 39, mid-dose weeks 39 and 51). **All females:** decreases in serum triglycerides. **All groups:** decreases in urinary protein; very slight juxtaglomerular cell hyperplasia; lower incidence and severity of spontaneous chronic nephritis. **Mid- and high-dose groups:** postdose salivation (weeks 11 and 20). **High-dose groups:** decrease in body weight gain.
Dog (Beagle)	5 weeks	4 M + 4 F	0, 15, 45, 135	**All groups:** adverse gastrointestinal effects (emesis, abnormal stools, positive fecal occult blood). No treatment-related mortality or change in body weight, food consumption, urinalysis, serum biochemistry, or hematology parameters. No treatment-related postmortem findings.
Dog (Beagle)	14 weeks	5 M + 5 F	0, 5, 25, 125	**High-dose males:** slight decrease in erythroid parameters. **High-dose groups:** gastrointestinal toxicity (emesis, abnormal stool colour and consistency, fecal occult blood); slight decrease in heart weight. **Mid-dose groups:** excessive salivation and emesis. No treatment-related effects on body weight, food consumption, clinical pathology, electrocardiography, physical exams, ophthalmoscopic exams, or gross and microscopic postmortem findings.
Dog (Beagle)	53 weeks	8 M + 8 F	0, 5, 25, 125	**High-dose groups:** predose and/or postdose hypersalivation; occasional emesis and change in stool consistency and colour. **Mid- and high-dose groups:** sporadic, isolated increases in serum ALT. No treatment-related alteration in body weight or food consumption, ophthalmologic findings or changes in electrocardiographic, hematologic, or urinalysis parameters. No treatment-related mortality.

Species	Duration	No. of Animals/Group	Dose mg/kg/day	Effects
Monkey [Rhesus (*Macaca mulatta*)]	14 weeks	4 M + 4 F	0, 20, 100, 300	**High-dose group:** slight decrease in erythrocyte parameters (weeks 8 and 11); slight decrease in BUN (week 11); increase in angiotensin II levels (24 hours postdose); tarry intestinal contents and small depressed, reddened foci in the stomach and/or small intestine (at necropsy). No treatment-related physical signs, mortality, or changes in food consumption, body weight, ophthalmic exams, or urinalysis. No treatment-related changes in organ weights.

Table 2 – Chronic Toxicity (continued)

a) Oral Administration

Losartan-Hydrochlorothiazide

Species	Duration	No. of Animals/Group	Dose mg/kg/day	Effects
Rat	27 weeks	20 M + 20 F	0 and 135 losartan; 33.75 HCTZ; 15/3.75, 45/11.25, 135/33.75 losartan/ HCTZ.	No treatment-related deaths. Slightly decreased body weight gain in losartan and high and mid-dose combination groups. Mildly decreased red cell count sometimes associated with decreased hemoglobin and hematocrit. Increased serum urea concentration. Slight variations in serum electrolytes attributed to the pharmacodynamics of the compounds. Mild increase in juxtaglomerular apparatus hyperplasia at high dose. Coadministration of losartan and hydrochlorothiazide did not alter systemic exposure to losartan or E-3174†.
Dog	27 weeks	4 M + 4 F	0 and 135 losartan; 31.25 HCTZ; 5/1.25, 25/6.25, 125/31.25 losartan/ HCTZ.	Adverse, clinically evident, effects limited to occasional emesis, excessive salivation and/or stool abnormalities. No gross or histological evidence of gastrointestinal toxicity. Slight alterations in serum and urine electrolytes attributed to the pharmacodynamic properties of the compounds. Coadministration of losartan and hydrochlorothiazide did not alter systemic exposure to losartan or E-3174†.

† E-3174 (L-158,641): Primary pharmacologically active metabolite of losartan.

Table 2 – Chronic Toxicity (continued)

b) I.V. Administration

Losartan

Species	Duration	No. of Animals/Group	Dose mg/kg/day	Effects
Rats (Sprague-Dawley Crl:CD (SD) BR)	16 days	15 M + 15 F	0, 0.92, 4.59, 9.17	**High-dose males:** slight decreases in erythrocyte count and hematocrit. No treatment-related deaths, clinical signs, or changes in body weight gain, food consumption, ophthalmology, serum biochemistry, or urinalysis.
Rats (Sprague-Dawley Crl:CD (SD) BR)	15 days	15 M + 15 F	0, 1, 5, 10†	**Mid- and high-dose males:** slight decrements in body weight. **All groups:** slight decrease in heart weight; slight decrease in mean terminal body weight. No treatment-related effects on food consumption, ophthalmologic exams, hematology, serum biochemical determinations, or urinalysis.
Dogs (Beagle)	17 days	4 M + 4 F	0, 0.92, 4.59, 9.17	No drug-related deaths, no drug-related clinical signs, and no drug-related changes in body weight gain, food consumption, ophthalmology, electrocardiography, hematology, serum biochemistry and urinalysis. No treatment-related changes in organ weight or gross microscopic changes.
Dogs (Beagle)	15 days	4 M + 4 F	0, 1, 5, 10†	No drug-related deaths, no drug-related clinical signs, and no drug-related changes in body weight gain, food consumption, ophthalmology, electrocardiography, hematology, serum biochemistry and urinalysis. No treatment-related changes in organ weight or gross microscopic changes.

† E-3174 (L-158,641): Primary pharmacologically active metabolite of losartan.

Reproduction

Losartan: Fertility and reproductive performance were not affected in studies with male and female rats given oral doses of losartan potassium up to approximately 150 and 300 mg/kg/day, respectively.

Losartan-Hydrochlorothiazide: Losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide administration had no effect on the reproductive performance or fertility in male rats at dosage levels of up to 135 mg/kg/day of losartan in combination with 33.75 mg/kg/day of hydrochlorothiazide. These

dosage levels provided respective plasma concentrations (AUC) for losartan, the active metabolite E-3174, and hydrochlorothiazide that were approximately 260-, 120-, and 50-fold greater than those achieved in man with 50 mg of losartan potassium in combination with 12.5 mg hydrochlorothiazide. In female rats, however, the coadministration of losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide (10 mg/2.5 mg/kg/day) induced a slight but statistically significant decrease in fecundity and fertility indices. Compared to plasma concentrations in man (see above) these dosage levels provided respective increases in plasma concentration (AUC) for losartan, the active metabolite E-3174, and hydrochlorothiazide of approximately 15-, 4-, and 5-fold.

Teratology

Losartan: Losartan potassium has been shown to produce adverse reactions in rat fetuses and neonates. The reactions include decreased body weight, mortality and/or renal toxicity. Pharmacokinetic evaluation of fetal plasma showed significant levels of losartan and its active metabolite, E-3174 (L-158,641), on Gestation Day 20 compared to negligible value on Gestation Day 15. In addition, significant levels of losartan and its active metabolite were shown to be present in rat milk. Based on these findings, the fetal and neonatal effects of losartan potassium in rats are attributed to drug exposure in late gestation and during lactation.

Losartan-Hydrochlorothiazide: There was no evidence of teratogenicity in rats or rabbits treated with losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide. Fetal toxicity in rats, as evidenced by a slight increase in supernumerary ribs in the F_1 generation, was observed when females were treated prior to and throughout gestation. As observed in studies with losartan alone, adverse fetal and neonatal effects, including decreased body weight and renal toxicity, also occurred when pregnant rats were treated with losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide during late gestation and/or lactation.

Carcinogenesis

Losartan: Losartan potassium was not carcinogenic when administered at maximum tolerated dosage levels to rats and mice for 105 weeks (maximum dose of 270 mg/kg/day) and 92 weeks (maximum dose of 200 mg/kg/day), respectively.

Hydrochlorothiazide
According to the experimental data available, hydrochlorothiazide revealed inconsistent evidence of carcinogenic activity in rats and mice, with conflicting evidence of hepatic adenoma in male mice at the highest dose and adrenal pheocytochroma in one rat study but not in another. Current evidence is inadequate to draw a clear conclusion for a carcinogenic effect of hydrochlorothiazide in animals.

The mutagenic potential was assessed in a series of in vitro and in vivo test systems. While some positive results were obtained in vitro, all in vivo studies provided negative results. Hydrochlorothiazide enhanced the UVA-induced formation of pyrimidine dimers in vitro and in the skin of mice following oral treatment. It is therefore concluded that although there is no relevant mutagenic potential in vivo, hydrochlorothiazide could enhance the genotoxic effects of UVA light. This mechanism of photosensitization could be associated with a higher risk for nonmelanoma skin cancer.

Mutagenesis

Losartan: Losartan potassium was negative in the microbial mutagenesis and V-79 mammalian cell mutagenesis assays. In addition, there was no evidence of direct genotoxicity in the *in vitro* alkaline elution and *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assays. Similarly, there was no induction of chromosomal aberrations in bone marrow cells of male or female mice after the administration of toxic oral doses of up to 1500 mg/kg (4500 mg/m^2). In addition, the active metabolite E-3174 showed no evidence of genotoxicity in the microbial mutagenesis, *in vitro* alkaline elution, and *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assays.

Losartan-Hydrochlorothiazide: Losartan potassium-hydrochlorothiazide was negative in the Ames microbial mutagenesis assay and the V-79 Chinese hamster lung cell mutagenesis assay. In addition, there was no evidence of direct genotoxicity in the *in vitro* alkaline elution assay in rat hepatocytes and *in vitro* chromosomal aberration assay in Chinese hamster ovary cells at noncytotoxic concentrations.

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12. Product Monograph HYZAAR® (losartran potassium and hydrochlorothiazide tablets 50 mg/12.5 mg & 100 mg/12.5 mg) & HYZAAR® DS (losartran potassium and hydrochlorothiazide tablets 100 mg/25 mg) Merck Canada Inc. Date of Revision: June 14, 2019, Submission Control No: 224591.

PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

PrAURO-LOSARTAN HCT

Losartan Potassium and Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets
50 mg/12.5 mg, 100 mg/12.5 mg and 100 mg/25 mg

Read this carefully before you start taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about AURO-LOSARTAN HCT. Talk to your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about AURO-LOSARTAN HCT.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT lowers high blood pressure.

What it does:

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT contains a combination of 2 drugs, losartan component and hydrochlorothiazide:

- losartan component is an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB). You can recognize an ARB because its medicinal ingredient ends in "-SARTAN". It lowers blood pressure.
- Hydrochlorothiazide is a diuretic or "water pill" that increases urination. This lowers blood pressure.

This medicine does not cure high blood pressure. It helps to control it. Therefore, it is important to continue taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT regularly even if you feel fine.

When it should not be used:

Do not take AURO-LOSARTAN HCT if you:

- are allergic to losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide or any of the non-medicinal ingredients in the formulation.
- are allergic to any sulfonamide-derived drugs (sulfa drugs); most of them have a medicinal ingredient that ends in "-MIDE".
- have experienced an allergic reaction (angioedema) with swelling of the hands, feet, or ankles, face, lips, tongue, throat, or sudden difficulty breathing or swallowing to any ARB. Be sure to tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist that this has happened to you.
- Have been diagnosed with hereditary angioedema: an increased risk of getting an allergic reaction that is passed down through families. This can be triggered by different factors, such as surgery, flu, or dental procedures.
- have difficulty urinating or produce no urine.
- are already taking a blood pressure-lowering medicine that contains aliskiren (such as Rasilez) and you have diabetes or kidney disease.
- are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT during pregnancy can cause injury and even death to your baby.
- Are breastfeeding. AURO-LOSARTAN HCT passes into breast milk.
- Have one of the following rare hereditary diseases since lactose is a non-medicinal ingredient in AURO-LOSARTAN HCT:
  - Galactose intolerance
  - Lapp lactase deficiency
  - Glucose-galactose malabsorption

Because lactose is a non-medicinal ingredient in AURO-LOSARTAN HCT.

What the medicinal ingredients are:

Losartan potassium and hydrochlorothiazide

What the non-medicinal ingredients are:

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg, 100 mg/12.5 mg & 100 mg/25 mg contain the following non-medicinal ingredients:
Tablet core: Cellulose microcrystalline, lactose monohydrate pregelatinized starch, silica colloidal anhydrous, and magnesium stearate.
Film coat: Hypromellose, hydroxypropyl cellulose, titanium dioxide. Additionally AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg and 100 mg/25 mg contains Quinoline Yellow Aluminium lake.
AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg contains 4.24 mg (<1 mmol) of potassium and AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/12.5 mg and AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 100 mg/25 mg contain 8.48 mg (<1 mmol) of potassium, as losartan potassium.

Although AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg, 100 mg/12.5 mg & 100 mg/25 mg contains a very small amount of potassium, they cannot replace potassium supplements. If your physician has prescribed potassium supplements, continue to follow his advice.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

Serious Warning and Precautions - Pregnancy
AURO-LOSARTAN HCT should not be used during pregnancy. If you discover that you are pregnant while taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, stop the medication and contact your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist as soon as possible.

BEFORE you use AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you:

- are allergic to any drug used to lower blood pressure, including angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, or penicillin.
- have narrowing of an artery or a heart valve.
- have had a heart attack or stroke.
- have recently received or are planning to get allergy shots for bee or wasp stings.
- have heart failure.
- have diabetes, liver or kidney disease.
- you are taking a medicine that contains aliskiren, such as Rasilez, used to lower high blood pressure. The combination with AURO-LOSARTAN HCT is not recommended.
- you are taking an angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor (ACEI).
- have lupus or gout.
- are on dialysis.
- are dehydrated or suffer from excessive vomiting, diarrhea, or sweating.
- are taking a salt substitute that contains potassium, potassium supplements, or a potassium-sparing diuretic (a specific kind of "water pill").
- are on a low-salt diet.
- are less than 18 years old.
- are receiving gold (sodium aurothiomalate) injections.
- have to undergo any kind of surgery and general anesthesia (even at the dentist's office). Tell the physician or dentist that you are taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, as there may be a sudden fall in blood pressure associated with general anesthesia.
- are hypersensitive to this drug or to any ingredient in the formulation.
- are taking other drugs that may increase serum potassium (e.g. trimethoprim-containing products) have had skin cancer or have a family history of skin cancer.
- Have a greater chance of developing skin cancer because you have light-coloured skin, get sunburned easily, or are taking drugs to suppress your immune system.

Hydrochlorothiazide in AURO-LOSARTAN HCT can cause Sudden Eye Disorders:

- Myopia: sudden nearsightedness or blurred vision.
- Glaucoma: an increased pressure in your eyes, eye pain. Untreated, it may lead to permanent vision loss.

These eye disorders are related and can develop within hours to weeks of starting AURO-LOSARTAN HCT.

Risk of skin cancer:
AURO-LOSARTAN HCT contains hydrochlorothiazide. Treatment with hydrochlorothiazide may increase the risk of developing non-melanoma skin cancer. The risk is higher if you have been taking [brand name] for many years (more than 3) or at a high dose.

While taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT

- Make sure to regularly check your skin for any new lesions. Check areas that are most exposed to the sun, such as the face, ears, hands, shoulders, upper chest and back.
- Limit your exposure of skin to sun and avoid indoor tanning. Always use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) and wear protective clothing when going outside.
- Talk to your doctor immediately if you get more sensitive to the sun or UV light or if you develop an unexpected skin lesion (such as a lump, bump, sore, or patch) during the treatment.

You may become sensitive to the sun while taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT. Exposure to sunlight should be minimized.

Driving and using machines: Before you perform tasks which may require special attention, wait until you know how you respond to AURO-LOSARTAN HCT. Dizziness, lightheadedness, or fainting can especially occur after the first dose and when the dose is increased.

Taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT during pregnancy can cause injury and even death to your baby. This medicine should not be used during pregnancy. If you are planning to become pregnant while taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, contact immediately your physician.

It is possible that AURO-LOSARTAN HCT passes into breast milk. You should discuss with your physician about taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT while breastfeeding.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICAITON

As with most medicines, interactions with other drugs are possible. Tell your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about all the medicines you take, including drugs prescribed by other doctors, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements, or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with AURO-LOSARTAN HCT:

- Adrenocorticotropic hormone (ACTH) used to treat West Syndrome.
- Alcohol, barbiturates (sleeping pills), or narcotics (strong pain medications). They may cause low blood pressure and dizziness when you go from lying or sitting to standing up.
- Amphoterecin B, an antifungal drug.
- Anticancer drugs, including cyclophosphamide and methotrexate.
- Antidepressants, in particular selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), including citalopram, escitalopram, and sertraline.
- Antidiabetic drugs, including insulin and oral medicines.
- Bile acid resins used to lower cholesterol.
- Calcium or vitamin D supplements.
- Corticosteroids used to treat joint pain and swelling.
- Digoxin, a heart medication.
- Drugs that slow down or speed up bowel function, including atropine, metoclopramide, and domperidone.
- Drugs used to treat epilepsy, including carbamazepine and topiramate.
- Gout medications, including allopurinol and probenecid.
- Glycyrrhizin (found in liquorice).
- Lithium used to treat bipolar disease.
- Medicines may cause high blood pressure (adrenaline).
- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), used to reduce pain and swelling. Examples include ibuprofen, naproxen, and celecoxib.
- Other blood pressure lowering drugs. When taken in combination with AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, they may cause excessively low blood pressure.
- Skeletal muscle relaxants used to relieve muscle spasms, including tubocurare.
- Sympathomimetics which may be found in some decongestants, cough/cold, hay fever, sinus medicines.
- Potassium supplements, salt substitutes containing potassium or other drugs that may increase serum potassium (e.g., trimethoprim-containing products)

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Take AURO-LOSARTAN HCT exactly as prescribed. It is recommended to take your dose at about the same time everyday.

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT can be taken with or without food. If AURO-LOSARTAN HCT causes upset stomach, take it with food or milk.

Usual Adult dose:

- **Take AURO-LOSARTAN HCT every day exactly as your doctor has instructed.** It is important to continue taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT for as long as your physician prescribes it in order to maintain smooth control of your blood pressure.
- The usual dose of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT for most patients with high blood pressure is 1 tablet of AURO-LOSARTAN HCT 50 mg/12.5 mg per day to control blood pressure over the 24-hour period.

Overdose:

If you think you have taken too much AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, contact your healthcare professional, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you have forgotten to take your dose during the day, carry on with the next one at the usual time. Do not double dose.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Side effects may include:

- Back or leg pain, muscle cramps, spasms and pain, weakness, restlessness, joint pain
- Dizziness, pins and needles in your fingers, headache Constipation, diarrhea, nausea, vomiting, decreased appetite, upset stomach, enlargement of the glands in your mouth
- Bleeding under the skin, rash, red patches on the skin

- Drowsiness, insomnia
- Erectile dysfunction/impotence
- Reduced libido
- Increased sensitivity to the sun
- A feeling of dizziness or lightheadedness due to a sudden drop in blood pressure when standing up quickly
- Cramping
- Fatigue
- Hives, itch and bruising
- Taste alteration
- Seeing more of the colour yellow in your vision, or temporary blurred vision
- Dry cough, nasal congestion and upper respiratory infections
- Fever

If any of these affects you severely, tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

AURO-LOSARTAN HCT can cause abnormal blood test results. Your doctor will decide when to perform blood tests and will interpret the results.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM			
Symptom / effect	**Talk to your healthcare professional**		**Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help**
	Only if severe	**In all cases**	
Uncommon/ rare			
Low Blood Pressure: dizziness, fainting, lightheadedness may occur when you go from lying or sitting to standing up			√
Allergic Reaction: skin rash, skin eruption or other effect on the skin or eyes, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, accompanied by difficulty in swallowing, breathing, or speaking (signs of angioedema)			√
Liver Disorder: yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite			√
Increased blood sugar: frequent urination, thirst, and hunger, sugar in the urine		√	

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM			
Symptom / effect	**Talk to your healthcare professional**		**Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help**
	Only if severe	**In all cases**	
Non-melanoma skin cancer: lump or discoloured patch on the skin that stays after a few weeks and slowly changes. Cancerous lumps are red/pink and firm and sometimes turn into ulcers. Cancerous patches are usually flat and scaly.		√	
Common			
Electrolyte imbalance including decreased or increased levels of potassium in the blood or decreased levels of sodium in the blood: irregular heartbeats, muscle weakness, generally feeling unwell, drowsiness, muscle pain or cramps, lack of energy, confusion, muscle twitching		√	
Kidney Disorder: change in frequency of urination, nausea, vomiting, swelling of extremities, fatigue	√	√ (renal failure)	
Chest pain		√	
Swelling of the hands or ankles	√		
Red tender, hot, swollen joint (gout), high uric acid levels in the blood (hyperuricemia)	√ (hyperuricemia)	√ (gout)	
Rare			
Rhabdomyolysis: muscle pain that you cannot explain, muscle tenderness or weakness, dark brown urine		√	
Decreased White Blood Cells: infections, fatigue, fever, aches, pains, and flu-like symptoms		√	
Unknown			
Decreased Platelets: bruising, bleeding, fatigue and weakness		√	
Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis: severe skin peeling, especially in mouth and eyes			

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Eye disorders: - **Myopia:** sudden near sightedness or blurred vision - **Glaucoma:** increased pressure in your eyes, eye pain			
Uncommon			
Anemia: fatigue, loss of energy, weakness, shortness of breath.		√	
Inflammation of the Pancreas: abdominal pain that lasts and gets worse when you lie down, nausea, vomiting			
Racing or irregular heart rate	√		

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking AURO-LOSARTAN HCT, contact your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Store at room temperature (15°C to 30°C). Protect from light.

REPORTING SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

If you want more information about AURO-LOSARTAN HCT:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Consumer Information by visiting the Health Canada website (https://health-products.canada.ca/dpd-bdpp/index-eng.jsp); the manufacturer's website http:// www.auropharma.ca, or by calling 1-855-648-6681.

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