

## **COZAAR®**

### **Backgrounder**

- COZAAR® (losartan potassium) is the first of the most recent class of antihypertensive drugs called angiotensin-II receptor antagonists (AIIA). It received approval for the treatment of hypertension from the Therapeutic Products Program of Health Canada in 1995. In hypertension, COZAAR® has demonstrated blood pressure control (unsurpassed by other AIIAs) comparable to angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, Calcium Channel Blockers (CCB), Beta Blockers (BB) and oral diuretics.
- COZAAR® works by blocking the action of angiotensin II, a potent naturally occurring hormone linked to hypertension. Angiotensin II tightens blood vessels, treatment with COZAAR® allows them to relax.
- The highly specific mode of action of COZAAR® translates into an excellent tolerability profile, comparable to placebo and enhances patient compliance. In clinical trials involving more than 2,000 patients side-effects were reported in 2.3 per cent of patients in the COZAAR® group compared to 3.7 per cent in the placebo group.
- COZAAR® is available in tablets of 25 mg, 50 mg and 100 mg doses.
- COZAAR® is also offered in combination with a low-dose diuretic under the trademarks HYZAAR® and HYZAAR® DS. HYZAAR® and HYZAAR® DS are normally prescribed to patients who need additional control of their hypertension.

- To date, more than ten million people worldwide have been prescribed COZAAR®.
- COZAAR® is contraindicated for patients who are hypersensitive to any component of the product. It is also contraindicated for pregnant women.
- The usual starting dose of COZAAR® is 50 mg once daily. Patients with liver problems and/or who are volume-depleted (have reduced amounts of salt and water in the body) may be prescribed a lower starting dose of 25 mg, once daily.
- COZAAR® is well tolerated in patients with varying degrees of renal dysfunction, including those on haemodialysis and those who have undergone kidney transplantation.
- COZAAR® is the most studied AIIA in patients with diabetes and renal disease including more than 74 published studies and abstracts showing a reduction of proteinuria and microalbuminuria as well as benefits on pathological changes associated with the progression of renal disease.
- COZAAR® is currently indicated for the treatment of high blood pressure (hypertension). In Canada, it has **not** been approved and is **not** indicated for the treatment of end stage renal disease in people with type 2 diabetes.

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