

MAXALT® (rizatriptan)

Backgrounder

What is rizatriptan?

- Rizatriptan is a highly selective, oral 5HT_{1B/1D} receptor agonist for the relief of migraine pain and associated nausea, with or without aura. It works in as early as 30 minutes, and delivers pain freedom in a high percentage of patients.
- In addition to being available in a conventional tablet form, rizatriptan was the first migraine medication available in a wafer formulation that dissolves on the tongue within seconds and can be taken without liquids.
- Migraine headache is believed to be caused by a widening of the blood vessels in the head. Rizatriptan narrows the vessels and relieves the pain and other symptoms of migraine headache.
- Rizatriptan permits patients to rapidly and consistently gain control over migraine pain and nausea by allowing them to return to daily activities earlier.
- In Canada, rizatriptan is available as a 10 mg and 5 mg tablet or as a 10 mg and 5 mg wafer.

Rizatriptan Features

- Studies show that rizatriptan provides relief of both migraine pain and associated nausea in as early as 30 minutes, and in 90 minutes some patients are pain free, allowing patients to return to their normal daily activities earlier.¹
- For migraine sufferers with nausea, the rizatriptan wafer formulation is convenient because the patient is not required to swallow liquids or a pill.

Clinical Trials

- In clinical trials, rizatriptan was well tolerated. The most common side effects were dizziness, drowsiness and fatigue, however these were reported to be mild and transient in nature.

The rizatriptan WAFER

The rizatriptan wafer offers patients a more convenient way of taking migraine medication in which a white wafer, about the size of a dime, is placed on the tongue and dissolves within seconds.

- Patients do not have to take the rizatriptan wafer with liquids.
- The rizatriptan wafer is also practical for patients with nausea, for patients who have difficulty swallowing tablets, or for patients who don't have access to liquids.
- Seventy-five per cent of patients prefer the rizatriptan wafer to the conventional tablet.²
- The rizatriptan wafer is proven to be equally as effective as the rizatriptan tablet.

References:

1. WPC pg.1.
2. Arhens S. P. Efficacy and Safety of rizatriptan water for the acute treatment of migraine, p. 529.

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