

Cardioprotection

HYPERTENSION...

Amiloride
2.5mg
Hydrochlorothiazide
25mg
Potassium Protection

atenolol 50mg,
amiloride 2.5mg,
hydrochlorothiazide 25mg

IT HAD TO NAPPEN

New combines low strength
'Tenormin' with low dose amiloride/
hydrochlorothiazide.

- ① One capsule daily
- ② Low dose
- ③ Cardioprotection
- ④ Potassium protection

New is the modern combination
for patients uncontrolled on a diuretic alone.

Prescribing Notes for 'Kalten', 'Tenormin' and 'Tenormin' LS

DOSAGE

Hypertension 'Kalten' - 50 mg atenolol + 25 mg hydrochlorothiazide + 2.5 mg amiloride hydrochloride (as amiloride hydrochloride BP 2.84 mg) orally one capsule daily, recommended where monotherapy with beta blocker or diuretic proves inadequate.

'Tenormin' - 100 mg atenolol, orally once a day

'Tenormin' LS - 50 mg atenolol orally once a day; some patients may respond adequately to 'Tenormin' low strength (LS)

Children - 'Kalten', 'Tenormin' and 'Tenormin' LS are not recommended for use in children

Elderly patients - Dosage requirements for 'Tenormin' and 'Tenormin' LS may be lower, especially in patients with renal impairment.

'Kalten' may be suitable for older patients.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS

'Kalten' : Heart block, hyperkalaemia, anuria, acute renal failure, severe progressive renal disease, diabetic nephropathy, blood urea over 10 mmol/l or serum creatinine over 130 micromol/l if not possible to monitor carefully and frequently. In renal impairment additional potassium conserving agents may cause hyperkalaemia. Sensitivity to hydrochlorothiazide or amiloride hydrochloride.

'Tenormin' : Heart block.

PRECAUTIONS

Untreated cardiac failure, bradycardia, renal failure, anaesthesia, pregnancy. Disturbed fluid or electrolyte balance. Caution in patients with chronic obstructive airways disease or asthma. Atenolol modifies the tachycardia of hypoglycaemia. Co-administration with verapamil or Class I antiarrhythmic agents. Withdrawal of clonidine.

Withdrawal of beta blocking drugs should be gradual in patients with ischaemic heart disease.

Additional precautions for 'Kalten'

Co-administration with lithium.

Metabolic effects: Measurement of potassium levels is appropriate especially in the older patient, those receiving digitalis preparations for cardiac failure, taking adnormal (low in potassium) diet or suffering from gastrointestinal complaints.

Caution in metabolic or respiratory acidosis.

Diabetes: 'Kalten' may lower glucose tolerance.

Discontinue before glucose tolerance testing.

Hyponatraemia and hypochloraemia may occur.

Hepatic or renal impairment: Caution in patients where fluid and electrolyte balance is critical.

Hyperkalaemia and hypokalaemia may occur. Discontinue treatment if increasing azotaemia and oliguria occur.

Amiloride may precipitate hepatic encephalopathy.

Jaundice may occur in cirrhotic patients.

Breast-feeding: Discontinue if 'Kalten' deemed essential.

SIDE EFFECTS

Coldness of extremities, bradycardia and muscular fatigue may occur. Sleep disturbance rarely seen. Rashes and dry eyes have been reported with beta blockers - consider discontinuance if they occur.

With amiloride hydrochloride and hydrochlorothiazide gastrointestinal disturbances may occur. Side-effects commonly associated with diuresis, dizziness and headache, may occur.

Skin rashes and blood dyscrasias have been reported.

PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS AND BASIC NHS COST

'Kalten' Capsules (29/186) in calendar packs of 28, £6.70.

'Tenormin' Tablets (29/122) in calendar packs of 28, £6.98

'Tenormin' LS Tablets (29/86) in calendar packs of 28, £4.88

'Kalten', 'Tenormin' and 'Tenormin' LS are trade marks.

Further information is available on request from the Company.



Stuart Pharmaceuticals Limited
Stuart House, 50 Alderley Road, Wilmslow,
Cheshire SK9 1RE

During the many conversations had with GPs, some serious questions have been raised about the issue of prescribing

generics. The current practice is that the general practitioner writes a prescription for a brand name drug, and the pharmacist dispenses it. However, some GPs are beginning to write prescriptions for generic drugs, and this is a trend that is likely to continue.

One of the main reasons for this is the cost of brand name drugs. Many brand name drugs are very expensive, and this can be a problem for patients who are on long-term treatment. Generic drugs are usually cheaper, and this can help to reduce the cost of treatment for patients.

Another reason for the use of generic drugs is the quality of the drugs. Generic drugs are usually of the same quality as brand name drugs, and this means that patients can get the same quality of treatment at a lower cost.

However, there are some concerns about the use of generic drugs. One concern is that generic drugs may not be as effective as brand name drugs. This is because generic drugs are often made by different manufacturers, and this can affect the quality of the drugs.

Another concern is that generic drugs may not be as safe as brand name drugs. This is because generic drugs are often made from the same ingredients as brand name drugs, but they may not be as pure. This can lead to side effects or other problems.

Despite these concerns, the use of generic drugs is likely to continue to increase. This is because the cost of brand name drugs is rising, and this is putting pressure on the NHS to find ways to reduce costs.

and general practice
If low prices are to be the determining factor to be prescribed, will it not reduce the level of investment in research for new and better

products? The answer to this question is not clear. On the one hand, if low prices are the determining factor, then it is likely that there will be less investment in research. On the other hand, if low prices are the determining factor, then it is likely that there will be more investment in research.

One of the main reasons for this is the cost of research. Research is very expensive, and this can be a problem for pharmaceutical companies. If the cost of research is too high, then it is likely that there will be less investment in research.

Another reason for this is the quality of the drugs. If the quality of the drugs is poor, then it is likely that there will be less investment in research. This is because the quality of the drugs affects the safety and effectiveness of the drugs.

However, there are some reasons why low prices may not lead to less investment in research. One reason is that low prices may lead to more sales, and this can lead to more revenue for pharmaceutical companies.

Another reason is that low prices may lead to more competition, and this can lead to more innovation. This is because competition is a key driver of innovation, and this can lead to the development of new and better products.

Despite these reasons, the use of low prices as a determining factor for prescribing is likely to continue to increase. This is because the cost of brand name drugs is rising, and this is putting pressure on the NHS to find ways to reduce costs.

What will patients think, if the medicine they need to use on a regular basis?

PAUL HODGKIN, MRCGP, Lecturer, Department of General Practice, University of Manchester

EDWARD VOXEN, MA, PhD, Lecturer, Department of Social Policy, University of Manchester

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Gx Limited is our response to those expressed reservations.

We are a British Company and part of the largest pharmaceutical group in the UK, sharing its commitment to investment in research and the development of new medicines.

The initial range of Gx products will meet many of the General Practitioner's prescription needs. Doctors will now be able to treat their patients knowing that the Gx products they prescribe will be of the highest quality and of consistent appearance.

Write the prefix Gx before the generic name on your prescriptions.

That way you get the advantages of the generic solution with the reassurance that a brand name implies.

This is why we say: Now you can prescribe a generic and its manufacturer

For additional information

**Write to:
Gx Limited
The Old Post House
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Banstead
Surrey SM20 2JH**

Gx. The last word in generics

**X.
or quality.**

Gx

Hypertension



Adalat retard

Maintains efficacy
with advancing patient age

Prescribing Information.

Presentation: Pink-grey coated tablets each containing 20mg nifedipine. **Indications:** For the treatment of hypertension. **Dosage and Administration:** The recommended dose for Adalat Retard is one 20mg tablet twice daily and if necessary a further 20mg tablet twice daily. Treatment may be taken according to the patient's response. Treatment may be continued indefinitely. **Contra-Indications:** Must not be given to women capable of child bearing. **Warnings and Precautions:** Adalat Retard is not a beta-blocker and therefore gives no protection against the dangers of abrupt beta-blocker withdrawal, any such withdrawal should be by gradual reduction of the dose of beta-blocker, preferably over 8-10 days. Adalat Retard may be used in combination with beta-blocking drugs and other anti-hypertensive agents, but the possibility of an additive effect resulting in postural hypotension should be borne in mind. Adalat Retard will not prevent possible rebound effects after cessation of anti-hypertensive therapy. Adalat Retard should be used with caution in patients whose cardiac reserve is poor. Ischaemic pain has been reported in some patients, commonly within 30 minutes of the introduction of nifedipine therapy. Patients experiencing this effect should discontinue nifedipine. The use of nifedipine in diabetic patients may require adjustment of their control. The antihypertensive effect of nifedipine can be potentiated by simultaneous administration with cimetidine. There are no other known drug incompatibilities. Gravitational oedema associated with increased capillary permeability has been reported. **Side Effects:** Adalat Retard is well tolerated. Minor side-effects, usually associated with vasodilatation are mainly headache, flushing and lethargy. These are transient and invariably disappear with continued treatment. **Overdosage** - standard measures such as atropine and noradrenaline may be used for resultant bradycardia and hypotension. Intravenous calcium gluconate may be of benefit. **Pack Quantities:** Adalat Retard tablets are available in foil strips of 10 in packs of 100. **Daily Treatment Cost:** 39p. **Product Licence Number:** Adalat Retard UK: PL0010/0078.



Further information is available from:
Bayer UK Limited, Pharmaceutical Division,
Bayer House, Strawberry Hill, Newbury, Berks, RG13 1JA.
Telephone: (0635) 39000. Registered trademark of Bayer, Germany.