

Albenda

Tablets, Suspension Broad-Spectrum Anthelmintic

Composition

Tablets

Each tablet contains:

Active ingredient: Albendazole 200mg

Excipients: Starch, lactose, cross linked starch, povidone, saccharin sodium, polysorbate, cellulose, vanilla and blood orange flavours, stearic acid, magnesium stearate, aerosil, sodium lauryl sulfate, hypromellose, taic, titanium dioxide, and polyethylene glycol.

Suspension

Each teaspoonful (5mL) of the suspension contains:

Active ingredient: Albendazole 100mg

Excipients: Saccharin sodium, potassium sorbate, propylene glycol, xanthan gum, fruit flavour, polysorbate, citric acid, vanilla and blood orange flavours, and purified water.

Properties

Albendazole, the active ingredient of **Albenda**, a benzimidazole carbonate anthelmintic, is a broad spectrum vermicide and for most helminths, an ovidical and larvicidal. It is active against the parasite in all its stages. Although its mechanism of action is not yet completely known, it seems to act by selective degeneration of cytoplasmic microtubules of the intestinal cells thereby impairing glucose uptake and choline-esterase secretion and causing energy depletion which immobilizes and kills the parasite.

Albendazole is poorly absorbed after oral administration and it undergoes extensive first-pass metabolism to produce an active sulfoxide metabolite, which is eliminated in the urine with other minor metabolites. Albendazole sulfoxide is approximately 70% protein bound and its half-life is 8.5 hours.

Indications

Albenda is effective against a variety of intestinal nematodes, cestodes and trematodes' infestations including Enterobiasis (pinworms or threadworms), Trichuriasis (whipworms), Ascariasis (large roundworms), Strongyloidiasis (small roundworms), Taeniasis (tapeworms), hookworm infections (Ancylostoma and Necator) and infestations of some species of liver flukes.

It has been designated an orphan product for use in the treatment of hydatid disease and neurocysticercosis.

Dosage

Adults and children over 2 years of age:

- Enterobiasis, ascariasis, trichuriasis, trichostrongyliasis and hookworm infections: 400mg as a single dose, if reinfection occurs after 3 weeks follow-up, the treatment may be repeated.
- Strongyloidiasis and taeniasis: 400mg as a single dose for three days.
- Hydatid disease:
 - Adults 60 kg or above: 400mg twice a day with meals for 28 days followed by 14 albendazole-free days; up to 3 cycles may be given.
 - Adults below 60 kg: 15mg/kg/day in divided doses twice a day with meals for the same period above; maximum total daily dose should not exceed 800mg.
- Neurocysticercosis: Same dosage as in case of hydatid disease but the duration of therapy is 8-30 days.

If you missed a dose

- Take the missed dose as soon as possible.
- Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next regular dose.
- Do not take two doses at the same time.

Contraindications

Administration in patients with hypersensitivity to the benzimidazole drug class is not recommended.

In pregnancy, albendazole is better to be avoided due to teratogenic results in laboratory animals.

Precautions

In pinworm infections, the whole family should be careful and might need to administer the medicine.

If the helminth is a hookworm or a whipworm, it is advisable to take iron supplements.

It is advised to use an effective form of birth control while taking this medicine and for at least one month after your last dose. Caution is recommended in lactating women.

Since albendazole may cause a reduction in total white cell counts and an elevation in hepatic enzymes with prolonged use, it is recommended that blood counts and liver function tests be carried out at the beginning of each 28-day cycle of therapy, and every 2 weeks during therapy; re-treatment with albendazole should not be initiated if significant depression in total white cell counts or elevation in liver enzymes persists. Patients with a history of liver disease or currently have liver problems may need special care.

Overdosage

In the animals, symptoms were demonstrated in a dose-response relationship and included diarrhea, vomiting, tachycardia, and respiratory distress.

In case of overdosage, symptomatic therapy (e.g., gastric lavage and activated charcoal) and general supportive measures are recommended.

Side Effects

Some patients may experience nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhoea, dizziness, and headache.

Drug Interactions

Co-administration of cimetidine, praziquantel, or dexamethasone with albendazole seems to increase the risk of albendazole side effects.

Presentations

Albenda tablets: Pack of 2 tablets.

Albenda suspension: Bottle of 20mL.

* Store at a temperature of 15 - 25° C.

THIS IS A MEDICAMENT

- Medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament.
- The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicines, their benefits and risks
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor
- Keep all medicaments out of the reach of children.

Council of Arab Health Ministers,
Union of Arab Pharmacists.

Any information? Call Toll Free No. (971) 800-4994



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