

ACETAZOLAMIDE



Other names

Diamox

Category

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and sulfonamide

Uses

Acetazolamide is used for the treatment of idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH), epilepsy and glaucoma. Some people take it to try and prevent altitude sickness.

Available forms

Tablet, modified release capsule, IV injection

Some potential side-effects (inform your doctor if you think you have a serious side-effect)

Nausea (26%), vomiting, diarrhoea, pins and needles in hands and feet (40%), ringing in ears (tinnitus), fatigue, headache, altered taste, dizziness, irritability, increased urination, thirst

Rare: Kidney stones, anaphylaxis, severe rash, infections, fever, bleeding

Not to be used if:

Previous reaction to sulphonamide drugs (e.g. zonisamide, furosemide)
Liver or kidney disease

Contraception, pregnancy and breastfeeding

Should avoid in pregnancy. It is considered to be safe during breastfeeding.

Interactions with other drugs

Avoid topiramate and zonisamide. Impairs lithium and methotrexate.

May be more likely to cause side-effects when used with aspirin or sodium valproate

Monitoring

Blood test for full blood count and serum electrolytes every 6-12 months

How to use it

Day	Morning dose	Evening dose
Start date	Nil	250mg
2 weeks later	250mg	250mg
4 weeks later	250mg	500mg
6 weeks later	500mg	500mg
After 6 weeks	Continue	Continue

Most people find that they can tolerate 500mg twice a day. In careful clinical trials, people have tried doses up to 750-2000mg twice a day for IIH but the majority have side-effects and this should not be done by you.

The same plan should be followed whether using tablets or modified release capsules.

This information is for guidance only. Always read the medicine information leaflet with any new medicine for full details.