

RxFiles – Drug Comparison Charts

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CHART PEARLS - 6th Edition Book - March 2007

Once again our drug comparison charts have been updated, enhanced and expanded. We have even found room for notes on drugs that are new or coming soon. While we can't summarize all the changes, here are a few highlights.

Selected Revisions

ANTIPLATELET & ANTITHROMBOTIC CHART

- **ESPRIT** reaffirms data suggesting that **AGGRENOX** is better than ASA ^{30-325mg/day} alone, but more headache p 10
- **CHARISMA: PLAVIX & ASA** vs ASA alone: combination no better yet ↑ moderate bleeding p 10
- Expanded Vitamin K dosing info in treating ↑ INR p 11

LIPID CHART

- Nicotinic acid ER/lovastatin **ADVICOR** added to chart p 13
- Ezetimibe 5mg (1/2 x 10mg) a cost effective option
- New 2006 Canadian Lipid Guidelines incorporated

DIABETES CHARTS

- Added **AVANDARYL & JANUVIA** to chart p 25,26
- Heart failure, ↑ weight & fractures with glitazones **DREAM,ADOPT**
- Insulin Detemir **LEVEMIR** – advantages & cost

ASTHMA CHART

- Recommend an asthma educator for patient education p 86,87
- Emphasize need for regular inhaled steroids; concern if over using short acting B2 agonists eg. salbutamol
- ciclesonide **ALVESCO** now on chart

CHARISMA: clopidogrel + ASA vs ASA

Charisma ^{Mar/06}: PLAVIX + ASA no better than ASA ^{75-162mg/d} for CV death, MI, or stroke 6.8 vs 7.3% in atherosclerosis/high CV risk pts (but ↑ bleeding Moderate 2.1 vs 1.3% NNH=125; Severe 1.7 vs 1.3%) n=15,603 – 28mon **Subgroups**: Asymptomatic pts: ↑ harm (bleed, ↑ CV events, ↑ CV death); Atherosclerosis pts: some benefit NNT=100 but ↑ bleed.

New Charts for 2007 - 15 in all

- Hypertension Landmark trials summary Pg 9
- Acne Pg 18-19
- Weight Loss / Herbal Weight Loss Pg 27-29
- Crohn's & Ulcerative Colitis Pg 31-33
- GI – Acid Suppression: Evidence/Tips/Pearls Pg 34
- Malaria Prophylaxis Pg 41
- Chronic Non-Malignant Pain Chart Pg 46-47
- Multiple Sclerosis Pg 55
- Asthma Inhalational Devices Pg 88
- Smoking Cessation Pg 89
- Cannabinoids Pg 90
- Health Agencies & Regulatory Environment Pg 91
- Patient Safety – Drug Considerations Pg 92

Scanning Through The Charts

- **Antihypertensives** – updated guidelines ^{2007 Canadian} p 6-7
- **H. Pylori**: follow up PPI not generally indicated esp. for duodenal ulcers p 36
- **Anti-infectives**: added **FACTIVE** & updated telithromycin ^{p 38}
- **Community acquired pneumonia**: added guidelines p 42
- **NSAID/COXIB**: Systematic review of ↑ CV risk p 48
- **Opioid Chart**: new fentanyl 12ug patch; **ZYTRAM** p 49
- **Oral Contraceptive**: new **YASMIN & LINESSA** p 63
- **Antipsychotic chart**: new **CATIE** trial implications p 83
- **Herbal**: WebLink www.mskcc.org/aboutherbs plus updated information for Co-enzyme Q10, ginseng, glucosamine, green tea, kava kava, milk thistle, saw palmetto, St John's wort & valerian. (See also Weight-loss Herbal Chart ^{p28}) p 68-69
- **OTC**: incorporate new cough guidelines p 70; probiotic comments p 38 & p 73, updated B₁₂ & calcium info p73

\$ Comparisons ^{/30day} that caught our



Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) - Page 35

- Rabeprazole **PARIET** 2x10mg od or 20mg od **\$54** ☹
- Omeprazole **Apo-omeprazole** 20mg od **\$52** ☹
- (**LOSEC** 20mg od **\$86**; 20mg bid **\$165**)

Atypical Antipsychotics – Geriatric Dosing – Page 82-83

- Quetiapine **SEROQUEL** 25-50mg hs **\$25-42**
- Risperidone **RISPERDAL** 0.5-1mg hs **\$24-31**
- Olanzapine **ZYPREXA** 2.5-5mg hs **\$67-128** ☹

Substantially **REDUCED** Saskatchewan Formulary Cost

- diltiazem generic **Tiazac** 300mg od **\$71** ^{reg TIAZAC} → **\$47**
- fentanyl generic **Fentanyl** 25ug patch q3day **\$120** → **\$78** ☹
- felodipine generic **Felodipine** 10mg od **\$42** → **\$30**
- pramipexole generic **Pramipexole** 1mg tid **\$230** → **\$145**
- ramipril generic **Ramipril** 10mg od **\$41** → **\$31**
- risperidone generic **Risperidone** 2mg po bid **\$160** → **\$103**
- sumatriptan generic **Imitrex** 50mg po x6dose **\$106** → **\$72** ☹
- venlafaxine generic **Venlafaxine XR** 150mg XR od **\$71** → **\$51**

Substantially **INCREASED** Saskatchewan Formulary Cost

- Many OC's ~↑\$10 ^{to ~\$200/year}, but **Select** remained at **\$150**
- Salbutamol **nebulizer** 1 neb qid **\$68** → **\$94**
- Rosiglit/metformin **Avandamet** 500/4mg bid ☹ ☹ **\$350** → **\$440**

Status/modifications/changes of note:

- New **EDS** ☹: generics (for clozapine, fentanyl patch) & Pariet 20mg tab
- New **generic**: alendronate 70mg tab, azithromycin, bupropion, diltiazem, felodipine, ramipril, risperidone, sumatriptan, topiramate & venlafaxine.
- New **full NIHB** ▼: bisoprolol, Lescol 80mg XL & Remeron.
(Previously added Axert, Combigan & Risperdal M-tabs)
- New **prior NIHB** approval ☹: adalimumab, Asacol 800mg, Duotrav, Entocort, Ezetrol, Lantus, Levemir & Risperdal Consta.
- New book **Additions** : ActoPlus Met, Apidra, Caduet, Duetact, Exubera, Fosavance, Glumetza, Orencia, Prexige, Rituxan, Tekturna & Zytram XL.

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Recent Adverse Reaction Advisories ¹

- **Rosiglitazone**: ↑ fractures ^{arm, hand & feet} esp. in women ^{Adopt}
- **Baraclude**: resistance to HIV while treating hepatitis B
- **Xigris**: ↑ mortality when prophylactic low-dose heparin is abruptly discontinued in patients to be started on Xigris
- **Iressa**: lack of survival benefit & ↑tumour haemorrhage in patients with squamous cell carcinoma of the head & neck
- **Benzocaine sprays**: associated with methemoglobinemia
- **Rituxan**: reports of bowel obstruction & perforation
- **Ketek**: acute liver failure & myasthenia gravis
- **Lamictal**: ↑risk of non-syndromic oral clefts
- **Remicade**: possible hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma in kids
- **ADHD meds**: rare cardiac & psychiatric adverse events
- **Paxil & ACE inhibitor**: ↑malformations during pregnancy
- **Raloxifene**: ↑ risk of stroke mortality from the **Ruth** trial
- **Tamiflu**: hallucinations & abnormal behaviour ^{including self harm}
- **Herbal products**: some adulterated with sibutramine ^{for ↓weight}, sildenafil ^{for erectile dysfunction} & benzodiazepines ^{for sleep}

Outcome Evidence from MAJOR Trials

Major outcome trials & dosages used are often noted on charts when available. *Caution-small print!* Recent: **Active W**, **Esprit & Charisma** (p. 10), **Aspen, Field & Sparcl** (p.13), **Adopt**, **Dream & Proactive** (p. 25), **Star & Ruth** (p. 66), **Star*D** (p. 79) & **Catie** (p. 83)



RxFiles Charts: condensing the best drug information from books, articles & guidelines onto a single page.

Did You Know Answers in the RxFiles Charts

1. Heart, stroke & mortality benefits seen despite only lowering the LDL 18-35% in most landmark lipid trials? p 12
{Of interest because current guidelines suggest lowering by >40%}
2. Naproxen, celecoxib ≤200mg/d & low dose ibuprofen appear neutral from a cardiac concern. p 48
3. Antipsychotics have been associated with ↑ mortality from heart & pneumonia causes in demented elderly. p 52
4. Atropine eye drops & Atrovent nasal spray has been used to ↓ drooling for clozapine & Parkinson's patients p 58/93
5. Doxycycline: first line for outpatient ^{no comorbid factors} pneumonia p42
6. Benazepril: safely used in patients with SCr up to 442_{mmol/L} p 2
7. Avandia showed a 4.8kg ^{ave} weight gain in a 4 year trial p 25
8. Fluvoxamine & clozapine are contraindicated together p 80
9. Pergolide & cabergoline affect cardiac valves p 58
10. Osteoporosis risk increased if on prednisone >7.5mg ^{for > 3months} or if a fragility fracture after age 40 p 66
11. Black cohosh had recent reports of rare liver toxicity p 65
12. Watch potassium & SCr esp. if on ACE+ARB or NSAID p 14
13. Telithromycin & sibutramine can ↑ QT interval p 15
14. Thiazide: minimal metabolic effects in ALLHAT trial: ↓K 0.3mmol/L, ↑glucose 0.28mmol/L & ↑cholesterol 0.044 mmol/L @2-4yr p 6

Pictures & Colors Speak a 1000 Words

- 🇨🇦 = We are **Canadian!** (for international subscribers)
- Ⓢ = **Pregnancy** categories (defined on page 98)
- Ⓢ = A concern if given **Pre-Op**
e.g. St. John's Wort on Herbal-DI chart (page 68-69)
- 👤 = ↓ dose required for **Renal** dysfunction
- Ⓢ = **Scored** tablet strengths - easy to split
e.g. **ATACAND** family from ACEI/ARB chart (page 2)
- 🏠 = Exception Drug Status (EDS) - Sask. Drug Plan
- X = Not covered by the Saskatchewan Drug Plan
- Ⓢ = Avoid → soybean & peanut allergy
- M: = Monitoring Recommendations
- CI: = Contraindication **DI** = Drug Interaction
- G = generic if available
- SE = Side Effects **SZ** = Seizure
- 👤 = **prior approval** required NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits) for eligible First Nations & Inuit 1-800-580-0950
- ▼ = **covered** by NIHB (in **OTC charts** & identified **ONLY** for drugs which are **EDS or non formulary** in Sask.)
- ⊗ = **not covered** by NIHB

Green Shading usually indicates **HERBAL** related

Blue Shading usually indicates **PEDIATRIC** related

Purple script usually indicates for **TRADE NAMES**

Navy script usually indicates **MAJOR TRIALS**

Brent reserves the right to violate these rules at all times.



RxFiles
Celebrating 10 years of
academic detailing.
We appreciate your input
and participation!

Enjoy the charts!!!

¹ http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/index_e.html