

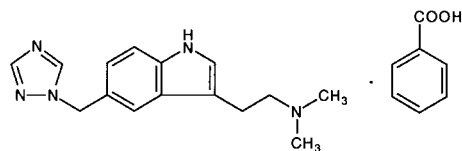
MAXALT®
(RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE)
TABLETS
MAXALT-MLT®
(RIZATRIPTAN BENZOATE)
ORALLY DISINTEGRATING TABLETS

DRUGS-ABOUT.COM

DESCRIPTION

MAXALT* contains rizatriptan benzoate, a selective 5-hydroxytryptamine_{1B/1D} (5-HT_{1B/1D}) receptor agonist.

Rizatriptan benzoate is described chemically as: *N,N*-dimethyl-5-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1*H*-indole-3-ethanamine monobenzoate and its structural formula is:



Its empirical formula is C₁₅H₁₉N₅•C₇H₆O₂, representing a molecular weight of the free base of 269.4. Rizatriptan benzoate is a white to off-white, crystalline solid that is soluble in water at about 42 mg per mL (expressed as free base) at 25°C.

MAXALT Tablets and MAXALT-MLT* Orally Disintegrating Tablets are available for oral administration in strengths of 5 and 10 mg (corresponding to 7.265 mg or 14.53 mg of the benzoate salt, respectively). Each compressed tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch, ferric oxide (red), and magnesium stearate.

Each lyophilized orally disintegrating tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: gelatin, mannitol, glycine, aspartame, and peppermint flavor.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

Rizatriptan binds with high affinity to human cloned 5-HT_{1B} and 5-HT_{1D} receptors. Rizatriptan has weak affinity for other 5-HT₁ receptor subtypes (5-HT_{1A}, 5-HT_{1E}, 5-HT_{1F}) and the 5-HT₇ receptor, but has no significant activity at 5-HT₂, 5-HT₃, alpha- and beta-adrenergic, dopaminergic, histaminergic, muscarinic or benzodiazepine receptors.

Current theories on the etiology of migraine headache suggest that symptoms are due to local cranial vasodilatation and/or to the release of vasoactive and pro-inflammatory peptides from sensory nerve endings in an activated trigeminal system. The therapeutic activity of rizatriptan in migraine can most likely be attributed to agonist effects at 5-HT_{1B/1D} receptors on the extracerebral, intracranial blood vessels that become dilated during a migraine attack and on nerve terminals in the trigeminal system. Activation of these receptors results in cranial vessel constriction, inhibition of neuropeptide release and reduced transmission in trigeminal pain pathways.

Pharmacokinetics

Rizatriptan is completely absorbed following oral administration. The mean oral absolute bioavailability of the MAXALT Tablet is about 45%, and mean peak plasma concentrations (C_{max})

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