Indapamide
A Review of its Pharmacodynamic Properties and Therapeutic Efficacy in Hypertension

M. ChajJman, R.C. Heel, R.N. Brogden, T.M. Speight and G.S. Avery
ADIS Drug Information Services, Auckland

Various sections of this manuscript reviewed by: R. Bloch, Faculté de Médecine, Université Louis Pasteur, Strasbourg, France; D.C. Brater, Department of Pharmacology, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, USA; N.M. Kaplan, Department of Internal Medicine, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas, Dallas, Texas, U.S.A.; A. Lant, Department of Therapeutics, Westminster Medical School, London, England; W.P. Leary, Department of Experimental and Clinical Pharmacology, University of Natal, Durban, South Africa; M. Lebel, L'Hôtel Dieu de Québec, Quebec, Canada; A. Mimran, Faculté de Médecine, Centre Hospitalier Universitaire, Hôpital Lapeyronie, Montpellier Cedex, France; R.J. Ogilvie, Division of Cardiology and Clinical Pharmacology, Toronto Western Hospital, Toronto, Ontario, Canada; G.E. Plante, Department of Physiology, Pharmacology, and Family Medicine, University of Sherbrooke; Sherbrooke, Quebec, Canada; F.O. Simpson, Department of Medicine, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand; P. Turner, Department of Clinical Pharmacology, St Bartholomew’s Hospital Medical College, London, England; H.J. Waal-Manning, Department of Medicine, Wellcome Medical Research Institute, University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand; P. Weidmann, Medizinische Poliklinik, Bern, Switzerland; J.A. Whitworth, Department of Nephrology, The Royal Melbourne Hospital, Parkville, Victoria, Australia; N. Wright, St Joseph’s Hospital, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

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Summary

Indapamide is an orally active sulphonamide diuretic agent. Although some evidence appears to indicate that the antihypertensive action of indapamide is primarily a result of its diuretic activity, only a limited diuresis occurs with the usual antihypertensive doses of 2.5mg daily, and in vitro and in vivo data suggest that it may also reduce blood pressure by decreasing vascular reactivity and peripheral vascular resistance. In mild to moderate hypertension it is as effective as thiazide diuretics and β-adrenergic blocking agents. While such findings need confirmation, it appears that indapamide shares the potential with other diuretic agents to induce electrolyte and other metabolic abnormalities, although it may do so with less frequency or severity.

Thus, indapamide appears to offer a suitable alternative to more established drugs as a ‘first-line’ treatment in patients with mild to moderate hypertension. Whether it differs significantly from other diuretics when used as antihypertensive therapy, either in its mode of action or its side effect profile, needs further clarification.

1 ‘Fludex’, ‘Lozide’, ‘Natrilix’ (Servier); ‘Lozol’ (USV).