

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

APO-DILTIAZ

**Diltiazem HCl Tablets USP
30 and 60 mg
Antianginal Agent**

APO-DILTIAZ SR

**Diltiazem HCl Sustained Release (Twice-a-day) Capsules Apotex Standard
60, 90 and 120 mg
Antihypertensive Agent / Antianginal Agent**

APO-DILTIAZ CD

**Diltiazem HCl Controlled Delivery (Once-a-day) Capsules Apotex Standard
120, 180, 240 and 300 mg
Antihypertensive Agent / Antianginal Agent**

**APOTEX INC.
150 Signet Drive
Toronto, Ontario
M9L 1T9
Control # 169449**

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ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

APO-DILTIAZ (diltiazem) tablets, APO-DILTIAZ SR capsules and APO-DILTIAZ CD capsules are calcium ion influx inhibitors (calcium entry blockers or calcium ion antagonists).

Mechanism of Action

The therapeutic effect of this group of drugs is believed to be related to their specific cellular action of selectively inhibiting transmembrane influx of calcium ions into cardiac muscle and vascular smooth muscle. The contractile processes of these tissues are dependent upon the movement of extracellular calcium into the cells through specific ion channels. Diltiazem blocks the transmembrane influx of calcium through the slow channel without affecting to any significant degree the transmembrane influx of sodium through the fast channel. This results in a reduction of free calcium ions available within cells of the above tissues. Diltiazem does not alter total serum calcium.

Angina: The precise mechanism by which diltiazem relieves angina has not been fully determined but it is believed to be brought about largely by its vasodilator action.

In angina due to coronary spasm, diltiazem increases myocardial oxygen delivery by dilating both large and small coronary arteries and by inhibiting coronary spasm at drug levels which cause little negative inotropic effect. The resultant increases in coronary blood flow are accompanied by dose dependent decreases in systemic blood pressure and decreases in peripheral resistance.

In angina of effort, it appears that the action of diltiazem is related to the reduction of myocardial oxygen demand. This is probably caused by a decrease in blood pressure brought about by the reduction of peripheral resistance and of heart rate.

Hypertension: The antihypertensive effect of diltiazem is believed to be brought about largely by its vasodilatory action on peripheral blood vessels with resultant decrease in peripheral vascular resistance.

Hemodynamic and Electrophysiologic Effects

Diltiazem produces antihypertensive effects both in the supine and standing positions. Resting heart rate is usually slightly reduced. During dynamic exercise, increases in diastolic pressure are inhibited while maximum achievable systolic pressure is usually unaffected. Heart rate at maximum exercise is reduced.

Studies to date, primarily in patients with normal ventricular function, have shown that cardiac output, ejection fraction and left ventricular end diastolic pressure have not been affected.

Chronic therapy with diltiazem produces no change, or an increase, in circulating plasma catecholamines. However, no increased activity of the renin-angiotensin-aldosterone axis has been observed. Diltiazem inhibits the renal and peripheral effects of angiotensin II.

In man intravenous diltiazem in doses of 20 mg prolongs AH conduction time and AV node functional and effective refractory periods by approximately 20%. Chronic oral administration of diltiazem in doses up to 540 mg per day has resulted in small increases in PR interval. Second degree and third degree AV block have been observed (see WARNINGS). In patients with sick sinus syndrome, diltiazem significantly prolongs sinus cycle length (up to 50% in some cases).

Pharmacokinetics

Diltiazem is well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract and is subject to an extensive first-pass effect giving absolute bioavailability (compared to intravenous dosing) of about 40%. Therapeutic blood levels appear to be in the 50-200 ng/mL range and the plasma elimination half-life (beta-phase) following Single or multiple drug administration is approximately 3.5 to 6.0 hours. In vitro human serum binding studies revealed that 70 to 80% of diltiazem is bound to plasma proteins. Following extensive hepatic metabolism, only 2-4% of the drug appears unchanged in the urine and 6-7% appears as metabolites. The metabolic pathways of diltiazem include N- and O-demethylation (via cytochrome P450), deacetylation (via plasma and tissue esterases), in addition to conjugation (via sulfation and glucuronidation). *In vitro* studies have demonstrated that CYP 3A4 is the principal CYP isoenzyme involved in N-demethylation. The major metabolite, desacetyldiltiazem, is present in the plasma at levels 10-20% of the parent drug and is 25-50% as potent as diltiazem in terms of coronary vasodilation.

Diltiazem Tablets: Single oral doses of 30 to 120 mg of diltiazem tablets result in detectable plasma levels within 30 to 60 minutes and peak plasma levels 2 to 4 hours after drug administration. There is a departure from linearity of accumulation of diltiazem when the tablets are administered to steady-state in normal subjects. A 240 mg daily dose (60 mg QID) gave plasma levels 2.3 times higher than a 120 mg daily dose (30 mg QID) and a 360 mg daily dose (90 mg QID) had levels 1.7 times higher than the 240 mg daily dose.

Diltiazem Sustained Release (Twice-a-day) Capsules: Diltiazem is absorbed from the sustained release (SR) capsule formulation to about 93% of the tablet form at steady-state. A single 120 mg dose of the capsule resulted in detectable plasma levels within 2 to 3 hours and peak plasma levels at 7 to 11 hours. The apparent elimination half-life after single or multiple dosing is 5 to 7 hours. A departure from linearity similar to that observed with the diltiazem tablet is observed. As the dose of diltiazem SR capsules is increased from a daily dose of 120 mg (60 mg BID) to 240 mg (120 mg BID) daily, there is an increase in bioavailability of 2.6 times. When the dose is increased from 240 mg to 360 mg daily, there is an increase in bioavailability of 1.8 times. The average plasma levels of the capsule dosed twice daily at steady-state are equivalent to the tablet dosed four times daily when the same total daily dose is administered.

Diltiazem Controlled Delivery (Once-a-day) Capsules: When compared to a regimen of diltiazem tablets at steady-state, more than 95% of drug is absorbed from the controlled delivery (CD) formulation. A single 360 mg dose of the capsule results in detectable plasma levels within 2 hours and peak plasma levels between 10 and 14 hours. When diltiazem CD was taken with a high fat content breakfast, the extent of diltiazem absorption was not affected but was delayed. Dose-dumping does not occur. The apparent elimination half-life after single or multiple dosing is 5 to 8 hours. A departure from linearity similar to that seen with diltiazem tablets and diltiazem SR capsules is observed. As the dose of diltiazem CD capsules is increased from a daily dose of 120 mg to 240 mg, there is an increase in the area under the curve (AUC) of 2.7 times. When the dose is increased from 240 mg to 360 mg there is an increase in AUC of 1.6 times.

A study which compared patients with normal hepatic function to liver cirrhosis patients noted an increase in half-life and a 69% increase in bioavailability in the hepatically impaired patients. A single dose study in patients with severely impaired renal function showed no difference in the half-life of diltiazem as compared to patients with normal renal function (see PRECAUTIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Comparative Bioavailability

Apo-Diltiaz vs. Cardizem

Two comparative bioavailability studies were performed using healthy human volunteers. The rate and extent of absorption of diltiazem after single and multiple oral dosage of Cardizem 60 mg tablets and Apo-Diltiaz 60 mg tablets were measured and compared. The results are summarized as follows:

After 60 mg tablets:

	<u>Cardizem</u>	<u>Apo-Diltiaz</u>
AUC ₀₋₁₅ (ng•hr/mL)	463.6 ± 95.8	474.7 ± 120.2
C _{max} (ng/mL)	130.7±31.7	132.4 ± 44.0
T _{max} (hr)	3.3 ± 0.4	3.4 ± 0.5

After 60 mg tablets at steady state:

	<u>Cardizem</u>	<u>Apo-Diltiaz</u>
AUC ₀₋₁₅ (ng•hr/mL)	1042.7 ± 242.7	1047.6 ± 208.5
C _{max} (ng/mL)	240.8 ± 53.6	239.5 ± 49.9
T _{max} (hr)	2.8 ± 0.9	3.0 ± 0.8

Apo-Diltiaz SR vs. Cardizem SR

Four bioavailability studies were performed using healthy human volunteers - one using the 60 mg sustained release capsules and three using the 120 mg sustained release capsules. The rate and extent of absorption of diltiazem were measured and compared after 1) single and multiple oral dosage of Cardizem SR 120 mg capsules and Apo-Diltiaz SR 120 mg capsules, and 2) multiple oral dosage of Cardizem SR 60 mg capsules and Apo-Diltiaz SR 60 mg capsules. The results from measured data are summarized as follows:

After 120 mg sustained release capsules (fasting study):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV%)</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)**</u>
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz SR</u>	<u>Cardizem SR[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	651 702 (38)	712 746 (30)	91.0
AUC _x (ng•hr/mL)	499 532 (35)	496 517 (28)	100.0
AUC _I (ng•hr/mL)	706 759 (38)	774 812 (30)	91.0
T _{max} * (hr)	6.07 (1.03)	7.33 (1.40)	-
t _{1/2} * (hr)	4.76 (1.12)	4.63 (0.99)	-

* For the T_{max} and t_{1/2} parameters, these are the arithmetic means (standard deviations).

** Based on least square estimates.

[†] Cardizem SR (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

After 120 mg sustained release capsules (food study):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV%)</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)</u>
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz SR</u>	<u>Cardizem SR[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	706 798 (48)	757 809 (37)	93.0
AUC _x (ng•hr/mL)	538 598 (45)	512 549 (38)	105.0
AUC _l (ng•hr/mL)	776 873 (48)	826 883 (38)	94.0
C _{max} (ng/mL)	83.5 91.1 (43)	97.3 105 (41)	86.0
T _{max} * (hr)	5.63 (0.81)	8.13 (1.50)	-
t _{1/2} * (hr)	5.07 (1.00)	4.53 (1.02)	-

* For the T_{max} and t_{1/2} parameters, these are the arithmetic means (standard deviations).

[†] Cardizem SR (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

After 120 mg sustained release capsules (at steady state):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV%)</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)</u>
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz SR</u>	<u>Cardizem SR[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	1744 1859 (40)	1634 1721 (37)	107.0
C _{max} (ng/mL)	212 224 (36)	210 218 (28)	101.0
C _{min} (ng/mL)	80.8 88.3 (48)	76.5 84.1 (49)	106.0
T _{max} * (hr)	4.81 (1.17)	6.69 (1.82)	-

Fluctuation* (%) 90.7 (15.3) 98.3 (30.6) -

* For the T_{max} , $t_{1/2}$ and Fluctuation parameters, these are the arithmetic means (standard deviations).

† Cardizem SR (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

After 60 mg sustained release capsules (at steady state):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)</u>
	<u>Arithmetic Mean (CV%)</u>		
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz SR</u>	<u>Cardizem SR[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	665 772 (57)	594 702 (57)	112.0
C _{max} (ng/mL)	79.2 89.9 (51)	76.1 88.7 (51)	104.1
C _{min} (ng/mL)	32.3 38.2 (61)	31.1 38.7 (66)	103.9
T _{max} * (hr)	5.50 (1.02)	6.29 (1.90)	-
Fluctuation* (%)	84.6 (16.8)	92.0 (30.2)	-

* For the T_{max} , $t_{1/2}$ and Fluctuation parameters, these are the arithmetic means (standard deviations).

† Cardizem SR (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

Apo-Diltiaz CD vs. Cardizem CD

Four bioavailability studies were performed on healthy human volunteers - three using the 300 mg controlled delivery capsule and one using the 120 mg controlled delivery capsule. The rate and extent of absorption of diltiazem were measured and compared after 1) single or multiple oral dosage of APO-DILTIAZ CD 300 mg capsules and CARDIZEM CD 300 mg capsules and 2) multiple oral dosage of APO-DILTIAZ CD 120 mg capsules and CARDIZEM CD 120 mg capsules. The results from measured data are summarized as follows:

After 300 mg controlled delivery capsules (food study):

Geometric Mean
Arithmetic Mean (CV%)

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Apo-Diltiaz CD</u>	<u>Cardizem CD[†]</u>	<u>Ratio of Means (%)[*]</u>
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	2428 2787 (59)	2517 3001 (65)	96.4
AUC _x (ng•hr/mL)	1874 2121 (56)	1722 1998 (59)	108.4
AUC _I (ng•hr/mL)	2489 2856 (59)	2602 3097 (65)	95.6
C _{max} (ng/mL)	136 155 (53)	122 141 (58)	110.8
T _{max} (hr)	8.40 (49)	16.0 (50)	-
t _{1/2} (hr)	4.77 (28)	5.21 (28)	-

The T_{max} and t_{1/2} parameters are expressed as the arithmetic means.

* Based on the least square estimate of the geometric means.

[†] Cardizem CD (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

After 300 mg controlled delivery capsules (fasting study):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)[*]</u>
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz CD</u>	<u>Cardizem CD[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	2037 2133 (30)	2026 2192 (38)	100.5
AUC _x (ng•hr/mL)	1616 1697 (31)	1530 1659 (40)	105.6
AUC _I (ng•hr/mL)	2067 2158 (29)	2059 2226 (39)	101.1
C _{max} (ng/mL)	107 112 (29)	118 127 (39)	90.8
T _{max} (hr)	10.6 (57)	11.2 (52)	-
t _{1/2} (hr)	5.58 (21)	6.05 (22)	-

The T_{max} and $t_{1/2}$ parameters are expressed as the arithmetic means.

* Based on the least square estimate of the geometric means.

† Cardizem CD (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

After 300 mg controlled delivery capsules (at steady state):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV%)</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)</u>
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz CD</u>	<u>Cardizem CD[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	3121 3345 (38)	3100 3307 (36)	100.7
C _{max} (ng/mL)	206 220 (38)	200 214 (36)	102.7
C _{min} (ng/mL)	73.8 82.7 (47)	80.4 89.4 (46)	91.7
T _{max} (hr)	7.25 (40)	7.00 (65)	-
Fluctuation (%)	102 (25)	93.9 (36)	-

The T_{max} and fluctuation parameters are expressed as the arithmetic means.

† Cardizem CD (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

After 120 mg controlled delivery capsules (at steady state):

<u>Parameter</u>	<u>Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV%)</u>		<u>Ratio of Means (%)</u>
	<u>Apo-Diltiaz CD</u>	<u>Cardizem CD[†]</u>	
AUC _t (ng•hr/mL)	775 827 (34)	779 825 (33)	100
C _{max} (ng/mL)	55.0 58.3 (33)	55.8 58.4 (31)	99
C _{min} (ng/mL)	16.7 17.2 (50)	15.3 16.7 (42)	104

T _{max} (hr)	7.94 (42)	8.00 (62)	-
Fluctuation (%)	124 (17)	125 (21)	-

The T_{max} and fluctuation parameters are expressed as the arithmetic means.

† Cardizem CD (Marion Merrell Dow (Canada) Inc.) was purchased at a Canadian retail pharmacy.

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

A. APO-DILTIAZ Tablets

Angina

1. APO-DILTIAZ (diltiazem HCl) tablets may be used in the management of angina resulting from coronary artery spasm.
2. APO-DILTIAZ tablets are indicated for the management of chronic stable angina (effort-associated angina) without evidence of vasospasm in patients who remain symptomatic despite adequate doses of beta-blockers and/or organic nitrates or who cannot tolerate those agents.
3. APO-DILTIAZ tablets may be useful in unstable angina when spasm of the coronary vessels is definitely a contributing factor (e.g. ST segment elevation). In the absence of objective evidence of a spastic component, nitrates or nitrates plus a beta-blocker are at present the treatment of choice. If, in the view of a cardiologist, the addition of diltiazem to this regimen is considered necessary and safe, then the use of APO-DILTIAZ tablets might be considered. Generally, the patient should be hospitalized and treatment initiated under the supervision of a cardiologist.
4. APO-DILTIAZ tablets may be tried in combination with beta-blockers in chronic stable angina in patients with normal ventricular function. When such concomitant therapy is introduced, patients must be monitored closely (see WARNINGS).

B. APO-DILTIAZ SR (Twice-a-day) Capsules

Angina

1. APO-DILTIAZ SR is indicated for maintenance therapy in the management of chronic stable angina. Treatment should be initiated and individual titration of dosage carried out using the regular tablets. The sustained release formulation may be substituted as maintenance, provided the dosage requirement is suitable (see also ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY). When patients who have been stabilized on tablets are switched to SR capsules for maintenance, close medical supervision is recommended since in some patients the dosage of the SR formulation may require adjustment.

2. Since the safety and efficacy of SR capsules in the management of unstable or vasospastic angina has not been substantiated, use of this formulation for these indications is not recommended.

Hypertension

APO-DILTIAZ SR is indicated in the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension. APO-DILTIAZ SR should normally be used in those patients in whom treatment with diuretics or beta-blockers has been associated with unacceptable adverse effects.

APO-DILTIAZ SR can be tried as an initial agent in those patients in whom the use of diuretics and/or beta-blockers is contraindicated or in patients with medical conditions in which these drugs frequently cause serious adverse effects.

Combination of diltiazem SR with a diuretic has been found to be compatible and showed additive antihypertensive effects. In a single clinical study, the concomitant use of diltiazem SR with captopril was also found to be compatible.

Safety of concurrent use of diltiazem SR with other antihypertensive agents has not been established.

C. APO-DILTIAZ CD (Once-a-day) Capsules

Angina

1. APO-DILTIAZ CD is indicated for the management of chronic stable angina (effort-associated angina) without evidence of vasospasm in patients who remain symptomatic despite adequate doses of beta-blockers and/or organic nitrates or who cannot tolerate those agents.
2. APO-DILTIAZ CD may be tried in combination with beta-blockers in chronic stable angina patients with normal ventricular function. When such concomitant therapy is introduced, patients must be monitored closely (see WARNINGS).
3. Since the safety and efficacy of CD capsules in the management of unstable or vasospastic angina has not been substantiated, use of this formulation for these indications is not recommended.

Hypertension

APO-DILTIAZ CD is indicated for the treatment of mild to moderate essential hypertension. APO-DILTIAZ CD should normally be used in those patients in whom treatment with diuretics or beta-blockers has been ineffective, or has been associated with unacceptable adverse effects.

APO-DILTIAZ CD can be tried as an initial agent in those patients in whom the use of diuretics and/or beta-blockers is contraindicated, or in patients with medical conditions in which these drugs frequently cause serious adverse effects.

Safety of concurrent use of diltiazem CD with other antihypertensive agents has not been established.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Diltiazem HCl is contraindicated in:

- patients with sick sinus syndrome except in the presence of a functioning ventricular pacemaker;
- patients with second or third degree AV block;
- patients with known hypersensitivity to diltiazem;
- patients with severe hypotension (less than 90 mm Hg systolic);
- myocardial infarction patients, who have left ventricular failure manifested by pulmonary congestion;
- pregnancy and in women of child-bearing potential. Fetal malformations and adverse effects on pregnancy have been reported in animals. In repeated dose studies a high incidence of vertebral column malformations were present in the offspring of mice receiving more than 50 mg/kg of diltiazem HCl orally. Nursing mothers : see PRECAUTIONS.

In the offspring of mice receiving a single oral dose of 50 or 100 mg/kg on day 12 of gestation, the incidence of cleft palate and malformed extremities was significantly higher. Vertebral malformations were most prevalent when they received the drug on day 9. In rats, a significantly higher fetal death rate was present when 200 and 400 mg/kg were given orally on days 9 to 14 of gestation. Single oral dose studies in rats resulted in a significant incidence of skeletal malformations in the offspring of the group receiving 400 mg/kg on day 11. In rabbits, all pregnant dams receiving 70 mg/kg orally from day 6-18 of gestation aborted; at 35 mg/kg, a significant increase in skeletal malformations was recorded in the offspring (see TOXICOLOGY - Reproduction Studies).

- Concomitant use of dantrolene infusion

WARNINGS

Cardiac Conduction

Diltiazem prolongs AV node refractory periods without significantly prolonging sinus node recovery time, except in patients with sick sinus syndrome. This effect may rarely result in abnormally slow heart rates (particularly in patients with sick sinus syndrome) or second or third degree AV block (6 of 1208 patients or 0.5%).

First degree AV block was observed in 5.8% of patients receiving diltiazem CD (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Concomitant use of diltiazem with agents known to affect cardiac conduction (such as beta-blockers, digitalis or amiodarone) may result in additive effects on cardiac conduction (see PRECAUTIONS, Drug Interactions).

Congestive Heart Failure

Because diltiazem has a negative inotropic effect in vitro and it affects cardiac conduction, the drug should only be used with caution and under careful medical supervision in patients with congestive cardiac failure (see also CONTRAINDICATIONS).

Use with Beta-blockers

The combination of diltiazem and beta-blockers warrants caution since in some patients additive effects on heart rate, AV conduction, blood pressure or left ventricular function have been observed. Close medical supervision is recommended.

Generally, diltiazem should not be given to patients with impaired left ventricular function while they receive beta-blockers. However, in exceptional cases when, in the opinion of the physician, concomitant use is considered essential, such use should be instituted gradually in a hospital setting.

Diltiazem gives no protection against the dangers of abrupt beta-blocker withdrawal and such withdrawal should be done by the gradual reduction of the dose of beta-blocker.

Hypotension

Since diltiazem lowers peripheral vascular resistance, decreases in blood pressure may occasionally result in symptomatic hypotension. In patients with angina or arrhythmias using antihypertensive drugs, the additional hypotensive effect of diltiazem should be taken into consideration.

Patients with Myocardial Infarction

Use of diltiazem immediate-release at 240 mg per day started 3 to 15 days after a myocardial infarction was associated with an increase in cardiac events in patients with pulmonary congestion, and no overall effect on mortality. Although there has not been a study of diltiazem SR or diltiazem CD in acute myocardial infarction reported, the use of diltiazem SR or diltiazem CD may have effects similar to those of diltiazem immediate-release in acute myocardial infarction.

Acute Hepatic Injury

In rare instances, significant elevations in alkaline phosphatase, CPK, LDH, SGOT, SGPT and symptoms consistent with acute hepatic injury have been observed. These reactions have been reversible upon discontinuation of drug therapy. Although a causal relationship to diltiazem has not been established in all cases, a drug induced hypersensitivity reaction is suspected (see ADVERSE REACTIONS). As with any drug given over prolonged periods, laboratory parameters should be monitored at regular intervals.

PRECAUTIONS

Dermatological Events

Dermatological events (see ADVERSE REACTIONS) may be transient and may disappear despite continued use of diltiazem. However, skin eruptions progressing to erythema multiforme and /or exfoliative dermatitis have also been infrequently reported. Should a dermatologic reaction persist, the drug should be discontinued

Impaired Hepatic or Renal Function

Diltiazem should be used with caution in patients with renal or hepatic impairment. Because diltiazem is extensively metabolized by the liver and excreted by the kidneys and in bile, monitoring of laboratory parameters and cautious dosage titration are recommended in patients with impaired hepatic or renal function (see ADVERSE REACTIONS).

Nursing Mothers

Diltiazem has been reported to be excreted in human milk. One report suggests that concentrations in breast milk may approximate serum levels. Since diltiazem safety in newborns has not been established, it should not be given to nursing mothers.

Patients with Diabetes

Careful monitoring is necessary to detect new onset of diabetes or in patients with diabetes mellitus (type 1 or type 2) due to an increase in blood glucose.

Pediatric Use

The safety of diltiazem in children has not yet been established.

Use in the Elderly

Administration of diltiazem to elderly patients (over or equal to 65 years of age) requires caution. The incidence of adverse reactions is approximately 13% higher in this group. Those adverse reactions which occur more frequently include: peripheral edema, bradycardia, palpitation, dizziness, rash and polyuria. Therefore particular care in titration is advisable (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Drug Interactions

Due to the potential for additive effects, caution and careful titration are warranted in patients receiving Cardizem CD concomitantly with other agents known to affect cardiac contractility and/or conduction.

Cytochrome P450 System

As with all drugs, care should be exercised when treating patients with multiple medications. Calcium channel blockers undergo biotransformation by the cytochrome P450 system. Coadministration of diltiazem with other drugs which follow the same route of biotransformation may result in altered bioavailability. Dosages of similarly metabolized drugs, particularly those of low therapeutic ratio, and especially in patients with renal and/or hepatic impairment, may require adjustment when starting or stopping concomitantly administered diltiazem to maintain optimum therapeutic blood levels.

Drugs known to be inhibitors of the cytochrome P450 system include: azole antifungals, cimetidine, cyclosporine, erythromycin, quinidine, warfarin.

Drugs known to be inducers of the cytochrome P450 system include: phenobarbital, phenytoin, rifampin.

Drugs known to be biotransformed via P450 include: benzodiazepines, flecainide, imipramine, propafenone, terfenadine, theophylline.

Table 1- Established or Potential Drug-Drug Interactions			
Agent	Ref	Effect	Clinical comment
Alpha-antagonists	T	↑ antihypertensive	Concomitant treatment with -antagonists may produce or aggravate hypotension. The combination of diltiazem with an antagonist should be considered only with the strict monitoring of blood pressure.
Amiodarone, digoxin	CT	↑ bradycardia	Severe conduction system abnormalities including heart block of varying degree, sinus arrest and a low cardiac output state of life threatening severity have been reported following concomitant use of diltiazem and amiodarone. These drugs may also have additive effects on cardiac conduction and contractility. Increased risk of bradycardia. is seen with amiodarone. Caution is required when these are combined with diltiazem, particularly in elderly subjects and when high doses are used.
Anaesthetics	T	↑ depression of cardiac contractility,	The depression of cardiac contractility, conductivity, and automaticity as well as the vascular dilation associated with anesthetics may be potentiated by calcium channel blockers. When used concomitantly, anesthetics and calcium channel blockers should be titrated carefully.
Benzodiazepines	CT	↑ benzodiazepines	Diltiazem significantly increases peak plasma

(midazolam, triazolam)		plasma concentration	levels and the elimination half-life of triazolam and midazolam. Special care (close medical supervision and/or dose adjustment) should be taken when prescribing short-acting benzodiazepines metabolized by CYP3A4 in patients using diltiazem.
Beta-Blockers	T, CT	Arrhythmic effect ↑ propranolol exposure	The concomitant administration of diltiazem with beta-adrenergic blocking drugs warrants caution because of rhythm disturbances occurrence, and requires close medical supervision and ECG monitoring, particularly at the beginning of treatment. Such an association may have an additive a synergetic effect on heart rate, on sino-atrial and AV conduction or on blood pressure (e.g. pronounced bradycardia, sinus arrest, and heart failure) (see WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS). Appropriate dosage adjustments may be necessary. A study in five normal subjects showed that diltiazem increased propranolol bioavailability by 50%.
Carbamazepine	CT		Concomitant administration of diltiazem with carbamazepine has been reported to result in elevated serum levels of carbamazepine (40% to 72% increase), resulting in toxicity in some cases. Patients receiving these drugs concurrently should be monitored for a potential drug interaction and dose adjustment of carbamazepine and/or diltiazem may be necessary.
Anti-H ₂ agents (Cimetidine, ranitidine)	CT	↑ cimetidine, ranitidine exposure	A study in six healthy volunteers has shown a significant increase in peak diltiazem plasma levels C _{max} (58%) and area-under-the-curve AUC (53%) after a 1-week course of cimetidine at 1200 mg per day and a single dose of oral diltiazem 60 mg. Ranitidine produced smaller, nonsignificant increases. Patients currently receiving diltiazem therapy should be carefully monitored for a change in pharmacological effect when initiating and discontinuing therapy with cimetidine. An adjustment in the diltiazem dose may be warranted.
Corticosteroids (methylprednisolone)	T	↑ P-gp plasma concentration	Inhibition of methylprednisolone metabolism (CYP3A4) and inhibition of P-glycoprotein by diltiazem. Therefore, patients should be monitored when initiating methylprednisolone treatment and a dose adjustment may be necessary.
Cyclosporine	CT	↓ cyclosporine concentration in specific	Concomitant administration of diltiazem and cyclosporine has resulted in an increase in cyclosporine concentrations. A pharmacokinetic

		population	interaction between diltiazem and cyclosporine has been observed during studies involving renal and cardiac transplant patients. In renal and cardiac transplant recipients, a reduction of cyclosporine dose ranging from 15% to 48% was necessary to maintain cyclosporine trough concentrations similar to those seen prior to the addition of diltiazem. If these agents are to be administered concurrently, cyclosporine concentrations should be monitored, especially when diltiazem therapy is initiated, adjusted or discontinued. Downward titration of the cyclosporine dose may be necessary. The effect of cyclosporine on diltiazem plasma concentrations has not been evaluated.
Dantrolene (infusion)	CT	Ventricular fibrillation effect in animals observed	Lethal ventricular fibrillation is regularly observed in animals when intravenous verapamil and dantrolene are administered concomitantly. The combination of calcium-channel antagonist and dantrolene is therefore potentially dangerous (see CONTRAINDICATIONS)
Digitalis	CT	↑ digoxin serum level	Diltiazem and digitalis glycosides may have an additive effect in prolonging AV conduction. In clinical trials, concurrent administration of diltiazem and digoxin have resulted in increases in serum digoxin levels with prolongation of AV conduction. This increase may result from a decrease in renal clearance of digoxin. Patients on concomitant therapy, especially those with renal impairment, should be carefully monitored. The dose of digoxin may need downward adjustment
Lithium	T	↑ Lithium neurotoxicity	Risk of increased in lithium-induced neurotoxicity
Other antiarrhythmic agents	T	↑ antiarrhythmic effect	Since diltiazem has antiarrhythmic properties, its concomitant prescription with other antiarrhythmic agents is not recommended (additive risk of increased cardiac adverse effects). This combination should only be used under close clinical and ECG monitoring
Rifampicin	CT	↓ diltiazem plasma concentration	Administration of diltiazem with rifampicin markedly reduced plasma diltiazem concentrations and the therapeutic effect of diltiazem. Patients should be carefully monitored when initiating or discontinuing rifampicin therapy.

Short and Long Acting Nitrates	T	↑ vasodilating effect	Increased hypotensive effects and faintness (additive vasodilating effects) are observed when nitrates are coadministered with Calcium Channels Inhibitors. In patients treated with calcium antagonists, the prescription of nitrate derivatives should only be carried out gradually at increasing doses due to increased hypotensive effects.
Statins (lovastatin, pravastatin)	CT	↑ lovastatin exposure No effect on pravastatin.	In a ten-subject study, coadministration of diltiazem with lovastatin resulted in a 3-4 times increase in mean lovastatin AUC and C _{max} versus lovastatin alone; no change in pravastatin AUC and C _{max} was observed during diltiazem coadministration. Diltiazem plasma levels were not significantly affected by lovastatin or pravastatin.
Theophylline	T	↑ antihypertensive	Increased antihypertensive effects.

Calcium Antagonists (verapamil, nifedipine): Limited clinical experience suggests that in certain severe conditions not responding adequately to verapamil or to nifedipine, using diltiazem in conjunction with either of these drugs may be beneficial.

Drug-Food Interactions

Alcohol:

Alcohol can exhibit hypotensive effects. Coadministration with antihypertensive agents including diltiazem may result in additive effects on blood pressure and orthostasis. Patients should be advised that alcohol may potentiate the hypotensive effects of diltiazem, especially during the initiation of therapy and following a dosage increase. Caution should be exercised when rising from a sitting or recumbent position, and patients should notify their physician if they experience dizziness, lightheadedness, syncope, orthostasis, or tachycardia.

Grapefruit Juice

Grapefruit Juice may increase the plasma concentrations of orally administered diltiazem in some patients. The proposed mechanism is inhibition of CYP450 3A4-mediated first-pass metabolism in the gut wall by certain compounds present in grapefruit.

Patients who regularly consume grapefruit or grapefruit juice should be monitored for increased adverse effects of diltiazem such as headache, irregular heartbeat, edema, unexplained weight gain, and chest pain. Grapefruit and grapefruit juice should be avoided if an interaction is suspected.

Multivitamins with minerals:

Calcium-containing products may decrease the effectiveness of calcium channel blockers by saturating calcium channels with calcium. Calcium chloride has been used to manage acute severe verapamil toxicity. Monitoring of the effectiveness of calcium channel blocker therapy is advised during coadministration with calcium products.

Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

Drug-Laboratory Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS**DILTIAZEM TABLETS**

(See also Overall Diltiazem Safety Profile.)

A safety evaluation was carried out in controlled clinical trials with 1208 North American angina patients, some of whom were severely ill and were receiving multiple concomitant therapy. Adverse effects were reported in 19.6% of patients and required discontinuation of treatment in 7.2%.

The most common occurrences and their frequency are: nausea (2.7%), swelling/edema (2.4%), arrhythmia (2.0%) (AV block, bradycardia, tachycardia and sinus arrest), headache (2.0%), rash (1.8%) and asthenia (1.1 %).

In addition, the following events were reported in less than 1.0% of cases:

Cardiovascular: Angina, bradycardia, congestive heart failure, flushing, hypotension, palpitations, syncope. A patient with Prinzmetal's angina experiencing episodes of vasospastic angina developed periods of transient asymptomatic asystole approximately 5 hours after receiving a single 60 mg dose of diltiazem.

Nervous System: Amnesia, confusion, depression, dizziness, drowsiness, gait abnormality, hallucinations, insomnia, nervousness, paresthesia, personality change, tremor, weakness.

Gastrointestinal: Anorexia, constipation, diarrhea, dyspepsia, vomiting.

Dermatologic: Petechiae, pruritus, urticaria.

Other: Amblyopia, decreased sexual performance, dysgeusia, dyspnea, epistaxis, eye irritation, hyperglycemia, nocturia, osteoarticular pain, paresthesia, photosensitivity, polyuria, thirst, tinnitus, weight increase.

Rarely, reports of extremely elevated liver enzymes, cholestasis, hyperbilirubinemia, jaundice, epigastric pain, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, stool discoloration, dark urine and weight loss have been reported. The symptoms and laboratory test abnormalities have been reversible upon drug discontinuation (see WARNINGS).

Two incidents of marked hyperglycemia, hyperkalemia, bradycardia, asthenia, hypotension and gastrointestinal disturbances have been reported in diabetic patients receiving diltiazem, glyburide and a beta-blocker along with several other medications. Drugs were discontinued and

supportive measures were administered which resulted in the patients fully recovering within a few days.

Laboratory Tests: In rare instances, mild to moderate transient elevations of alkaline phosphatase, SGOT, SGPT, LDH and CPK, have been noted during diltiazem therapy.

DILTIAZEM SUSTAINED RELEASE CAPSULES

A safety evaluation was carried out in controlled and open label studies in 611 hypertensive patients treated with diltiazem sustained release capsules either alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents. Adverse effects were reported in 34.2% of patients and required discontinuation of therapy in 7.2%•

The most common adverse effects were: peripheral edema (8.3%), headache (4.9%), dizziness (4.7%), asthenia (3.9%), vasodilation (flushing) (2.3%) and bradycardia (2.1 %).

The following percentage of adverse effects, divided by system, was reported:

Cardiovascular: Edema (peripheral) (8.3%), vasodilation (flushing) (2.3%), bradycardia (2.1 %), AV block (first degree) (1.6%), palpitations (1.3%), arrhythmia (1.0%), heart failure (right) (0.5%).

Central Nervous System: Headache (4.9%), dizziness (4.7%), asthenia (3.9%), somnolence (1.0%), nervousness (anxiety) (0.8%), paresthesia (0.7%), insomnia (0.5%), depression (0.5%), dream abnormality (0.5%), tinnitus (0.5%).

Gastrointestinal: Dyspepsia (1.1%), nausea (1.1 %), constipation (0.7%).

Dermatologic: Rash (1.6%).

Laboratory Tests: Increased alkaline phosphatase (0.7%).

Other: Impotence (1.6%), musculoskeletal pain (1.5%), nocturia (1.1 %), polyuria (1.0%), rhinitis (0.5%).

The following additional adverse effects have occurred with an incidence of less than 0.5% in clinical trials: syncope, AV block, postural hypotension, chest pain, dyspnea, tremor, gait abnormality, vertigo, taste alteration, anorexia, increased appetite, dry mouth, vomiting, diarrhea, increased saliva, acute hepatic injury, pruritus, urticaria, conjunctivitis, amblyopia, ejaculation abnormality, malaise, fever.

The following abnormal laboratory findings have been rarely reported: increased SGOT/SGPT, bilirubinemia, hyperproteinemia, hypercholesteremia, hyperlipidemia, hyperglycemia, hypokalemia, urine abnormality (see PRECAUTIONS).

DILTIAZEM CONTROLLED DELIVERY CAPSULES

Angina

The safety of diltiazem CD, administered at doses up to 360 mg per day, was evaluated in 365 patients with chronic stable angina treated in controlled and open label clinical trials. Adverse events were reported in 21.1 % of patients, and required discontinuation in 2.2% of patients.

The most common adverse effects reported were: first degree AV block (5.8%), dizziness (3.0%), headache (3.0%), asthenia (2.7%), bradycardia (2.5%), and angina pectoris (1.6%).

The following percentage of adverse effects, divided by system, was reported:

Cardiovascular: First degree AV block (5.8%), bradycardia (2.5%), angina pectoris (1.6%), peripheral edema (1.4%), palpitations (1.1%), and ventricular extrasystoles (0.8%).

Central Nervous System: Dizziness (3.0%), headache (3.0%), asthenia (2.7%), insomnia (1.1 %), nervousness (0.8%).

Dermatological: Rash (0.8%).Gastrointestinal: Nausea (1.4%), diarrhea (0.5%).

Other: Amblyopia (0.5%).

The following additional adverse effects have occurred with an incidence of less than 0.5% in clinical trials: bundle branch block, ventricular tachycardia, ECG abnormality, supraventricular extrasystoles, chest pain, syncope, postural hypotension, paresthesia, tremor, depression, mental confusion, impotence, abdominal pain, constipation, GI disorder, epistaxis, nuchal rigidity, myalgia.

Hypertension

A safety evaluation was carried out in controlled studies in 378 hypertensive patients treated with diltiazem CD at doses up to 360 mg per day. Adverse effects were reported in 30.7% of patients and required discontinuation of therapy in 2.1%.

The most common adverse effects were: headache (8.7%), edema (4.0%), bradycardia (3.7%), dizziness (3.4%), ECG abnormality (2.9%), asthenia (2.6%) and first degree AV block (2.1 %).

The following percentage of adverse effects, divided by system, was reported:

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Leukopenia (1.1%)

Cardiovascular: Peripheral edema (4.0%), bradycardia (3.7%), ECG abnormalities (2.9%), first degree AV block (2.1 %), arrhythmia (1.6%), vasodilation (flushing) (1.6%), bundle branch block (0.8%), cardiomegaly (0.5%), hypotension (0.5%).

Gastrointestinal: Constipation (1.3%), dyspepsia (1.3%), diarrhea (0.6%).

Investigations: ALT increase (0.8%).

Nervous System and psychiatric disorders: Headache (8.7%), dizziness (3.4%), asthenia (2.6%), somnolence (1.3%), nervousness (1.1 %).

Renal and urinary disorders: nocturia (0.5%).

The following additional adverse effects have occurred with an incidence of less than 0.5% in clinical trials: systolic murmur, supraventricular extrasystoles, migraine, tachycardia, increased appetite, increase in weight, albuminuria, bilirubinemia, hyperuricemia, thirst, insomnia, vertigo, nausea, pruritus, rash, increased perspiration, polyuria, amblyopia, tinnitus, and elevations in creatine kinase, alkaline phosphatase, and AST.

Overall Diltiazem Safety Profile

In clinical trials of diltiazem tablets, diltiazem SR capsules and diltiazem CD capsules involving over 3300 patients, the most common adverse reactions were headache (4.6%), edema (4.6%), dizziness (3.5%), asthenia (2.7%), first-degree AV block (2.4%), bradycardia (1.7%), flushing (1.5%), nausea (1.4%), rash (1.2%), and dyspepsia (1.0%).

In addition, the following events were reported with a frequency of less than 1.0%.

Cardiovascular: Angina, arrhythmia, bundle branch block, tachycardia, ventricular extrasystoles, congestive heart failure, syncope, palpitations, AV block (second- or third-degree), hypotension, ECG abnormalities.

Dermatological: Petechiae, pruritus, photosensitivity, urticaria.

Eye disorders: Amblyopia, eye irritation.

Gastrointestinal disorders: Anorexia, diarrhea, dysgeusia, dyspepsia, vomiting, weight increase, thirst, constipation.

General disorders and administration site conditions: Malaise (reported as common adverse reaction), osteoarticular pain.

Investigations: Elevations of AST, ALT, LDH, and alkaline phosphatase (see WARNINGS), CPK increase.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders: hyperglycemia, hyperuricemia.

Nervous System and psychiatric disorders: Amnesia, depression, gait abnormality, nervousness, somnolence, hallucinations, paresthesia, personality change, tinnitus, tremor, abnormal dreams, insomnia

Renal and urinary disorders: Nocturia, polyuria.

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: Dyspnea, epistaxis, nasal congestion.

Sexual dysfunction disturbances and gender identity disorders: Impotence, sexual difficulties.

Vascular disorders: Orthostatic hypotension

Post-Marketing Surveillance:

The following postmarketing events have been reported infrequently in patients receiving diltiazem: sinoatrial block, congestive heart failure, acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis, allergic reactions, alopecia, hyperglycaemia, diabetes (new onset), worsening of existing diabetes (type 1 or type 2), angioneurotic oedema, asystole, erythema multiforme (including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis), exfoliative dermatitis (see PRECAUTIONS), extrapyramidal symptoms, occasionally desquamative erythema with or without fever, gingival hyperplasia, gynecomastia, hemolytic anemia, detached retina, hepatitis, increased bleeding time, leukopenia, mood changes (including depression), myopathy, photosensitivity (including lichenoid keratosis at sun exposed skin areas), purpura, retinopathy, sweating, and thrombocytopenia. Isolated cases of angioedema have been reported. Angioedema may be accompanied by breathing difficulty. In addition, events such as myocardial infarction have been observed which are not readily distinguishable from the natural history of the disease in these patients. A number of well documented cases of generalized rash, characterized as leukocytoclastic vasculitis, have been reported. However, a definitive cause and effect relationship between these events and diltiazem therapy is yet to be established.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF OVERDOSAGE

There have been reports of diltiazem overdose in amounts ranging from <1 g to 18 g. In cases with a fatal outcome, the majority involved multiple drug ingestion.

For the management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional Poison Control Centre.

Events observed following diltiazem overdose included bradycardia, hypotension, heart block and cardiac failure. Most reports of overdose described some supportive medical measure and/or drug treatment. Bradycardia frequently responded favourably to atropine as did heart block, although cardiac pacing was also frequently utilized to treat heart block. Fluids and vasopressors were used to maintain blood pressure, and in cases of cardiac failure, inotropic agents were administered. In addition, some patients received treatment with ventilatory support, gastric lavage, activated charcoal, and intravenous calcium.

The effectiveness of intravenous calcium administration to reverse the pharmacological effects of diltiazem overdose has been inconsistent. In a few reported cases, overdose with calcium channel blockers associated with hypotension and bradycardia that was initially refractory to atropine became more responsive to atropine after the patients received intravenous calcium. In some cases intravenous calcium has been administered (1 g calcium chloride or 3 g calcium

gluconate) over 5 minutes, and repeated every 10-20 minutes as necessary. Calcium gluconate has also been administered as a continuous infusion at a rate of 2 g per hour for 10 hours. Infusions of calcium for 24 hours or more may be required. Patients should be monitored for signs of hypercalcemia.

In the event of overdosage or exaggerated response, appropriate supportive measures should be employed in addition to gastric lavage. Limited data suggest that plasmapheresis or charcoal hemoperfusion may hasten diltiazem elimination. The following measures may be considered:

Bradycardia

Administer atropine. If there is no response to vagal blockade, administer isoproterenol cautiously.

High Degree AV Block

Treat as for bradycardia above. Fixed high degree AV block should be treated with cardiac pacing.

Cardiac failure

Administer inotropic agents (isoproterenol, dopamine or dobutamine) and diuretics.

Hypotension

Vasopressors (e.g., dopamine or levarterenol bitartrate).

Actual treatment and dosage should depend on the severity of the clinical situation.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

APO-DILTIAZ Tablets

Angina

Chronic Stable Angina or Vasospastic Angina

Dosage must be adjusted to each patient's needs. Starting with 30 mg 4 times daily, before meals and at bedtime, dosage may be increased gradually to 240 mg a day (given in 3-4 equally divided doses) at one to two day intervals, until optimum response is obtained. Limited clinical experience in rare resistant cases suggests that dosage of up to 360 mg a day in 3-4 equally divided doses may be tried under careful supervision.

In patients with vasospastic angina, the last dose of the day may be given at bedtime to help minimize angina pain which in such patients frequently occurs in early morning.

Unstable Angina Pectoris

Dosage of APO-DILTIAZ tablets should be carefully titrated in the Intensive Care Unit, up to 360 mg/day given in 3-4 equally divided doses. The titration should be done as rapidly as possible with consideration of concomitant therapy (see PRECAUTIONS - Drug Interactions).

APO-DILTIAZ SR (Twice-a-day) Capsules

Angina

APO-DILTIAZ SR is intended for maintenance therapy in chronic stable angina patients requiring doses within the range of 120 to 360 mg/day. **Initiation of treatment and individual titration of dosage should be carried out using the conventional tablets.** APO-DILTIAZ SR may be preferred for maintenance because of the convenience of twice daily dosage. Patients stabilized on a maintenance regimen between 120 and 360 mg of regular tablets may be changed to the same daily dose of APO-DILTIAZ SR capsules divided into 2 equal doses and taken every 12 hours. **When patients are switched to SR capsules, close medical supervision is recommended since in some patients the dosage of the SR formulation may require adjustment.**

Hypertension

Dosage should be individualized depending on patient tolerance and responsiveness to APO-DILTIAZ SR capsules and to concurrent antihypertensive medications (see INDICATIONS and PRECAUTIONS).

The adult dose range is 120 to 360 mg per day administered in two equally divided doses. Although individual patients may respond to any dosage level, the average optimum dosage range in clinical trials is between 240 and 360 mg/day. Maximum antihypertensive effect is usually observed by the second to fourth week of chronic therapy, therefore dosage adjustments should be scheduled accordingly.

A maximum daily dose of 360 mg should not be exceeded.

There is evidence that the effective dose in the elderly (over 65 years of age) is somewhat lower than in younger patients (average dose: 255 mg vs 288 mg respectively); therefore APO-DILTIAZ SR should be administered cautiously to elderly patients and the dosage should be carefully and gradually adjusted depending on patient tolerance and response (see PRECAUTIONS).

Diltiazem SR has an additive antihypertensive effect when used concomitantly with other antihypertensive agents. Therefore, it may be necessary to decrease the dose of APO-DILTIAZ SR and/or the dose of the concomitant antihypertensive drug when adding one to the other (see INDICATIONS and WARNINGS).

APO-DILTIAZ SR should not be used in severe hepatic or renal dysfunction.

APO-DILTIAZ CD (Once-a-day) Capsules

Angina

Dosages for the treatment of angina should be adjusted to each patient's needs, starting with a dose of 120 mg to 180 mg once daily. Individual patients may respond to higher doses of up to 360 mg once daily. When necessary, titration should be carried out over a 7 to 14 day period.

Patients controlled on diltiazem alone or in combination with other medications may be safely switched to APO-DILTIAZ CD capsules at the nearest equivalent total daily dose. Subsequent titration to higher or lower doses may be necessary and should be initiated as clinically warranted. There is limited experience with doses above 360 mg, however, the incidence of adverse reactions increases as the dose increases with first degree AV block, dizziness, and sinus bradycardia bearing the strongest relationship to dose. Therefore, doses greater than 360 mg are not recommended.

Hypertension

Dosage should be individualized depending on patient's tolerance and responsiveness to APO-DILTIAZ CD capsules. When used as monotherapy, usual starting doses are 180 to 240 mg once daily, although some patients may respond to 120 mg once daily. Maximum antihypertensive effect is usually observed after approximately 2 to 4 weeks of therapy; therefore, dosage adjustments should be scheduled accordingly. The usual dosage range studied in clinical trials was 240 to 360 mg once daily.

A maximum daily dose of 360 mg once daily should not be exceeded.

The dosage of APO-DILTIAZ CD or concomitant antihypertensive agents may need to be adjusted when adding one to the other. See WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS regarding use with beta-blockers.

Hypertensive patients controlled on APO-DILTIAZ SR alone or in combination with other antihypertensive agents may be safely switched to APO-DILTIAZ CD at the same total daily

dose. Subsequent titration to higher or lower doses may be necessary and should be initiated as clinically warranted.

Use in the Elderly

Pharmacokinetics of diltiazem in elderly patients has not been fully elucidated. Preliminary results in elderly patients (over 65 years old) suggest that a lower dosage might be required in this age group. (see PRECAUTIONS).

There are few available data concerning dosage requirements in patients with impaired renal or hepatic function. If diltiazem must be used in these patients, the dosage should be carefully and gradually adjusted depending on patient tolerance and response (see PRECAUTIONS).

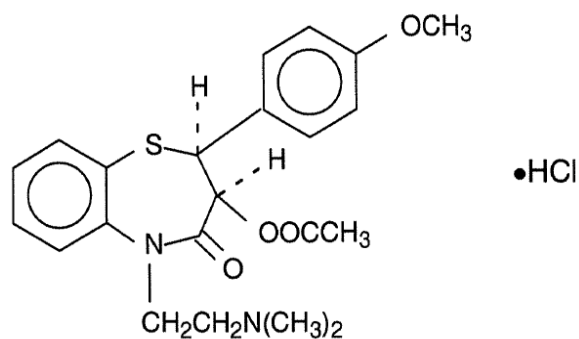
APO-DILTIAZ tablets, APO-DILTIAZ SR capsules, or APO-DILTIAZ CD capsules should not be chewed or crushed.

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance

Chemically, diltiazem hydrochloride is 1,5-benzothiazepin-4(5H)-one,3-(acetyloxy)-5-[2-(dimethylamino) ethyl]-2,3-dihydro-2-(4-methoxyphenyl)-, monohydrochloride, (+)-cis

Chemical Structure



Empirical Formula: $C_{22}H_{26}N_2O_4S \cdot HCl$

Molecular Weight: 450.98

Description:

The compound is a white crystalline substance or powder having a bitter taste or odour. Diltiazem is considered freely soluble in water, methanol or chloroform, slightly soluble in absolute ethanol and barely soluble in benzene.

Composition

Apo-Diltiaz Tablets: In addition to diltiazem HCl, each tablet contains the non-medicinal ingredients lactose, hydroxypropyl methylcellulose, magnesium stearate, colloidal silicon dioxide, D&C yellow #10, polyethylene glycol, titanium dioxide, FD&C blue #1 (30 mg tablet only) and FD&C yellow #6 (60 mg tablet only).

Apo-Diltiaz SR (Twice-a-day) Capsules: In addition to diltiazem HCl, each capsule contains the non-medicinal ingredients microcrystalline cellulose, methylcellulose, tributyl citrate, polysorbate 80, talc and eudragit. The capsule shell contains the non-medicinal ingredients gelatin, titanium dioxide, FD&C blue #1, FD&C red #40, FD&C yellow #6 and D&C yellow #10.

APO-Diltiaz CD (Once-a-day) Capsules: In addition to diltiazem HCl, each capsule contains the non-medicinal ingredients microcrystalline cellulose, methylcellulose, tributyl citrate, polysorbate 80, talc and eudragit. The capsule shell contains the non-medicinal ingredients gelatin, titanium dioxide, FD&C blue #1 and black iron oxide (300 mg only).

Storage Recommendations

Store at room temperature 15-30°C (59-86°F). Protect unit dose packages and Apo-LTC Paks from humidity and light.

AVAILABILITY OF DOSAGE FORMS

APO-DILTIAZ Tablets

APO-DILTIAZ 30 mg are round, biconvex, light green, film-coated tablets, plain one side, identified "APO" over "D30" on the other side. Available in bottles of 100 and 500.

APO-DILTIAZ 60 mg are round, biconvex, yellow, scored, film-coated tablets, plain one side, identified "APO" over "D60" on the other side. Available in bottles of 100 and 500.

APO-DILTIAZ SR (Twice-a-day) Capsules

APO-DILTIAZ SR 60 mg are hard gelatin #4 capsules with an ivory body and a chocolate brown cap, imprinted APO 60. Each capsule contains 60 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of 100,250 and 500, unit dose packages of 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

APO-DILTIAZ SR 90 mg are hard gelatin #3 capsules with a gold body and a chocolate brown cap, imprinted APO 90. Each capsule contains 90 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of 100,250 and 500, unit dose packages of 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

APO-DILTIAZ SR 120 mg are hard gelatin #2 capsules with a caramel body and a chocolate brown cap, imprinted APO 120. Each capsule contains 120 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of 100, 250 and 500, unit dose packages of 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

APO-DILTIAZ CD (Once-a-day) Capsules

APO-DILTIAZ CD 120 mg are hard gelatin #1 capsules with a light turquoise body and a light turquoise cap, imprinted APO 120. Each capsule contains 120 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of 100, 250 and 500, unit dose packages of 30 and 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

APO-DILTIAZ CD 180 mg are hard gelatin #1 capsules with a light turquoise body and a light blue cap, imprinted APO 180. Each capsule contains 180 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of 100,250 and 500, unit dose packages of 30 and 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

APO-DILTIAZ CD 240 mg are hard gelatin #0 capsules with a light blue body and a light blue cap, imprinted APO 240. Each capsule contains 240 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of

100,250 and 500, unit dose packages of 30 and 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

APO-DILTIAZ CD 300 mg are hard gelatin #0 elongated capsules with a light grey body and a light blue cap, imprinted APO 300. Each capsule contains 300 mg of diltiazem HCl. Available in bottles of 100,250 and 500, unit dose packages of 100 (10x10), and Apotex Long-Term Care unit dose packages (Apo-LTC Paks) of 620 (20x31) and 700 (20x35).

INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

Information for the patient: The following contains important information you should know about APO-DILTIAZ CD (diltiazem HCl). It belongs to the group of drugs called “calcium channel blockers” or “calcium antagonists”. Your doctor may have prescribed APO-DILTIAZ CD to help control hypertension (high blood pressure) and/or symptoms of angina (chest pain). APO-DILTIAZ CD relaxes the arteries (blood vessels), thereby lowering blood pressure.

Read this leaflet carefully. It does not replace your doctor’s or pharmacist’s advice. They may have given you different instructions for your particular health condition. Be sure to follow their advice. If you have any questions, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Before you take APO-DILTIAZ CD you should tell your doctor the following:

- If you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.
- If you are breast-feeding.
- About all health problems you have or have had in the past.
- About all medicines you take including ones you can buy without a prescription.
- If you visit more than one doctor, make sure each knows about all the medicines you are taking. If you are allergic to non-medicinal substances like food products, preservatives or dyes, which may be present in APO-DILTIAZ CD (see ingredients).
- If you have ever had a bad, or unusual or allergic reaction to any drug containing diltiazem in the past.

APO-DILTIAZ CD Ingredients: diltiazem HCl, microcrystalline cellulose, methylcellulose, tributyl citrate, polysorbate 80, talc and eudragit. The capsule shell contains the non-medicinal ingredients gelatin, titanium dioxide, FD&C blue #1 and black iron oxide (300 mg only).

How to take APO-DILTIAZ CD: Take APO-DILTIAZ CD exactly as your doctor tells you. Do not miss doses or take extra doses, unless your doctor tells you. If you are not clear about the directions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

- capsules are taken once daily.
- If you are unsure how often you should take your medication, check with your doctor or pharmacist.
- The instructions your doctor gave you may be different from the above. Be sure to follow your doctor’s or pharmacist’s instructions.
- It is important to take APO-DILTIAZ CD at about the same time every day.
- If you miss a dose, check with your doctor or pharmacist to see what you should do.
- APO-DILTIAZ CD capsules are not to be chewed or crushed.

Side Effects: APO-DILTIAZ CD, like any medication, may have some side effects. The most common side effects are: headache, peripheral edema (swelling of the ankles), dizziness, weakness, first degree AV block, bradycardia, heart arrhythmia (change in the rhythm of the heartbeat) flushing, nausea (feeling like vomiting), and rash. It is important that you keep your doctor informed of all side effects, especially if you experience one of the following side effects: dizziness, flushing, slowing or racing of the heart rate, and chest pain.

Medicines affect different people in different ways. Just because side effects have occurred in other patients does not mean you will get them. Discuss how you feel while taking APO-DILTIAZ CD with your doctor or pharmacist. Do not stop or restart APO-DILTIAZ CD on your own.

Some precautions you should take:

- Keep APO-DILTIAZ CD out of sight and reach of children.
- Do not give APO-DILTIAZ CD to other patients because it may not be suitable for them.
- Read your prescription label carefully. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions.

PHARMACOLOGY

In Vitro Observations

Initial experimental work revealed that diltiazem was a coronary and peripheral vasodilator. Subsequent work substantiated that diltiazem's smooth muscle relaxant effect, as well as negative inotropic effect, resulted from the drug's ability to block excitation-contraction coupling by inhibiting slow calcium channel conduction. In a muscle bath study with isolated human coronary artery segments obtained at the time of cardiac transplantation, diltiazem produced nearly complete relaxation of potassium-contracted segments.

Studies in various experimental models have confirmed the negative inotropic effect of diltiazem. At low doses (1.1×10^{-7} M) diltiazem caused a reduction in contractile force of guinea pig papillary muscle with no demonstrable effect on the action potential. However, at higher concentrations (1.1×10^{-5} M) both a decrease in contractile tension and a lowering of maximum dp/dt were seen.

Studies done in isolated perfused rat hearts showed that diltiazem (10^{-6} M) decreases contractility without affecting action potential duration or resting membrane potential. In several experimental models it has been shown that the concentration of diltiazem required to produce smooth muscle relaxation and vasodilation is significantly less than the concentration required to produce a negative inotropic effect.

In Vivo Observations

Experiments in both open and closed-chest dog models indicate that diltiazem increases coronary blood flow and reduces coronary vascular resistance. Intravenous diltiazem (100 µg/kg) increased coronary blood flow by 90%, with a predominant effect on large coronary arteries and collaterals. Increase in coronary blood flow has also been shown following diltiazem

administration in both the epicardial and subendocardial regions in ischemic and non-ischemic models. There was also a dose-related decrease in mean aortic pressure and systemic vascular resistance with an increase in stroke volume and cardiac output. No significant change was noted in determinants of LV function such as LVEDP or LV dP/dT. The reduction in blood pressure that is seen with diltiazem is due to a direct vasodilatory effect on the blood vessels and is not mediated by sympathetic alpha receptor blockade, beta receptor stimulation, or ganglionic blockade. Diltiazem has been shown to inhibit the pressor responses induced by norepinephrine and angiotensin II.

In animal studies, the negative inotropic effect of diltiazem appears to be offset by its ability to decrease afterload and induce a mild reflex adrenergic response.

TOXICOLOGY

Acute Toxicity

Route	Animal	Sex	LD ₅₀ (mg/kg)	LD ₅₀ 95% Confidence Limits (mg/kg)
oral	Mice	M&F	415 – 700	(343 – 736)
	Rats	M&F	560 – 810	(505 – 1004)
s.c	Mice	M&F	260 – 550	(220 – 672)
i.p.	Mice	M&F	187	(165 – 211)
	Rats	M&F	211	(155 – 287)
i.v.	Mice	M&F	58 - 61	(52 – 69)
	Rats	M&F	38 – 39	(34 – 44)

Toxic effects appeared rapidly and toxicity included reduction of spontaneous activity, ptosis, piloerection, ataxia, loss of muscle tone and loss of righting reflex. Gross autopsy of animals who died as well as the survivors revealed no abnormalities.

Tolerance was evaluated in rabbits and dogs. Dogs received oral doses of 12.5, 25, 50 or 100 mg/kg. Ataxia, disorientation, decreased activity, diuresis and mydriasis were noted at 25 mg/kg. In addition, heavy sedation and emesis were seen at 50 mg/kg. At 100 mg/kg, convulsions occurred and one of the two animals died. Rabbits received 100, 200, 300 and 400 mg/kg. The major symptoms were decreased activity, increased respiration, salivation and opisthotonos. One of the two rabbits died at 300 mg/kg and the two rabbits in the 400 mg/kg group died.

Subacute Toxicity

In rats, oral doses of 10, 20, 50, 100, 250 or 500 mg/kg/day of diltiazem were administered for 28 or 30 days. The relative liver weights of animals receiving 250 mg/kg/day and 500 mg/kg/day were increased. Microscopic examination revealed drug related degeneration of hepatic and renal cells in the highest dose group.

When the drug was given to rats intraperitoneally at 25 mg/kg/day for 30 days, hepatic and renal cell degeneration was seen. Macular hyaloid degeneration of the heart also was seen in 50% of the rats in this study.

Thirty day subacute studies in dogs revealed hepatic and renal cell degeneration when diltiazem was given at doses of 25 mg/kg/day orally and 5 mg/kg/day intravenously. Two dogs out of 5 receiving 50 mg/kg/day orally, died.

Chronic Toxicity/Carcinogenicity

In mice, diltiazem was administered at doses of 5, 15 or 30 mg/kg/day for a period of 21 months in females. Because of a lower survival, males were terminated at 20 months. Gross and histopathological examination failed to reveal any treatment related increase in the incidence of either neoplastic or other toxic lesions.

Rats received 6.25, 25 or 100 mg/kg/day of diltiazem for 24 months. An additional group received 200 mg/kg for 12 months. Treatment was terminated at 23 months in females receiving 100 mg/kg because of the low survival. Females had increased weight gain at 100 and 200 mg/kg; food consumption was increased among both sexes at these dose levels. Organ weight data revealed a significant increase in liver weight for rats of both sexes given 200 mg/kg. Microscopic evaluation revealed some evidence of dose dependent hepatic cytoplasmic vacuolization in rats treated with doses of 100 and 200 mg/kg/day and killed at 12 months. At 24 months, there were similar findings in control and treated animals. There was no increase in the incidence of neoplastic or other toxic lesions in rats treated with diltiazem.

Diltiazem was administered orally to dogs for 12 months at doses of 5, 10, 20 mg/kg/day. A dose related suppression of body weight gain became noticeable after 6 months.

Mutagenicity

No mutagenic changes were observed in the recombination test and two Ames reverse mutagenicity assays.

Reproductive Studies

Results in mice

Route	Doses (mg/kg)	Time of administration during gestation	Findings in the offspring
Oral	10, 25, 50, 100, 200, 400	Day 7 to day 12	High incidence of vertebral column malformations when more than 50 mg/kg was administered.
Oral	Single doses of 12.5, 25, 50, 100, 200	One of days 7 to 14	Cleft palate and malformation of extremities or trunk were significantly higher when 50 or 100 mg/kg was administered on day 12.

			Vertebral malformations were most prevalent when 50 or 100 mg/kg was administered on day 9.
Intraperitoneal	0.2, 3.1, 6.3, 12.5, 25	Day 7 to day 12	Fetal mortality greatly increased when 12.5 mg/kg or more was administered. No teratogenic effect was demonstrated.
Intraperitoneal	Single Doses of 3.1, 6.3, 12.5, 25, 50	One of days 5 to 16	Brachydactyly and hematoma in the extremities when 50 mg/kg was administered on day 13. Vertebral column malformations from the thoracic to coccygeal level and malformations of the ribs were observed when a dose of 25 mg/kg or greater was administered on day 9.

Results in Rats

Route	Doses (mg/kg)	Time of administration during gestation	Findings in the offspring
Oral	10, 50, 100, 200, 400	Day 9 to 14	No teratogenic effect. High fetal death rate when 200 & 400 mg/kg were administered.
Oral	10, 30, 100	Day 6 to 15	No teratogenic effect.
Oral	Single doses of 300, 400, 600	On one of days 9 to 14	Significant incidence of skeletal malformations involving vertebrae & sternebrae when 400 mg/kg was administered on day 11. General edema, short or absent tail was observed when 600 mg/kg was administered on day 12.
Intraperitoneal	0.2, 2.0, 20, 40, 80	Day 9 to 14	Brachydactyly & hematoma in the front paw and tail and a high fetal mortality rate were observed when 80 mg/kg was administered.
Intraperitoneal	80	Day 9 to 11	Vertebral anomalies
Intraperitoneal	80	Day 12 to 14	Brachydactyly, hematoma of the front paw and tail deformities and high fetal mortality

Route	Doses (mg/kg)	Time of administration during gestation	Findings in the offspring
			rate.
Intraperitoneal	Single dose of 80	One of days 9 to 14	Fetal mortality increased on day 11 reached 100% on day 12 and decreased thereafter. Limb & tail deformities were induced when 80 mg/kg was administered on days 13 & 14. Vertebral column deformities were induced when 80 mg/kg was administered on day 11.
	Single dose of 40	One of days 11 to 14	No teratogenic effect

Results in rabbits

Route	Doses (mg/kg)	Time of administration during gestation	Findings in the offspring
Oral	17.5, 35, 70	Day 6 to 18	Significant increase in skeletal malformations occurred when 35 mg/kg was administered. All pregnant dams aborted between days 21 and 25 of gestation when 70 mg/kg was administered.
Intraperitoneal	6.3, 12.5, 25	Day 7 to 16	Fetal mortality greatly increased at 12.5 mg/kg and reached 100% at 25 mg/kg. Skeletal defects and external malformations were induced when 12.5 mg/kg was administered. Their incidence was not statistically significant due to the low number of surviving fetuses.

In fertility studies, female rats received doses of 12.5, 25, 50 and 100 mg/kg p.o. In the 100 mg/kg group, there was a reduction in the number showing a positive mating. However, the overall pregnancy rates and the average pre-coital time were comparable.

In peri- and post-natal studies, rats received diltiazem in doses of 10, 30 or 100 mg/kg/day from day 14 of gestation through day 21 post-partum. Diltiazem was associated with a reduction in early individual weights and survival rates of the pups. At 100 mg/kg/day, dystocia was evident. Retinal and tongue malformations were more frequent in the offspring of the 30 and 100 mg/kg/day group.

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