

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH  
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

Pr **ALDACTONE\***

Spirolactone Tablets USP  
25 mg and 100 mg Tablets, oral

Aldosterone Antagonist

ATC Code: C03DA01

Pfizer Canada ULC  
17,300 Trans-Canada Highway  
Kirkland, Quebec H9J 2M5

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## RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES

n/a	n/a
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Sections or subsections that are not applicable at the time of authorization are not listed.

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## PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS

ALDACTONE (spironolactone) is indicated for:

- **Primary Hyperaldosteronism**

ALDACTONE (spironolactone) is a useful agent in the diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism. In the presence of hypokalemic alkalosis and hypertension, a diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism should be considered if both blood pressure (BP) and serum electrolytes return to normal following treatment with ALDACTONE.

ALDACTONE is useful in the pre-operative treatment of patients with primary hyperaldosteronism and for the maintenance therapy of such patients who decline surgery, or who are unsuitable for surgery.

- **Edematous Conditions**

- **Congestive Heart Failure (CHF):**

ALDACTONE is useful in the management of edema and sodium retention in CHF when the patient is only partially responsive to, or intolerant of, other therapeutic measures. ALDACTONE may be used alone or with thiazides. It is indicated in patients with CHF taking digitalis when other therapies are considered inappropriate.

- **Cirrhosis of the Liver Accompanied by Edema and/or Ascites:**

Aldosterone levels may be exceptionally high in this condition. ALDACTONE is indicated for maintenance therapy, in combination with bed rest and the restriction of fluid and sodium.

- **The Nephrotic Syndrome:**

ALDACTONE is useful for inducing a diuresis in patients not responsive to glucocorticoid therapy (for the nephrotic syndrome), and not responding to other diuretics. However, ALDACTONE has not been shown to affect the basic pathological process.

- **Essential Hypertension**

ALDACTONE is indicated, usually in combination with other drugs, for patients who cannot be treated adequately with other agents or for whom other agents are considered inappropriate. ALDACTONE alone has mild to moderate antihypertensive activity.

- **Hypokalemia**

ALDACTONE is indicated for treatment of hypokalemia, when other measures are considered inappropriate or inadequate. It is also indicated for the prophylaxis of hypokalemia in digitalis therapy when other measures are inadequate or inappropriate.

**1.1 Pediatrics (<18 years of age):** Based on the data submitted and reviewed by Health Canada, the safety and efficacy of ALDACTONE in pediatric patients has not been established; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric

use.

- 1.2 Geriatrics:** Evidence from clinical studies and experience suggests that use in the geriatric population is associated with differences in safety or effectiveness.

## 2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

ALDACTONE is contraindicated in:

- Patients who are hypersensitive to spironolactone, or to any ingredient in the formulation. For a complete listing, see [6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING](#).
- Patients with anuria
- Patients with Addison's disease
- Patients with acute renal insufficiency or with severe impairment of renal function (GFR < 30 mL/Min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>)
- Patients with hyperkalemia
- Women who are pregnant (See [7.1.1 Pregnant Women](#))
- Nursing women (see [7.1.2 Breast-feeding](#))
- Combination with eplerenone (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic, a\) Hyperkalemia](#) and [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#))
- Combination with heparin, low molecular weight heparin (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hematologic, Electrolyte Balance, a\) Hyperkalemia](#) and [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#))

## 3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX

### Serious Warnings and Precautions

**Avoid potassium supplements, salt substitutes and foods containing high levels of potassium** (e.g., bananas, prunes, raisins and orange juice).  
Follow your doctor's directions for a low-salt or low-sodium diet and daily exercise program.

## 4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

### 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

#### 1. Diagnosis and Treatment of Primary Hyperaldosteronism

As an initial diagnostic measure to provide presumptive evidence of primary hyperaldosteronism while patients are on normal diets:

**Long Test:** Administer ALDACTONE at a daily dosage of 400 mg for 3-4 weeks. Correction of hypokalemia and hypertension provides presumptive evidence for the diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism.

**Short Test:** Administer ALDACTONE at a daily dosage of 400 mg x 4 days. If serum potassium increases or urinary potassium decreases during ALDACTONE administration, but reverts when ALDACTONE is discontinued, a presumptive diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism should be considered.

After the diagnosis of primary hyperaldosteronism has been established by more definitive testing procedures, ALDACTONE may be administered in doses of 75 mg to 400 mg daily in preparation for surgery. For those unsuitable for surgery, spironolactone may be employed for long term maintenance therapy at the lowest effective dosage determined for the individual.

## **2. Edematous Disorders Associated with Congestive Heart Failure, Cirrhosis and the Nephrotic Syndrome**

When given as sole agent for diuresis, continue administration for at least 5 days. If an adequate response has been achieved within 5 days, continue dosage at the same level (or in selected patients, at a reduced dosage) in either single or divided daily doses. Some may respond adequately to a dosage of only 75 mg daily. If adequate diuresis is not obtained within 5 days, a second diuretic also should be given for additive effect. Occasionally for severe resistant edema, one may add a potent glucocorticoid to this combined therapy. Normally, an initial daily dosage of 100 mg (but may range from 25 mg to 200 mg daily) of ALDACTONE administered in either single or divided doses is recommended.

**Dosage in Children (<18 years of age):** The initial daily dosage should provide approximately 3 mg/kg of body weight (1.5 mg/lb) administered in either single or divided doses. This dose should be reduced to 1-2 mg/kg for maintenance therapy or combination use with other diuretics.

Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use (see [1.1 Pediatrics](#))

## **3. Essential Hypertension**

Usually in combination with other drugs, ALDACTONE is indicated for patients who cannot be treated adequately with other agents or for whom other agents are considered inappropriate. ALDACTONE has mild to moderate antihypertensive activity.

For adults an initial daily dosage of 50 mg/day to 100 mg/day (in either single or divided doses) of ALDACTONE is recommended. ALDACTONE may also be given with diuretics that act more proximally in the renal tubule or with other antihypertensive agents. Since a stabilized response may not occur before 2 weeks, continue treatment in either single or divided daily doses for that duration of time. Subsequently, adjust dosage in response to patient's needs. Most patients will respond to doses not exceeding 200 mg/day.

## **4. Hypokalemia**

ALDACTONE in dosage ranging from 25 mg to 100 mg daily is useful in treating a diuretic induced hypokalemia, when oral potassium supplements or other potassium sparing regimens are inappropriate. See also Table 1 for a summary of dosage recommendations.

**Table 1 - ALDACTONE Dosage\***

CONDITION	TYPE OF TEST	In Single or Divided Daily Doses	
		INITIAL DOSAGE	MAXIMUM DOSAGE
Primary Hyperaldosteronism	Long Test:	400 mg/day x 3-4 weeks	-
	Short Test:	400 mg/day x 4 days	-
	In Preparation for Surgery:	100-400 mg/day	400 mg/day
Edematous Disorders: Congestive Heart Failure Cirrhosis	-	100 mg/day	200 mg/day
	Urinary: Na+ / K+ ratio >1	100 mg/day	100 mg/day
	Na+ / K+ ratio <1	200-400 mg/day	400 mg/day
Nephrotic Syndrome	-	100 mg/day	200 mg/day
Essential Hypertension	-	50-100 mg/day	200 mg/day
Hypokalemia	-	25-100 mg/day	100 mg/day

\* Maintenance dosage should be individually determined, and may be lower than the recommended initial dose.

#### 4.5 Missed Dose

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to take the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one.

### 5 OVERDOSAGE

**Symptoms:** There have been no reports of fatal overdose in man (except indirectly through hyperkalemia). Nausea and vomiting occur, and (much more rarely) drowsiness, dizziness, mental confusion, diarrhea, or a maculopapular or erythematous rash. These manifestations disappear promptly on discontinuation of medication. Hyperkalemia may be exacerbated.

**Treatment:** No specific antidote. No persistent toxicity has occurred or is expected. Inducing vomiting and evacuating the stomach by lavage could be considered. Spironolactone use should be discontinued and potassium intake (including dietary sources) restricted.

For management of a suspected drug overdose, contact your regional poison control centre.

### 6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

**Table 2 – Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging**

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength/Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
oral	tablet 25 mg, 100 mg	Calcium sulfate, corn starch, magnesium stearate, peppermint flavouring, povidone, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, carnauba wax, stearic acid, Opaspray M-1-2042 (25 mg), Opaspray M-1-2668 (100 mg).

### **ALDACTONE 25 mg:**

Each light yellow, round, biconvex, film-coated tablet, debossed "ALDACTONE" and "25" on one face and "SEARLE" and "1001" on the other face and with peppermint odour contains Spironolactone 25 mg.

Non-medicinal ingredients include: Calcium sulfate, corn starch, magnesium stearate, peppermint flavouring, povidone, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, carnauba wax, stearic acid, and opaspray M-1-2042.

Available in bottles of 100 tablets.

### **ALDACTONE 100 mg:**

Each peach, round, biconvex, scored, film-coated tablet, debossed "ALDACTONE" and "100" on one face and "SEARLE" and "1031" on the other (scored) face and with peppermint odour contains Spironolactone 100 mg.

Non-medicinal ingredients include: Calcium sulfate, corn starch, magnesium stearate, peppermint flavouring, povidone, hypromellose, polyethylene glycol 400, carnauba wax, stearic acid, and opaspray M-1-2668.

Available in bottles of 100 tablets.

## **7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

Please see [3 SERIOUS WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS BOX](#)

### **General**

Use only for "Indications": Use ALDACTONE (spironolactone) only for conditions described under "[1 INDICATIONS](#)".

Potassium (K+) Supplementation: The concurrent administration of potassium supplements, a diet rich in potassium, or other K+-sparing diuretics is not recommended as this may induce hyperkalemia.

### **Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis**

Tumorigenicity: Spironolactone, in chronic toxicity studies, has been shown to be a tumorigenic in rats. Breast cancer and other neoplasms (intestinal, pancreas, etc.) have been reported in postmarket surveillance.

## Driving and Operating Machinery

Somnolence and dizziness have been reported to occur in some patients. Caution is advised when driving or operating machinery until the response to initial treatment has been determined.

## Endocrine and Metabolism

Gynecomastia: Gynecomastia may develop with the use of ALDACTONE and physicians should be advised of its possible occurrence. The development of gynecomastia appears to be related to both dosage and duration of therapy and is normally reversible when the drug is discontinued. If gynecomastia develops, discontinue the drug. In rare instances some breast enlargement may persist.

Hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis: Reversible hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis, usually in association with hyperkalemia, has been reported to occur in some patients with decompensated hepatic cirrhosis, even when renal function is normal. Caution should be used in treating patients with acute or severe liver impairments, since vigorous diuretic therapy may precipitate hepatic encephalopathy.

Acidosis and Renal Function: Rare reports of acidosis have been reported with ALDACTONE.

## Hematologic

Electrolyte Balance: Because of the diuretic action of ALDACTONE patients should be carefully evaluated for possible disturbance of fluid and electrolyte balance, due to the possibility of hyperkalemia, hypochloremic alkalosis, hyponatremia and possible blood urea nitrogen (BUN) elevation, especially the elderly and/or patients with pre-existing impaired renal or hepatic function.

### a) Hyperkalemia

Hyperkalemia may occur in patients treated with ALDACTONE if the potassium intake is excessive. This can cause cardiac irregularities, some of which may be fatal.

Hyperkalemia may also occur even in the absence of potassium supplementation, particularly in patients with impaired renal function, elderly patients, or patients with diabetes. Consequently, no potassium supplementation should ordinarily be given with ALDACTONE. ALDACTONE should not be administered concurrently with other potassium-sparing diuretics. ALDACTONE, when used with angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, Angiotensin II antagonists, other aldosterone blockers, even in the presence of a diuretic, has been associated with severe hyperkalemia (See [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#)).

Concomitant use of spironolactone with heparin, low molecular weight heparin, or other drugs or conditions known to cause hyperkalemia, may lead to severe hyperkalemia (See [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#) and [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#)).

### *Hyperkalemia in Patients with Moderate to Severe Heart Failure*

As hyperkalemia may be fatal, it is critical to monitor and manage serum potassium in patients with heart failure receiving ALDACTONE. Avoid using other potassium-sparing

diuretics. Avoid using oral potassium supplements in patients with serum potassium > 3.5 mEq/L. No information is available regarding patients with serum creatinine > 2.5 mg/dL or a recent increase in serum creatinine >25%. The recommended monitoring for potassium and creatinine is one week after initiation or increase in dose of ALDACTONE, monthly for the first 3 months, then quarterly for a year, and then every 6 months. Discontinue or interrupt treatment for serum potassium > 5 mEq/L or for serum creatinine > 4 mg/dL.

#### *Hyperkalemia in Patients with Diabetes*

Diabetic patients who are treated with ALDACTONE should also be treated with caution as they have an increased risk of hyperkalemia. The status of the patient's renal function and serum potassium levels should be assessed prior to initiating treatment and repeated within a few days and a few weeks thereafter in the patient at risk, especially in elderly patients. The recommended monitoring for potassium and creatinine is one week after initiation or increase in dose of spironolactone, monthly for the first 3 months, then quarterly for a year, and then every 6 months.

Hyperkalemia can be treated promptly by rapid intravenous administration of glucose (20 to 50%) and regular insulin, using 0.25 to 0.5 units of insulin per gram of glucose. This is a temporary measure to be repeated if required. ALDACTONE should be discontinued and potassium intake (including dietary potassium) restricted.

#### b) Hyponatremia

During the administration of ALDACTONE patients suffering from sodium depletion must be attentively monitored and signs of electrolyte imbalance must be carefully checked.

ALDACTONE may, if administered concomitantly with other diuretics, cause or aggravate hyponatremia, as manifested by dryness of the mouth, thirst, lethargy, and drowsiness.

#### **Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic**

Impaired Hepatic Function: ALDACTONE should be used with caution in patients with impaired hepatic function because minor alterations of fluid and electrolyte balance may precipitate hepatic coma.

Management of Cirrhosis: Although high doses of ALDACTONE are required to treat edema and ascites in patients with cirrhosis, the drug dosage may be decreased before diuresis is complete to avoid the possibility of dehydration.

#### **Monitoring and Laboratory Tests**

General: ALDACTONE therapy may cause transient elevation of BUN, especially in patients with pre existing renal impairment.

Several reports of possible interference with digoxin radioimmunoassays by spironolactone or its metabolites have appeared in the literature. Neither the extent nor the potential clinical significance of this interference (which may be assay specific) has been fully established.

Discontinue spironolactone for at least 4, and preferably 7, days prior to plasma cortisol

determinations, if they are to be done by the method of Mattingly, that is, by fluorometric assay. No interference has been demonstrated with the competitive protein binding technique or radioimmunoassay technique.

Adrenal Vein Catheterization and Plasma Renin Activity: Discontinue spironolactone several days prior to adrenal vein catheterization for measurement of aldosterone concentrations and measurements of plasma renin activity.

## Neurologic

Lithium generally should not be given with diuretics (See [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#)).

## Reproductive Health: Female and Male Potential

- **Fertility**

In a reproduction study in which female rats received dietary doses of 15 and 50 mg/kg/day spironolactone, there were no effects on mating or fertility, but there was a small increase in incidence of stillborn pups at the higher dose. When injected into female rats (100 mg/kg/day, 7 days i.p.) spironolactone was found to increase the length of the estrous cycle by prolonging diestrus during treatment and inducing constant diestrus during a two-week, post-treatment observation period. These effects were associated with retarded ovarian follicle development and a reduction in circulating estrogen levels, which would be expected to impair mating, fertility and fecundity. Spironolactone (100 mg/kg/day i.p.) administered to female mice decreased the number of mated mice that conceived, and decreased the number of implanted embryos in those that became pregnant; at 200 mg/kg/day it also increased the latency period to mating.

### 7.1 Special Populations

#### 7.1.1 Pregnant Women

See [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)

Spironolactone and its metabolites do cross the placental barrier. There are no studies in pregnant women. ALDACTONE should not be administered to patients who are pregnant. Females of reproductive potential who undergo treatment with ALDACTONE should be informed of the potential hazard to the fetus and should be advised to avoid becoming pregnant prior to or during treatment.

Spironolactone was devoid of teratogenic effects in mice. Rabbits receiving spironolactone showed reduced conception rate, increased resorption rate, and lower number of live births. No embryotoxic effects were seen in rats administered high dosages, but limited, dose-related hypoprolactinemia and decreased ventral prostate and seminal vesicle weights in males, and increased luteinizing hormone secretion and ovarian and uterine weights in females were reported. Feminization of the external genitalia of male fetuses was reported in another rat study.

### 7.1.2 Breast-feeding

see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)

Canrenone, a major (and active) metabolite of spironolactone, appears in human breast milk. Because of the unknown potential for adverse events on the breast-feeding infant, a decision should be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

**7.1.3 Pediatrics:** Based on the data submitted and reviewed by Health Canada, the safety and efficacy of ALDACTONE in pediatric patients has not been established; therefore, Health Canada has not authorized an indication for pediatric use.

## 8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

### 8.1 Adverse Reaction Overview

The following adverse reactions have been reported in association with ALDACTONE (spironolactone):

**Blood and lymphatic system disorders:** Leukopenia (including agranulocytosis), thrombocytopenia, anemia.

**Gastrointestinal disorders:** Diarrhea and cramping, gastric bleeding, gastritis, nausea, ulceration, vomiting.

**General disorders and administration site conditions:** Malaise, ataxia.

**Hepatobiliary disorders:** Abnormal hepatic function. A few cases of mixed cholestatic/hepatocellular toxicity, with one reported fatality, have been reported with spironolactone administration.

**Immune system disorders:** Drug fever, urticaria, maculopapular or erythematous cutaneous eruptions, anaphylactic reactions, vasculitis, pruritus, rash.

**Metabolism and nutrition disorders:** Electrolyte disturbances, hyperkalemia.

**Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** Leg cramps, muscle spasms, rhabdomyolysis, myalgia, weakness

**Nervous system/psychiatric disorders:** Mental confusion, ataxia, headache, drowsiness, lethargy, dizziness, change in libido.

**Renal and urinary disorders:** Renal dysfunction (including acute renal failure).

**Reproductive system and breast disorders:** gynecomastia\* (see [7 WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS, Carcinogenesis and Mutagenesis](#)), erectile dysfunction (inability to achieve or maintain erection), abnormal semen (decreased motility and sperm count), irregular menses or amenorrhea, postmenopausal bleeding, benign breast neoplasm, breast pain, breast carcinoma (including male patients)

**Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** Dysphonia, dyspnea.

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), drug rash with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), alopecia, hypertrichosis.

\*Gynecomastia may develop with the use of spironolactone, and physicians should be advised of its possible occurrence. Development of gynecomastia is related to both dose and duration of therapy. If gynecomastia develops, discontinue the drug. Gynecomastia is usually reversible when spironolactone is discontinued, although in rare instances some breast enlargement may persist.

Adverse reactions are usually reversible upon discontinuation of the drug.

## 8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

**Table 3 - Post Market Adverse Events for ALDACTONE**

The frequency of the event listed in Table 3 are evaluated as very rare: (<1/10,000; <0.01%)

<b>Blood and lymphatic system disorders</b>	Disseminated intravascular coagulation, Bone marrow failure, Lymphadenopathy Neutropenia Pancytopenia, Lymphopenia, Splenomegaly, Coagulopathy Eosinophilia
<b>Cardiac disorders</b>	Cardiac arrest, Cardio-respiratory/Sinus arrest, Torsade de pointes, Atrioventricular block (1st/2nd degree, complete), Bundle branch block (left), Sinoatrial block, Myocardial infarction, Myocardial ischaemia, Defect conduction intraventricular, Ventricular/Supraventricular tachycardia, Ventricular/Supraventricular extrasystoles, Cardiomegaly, Cardiomyopathy Cardiogenic shock, Sick sinus syndrome, Cardiac failure, Ventricular fibrillation, Atrial fibrillation/flutter, Tachycardia, Coronary artery disease, Cardiovascular disorder, Sinus bradycardia, Angina unstable, Angina pectoris, Tricuspid valve incompetence, Mitral valve incompetence, Palpitations, Arrhythmia, Pericardial effusion, Cyanosis, Coronary artery occlusion
<b>Ear and labyrinth disorders</b>	Deafness, Hypoacusis, Vertigo, Ear disorder, Ear pain, Tinnitus
<b>Endocrine disorders</b>	Hyperthyroidism, Hypothyroidism, Inappropriate antidiuretic hormone secretion
<b>Eye disorders</b>	Diabetic retinopathy, Cataract, Vision blurred, Visual impairment
<b>Gastrointestinal disorders</b>	Pancreatitis, GI haemorrhage, Varices oesophageal, Intestinal obstruction, Large intestine polyp, Diverticulum, Hiatus hernia, Ileus paralytic, Melaena, Coeliac disease, Gastrooesophageal reflux disease, Haemorrhoids, Duodenitis, Retching, Gastric disorder, Gastrointestinal disorder, Abdominal distension, Dyspepsia, Dysphagia, Constipation
<b>General disorders and administration site conditions</b>	Sudden death, Multi-organ failure, Hypothermia, Peripheral swelling, Face oedema, Chest pain/discomfort, General physical health deterioration, Gait disturbance, Swelling, Chills, Pain, Asthenia, Fatigue

<b>Hepatobiliary disorders</b>	Hepatitis, Hepatic failure/necrosis/cirrhosis/steatosis Portal hypertension, Hepatorenal syndrome, Portal vein thrombosis Jaundice cholestatic, Hepatic Hepatomegaly, Cholecystitis, Cholelithiasis Jaundice, Hyperbilirubinaemia, Gallbladder disorder
<b>Immune system</b>	Anaphylactic shock
<b>Infections and infestations</b>	Septic shock, Pneumonia, Sepsis, Respiratory tract infection, Empyema, Bronchitis, Pyelonephritis, Bacterial/fungal/viral infection, Urinary tract infection, Herpes zoster, Diverticulitis, Gastroenteritis, Mastitis, Cystitis, Cellulitis, Sinusitis, Onychomycosis Infection
<b>Injury, poisoning and procedural complications</b>	Head injury, Fall, Ankle fracture, Lower limb fracture, Contusion, Road traffic accident, Injury
<b>Investigations</b>	Electrocardiogram QT prolonged, Electrocardiogram QRS complex prolonged, Electrocardiogram abnormal, Blood creatinine increased, Blood pressure increased/decreased, , Blood bilirubin increased, Transaminases increased, Aspartate aminotransferase increased, International normalised ratio increased, Alanine aminotransferase increased, Gamma- glutamyltransferase increased, Liver function test abnormal, Blood alkaline phosphatase increased, Haematocrit decreased, Blood glucose increased/decreased, Blood lactate dehydrogenase increased, Blood potassium decreased, Amylase increased, Blood chloride decreased, Occult blood positive, Blood aldosterone increased, Blood uric acid increased, Urine output decreased, White blood cell count increased, Eosinophil count increased, Weight decreased/increased
<b>Metabolism and nutrition disorders</b>	Diabetes mellitus, Hypo/hyperglycaemia, Fluid retention, Hypovolaemia Dehydration, Hypomagnesaemia, Hypo/hypercalcaemia, Metabolic alkalosis Hyperammonaemia, Gout, Malnutrition, Obesity, Decreased appetite
<b>Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders</b>	Rhabdomyolysis, Systemic lupus erythematosus/lupus like syndrome, Rheumatoid arthritis, Osteoarthritis, Muscle haemorrhage, Osteopenia, Osteoporosis, Muscle spasms/weakness/pain, Bursitis, Limb discomfort, Arthropathy, Myalgia, Arthralgia, Back pain, Pain in extremity
<b>Neoplasms benign, malignant and unspecified</b>	Pancreatic carcinoma, Lung neoplasm malignant, Hepatic cancer. Neoplasm malignant, Colon cancer, Gastrointestinal carcinoma, Lymphoma
<b>Nervous system disorders</b>	Cerebral haemorrhage, Cerebral infarction, Cerebrovascular accident, Coma, Depressed/altered level of consciousness, Transient ischaemic attack, Hepatic encephalopathy, Hydrocephalus, Encephalopathy, Cerebral atrophy, Paralysis, Convulsion, Parkinson's disease, VII <sup>th</sup> nerve paralysis, Diabetic neuropathy, Neuropathy peripheral, Syncope, Presyncope, Dementia, Memory impairment, Cognitive disorder, Paraesthesia, Hypoaesthesia, Dysarthria, Stupor, Ageusia, Asterixis, Tremor, Disturbance in attention, Hypokinesia, Nystagmus, Speech disorder, Balance disorder
<b>Psychiatric disorders</b>	Suicide/Suicide attempt/suicidal ideation, Hallucination, Depression, Psychotic disorder, Abnormal behaviour, Apathy, Visual disorientation, Delirium, Insomnia, Anxiety, Agitation, Drug abuse

<b>Renal and urinary disorders</b>	Anuria, Chronic Renal failure, Renal tubular necrosis, Tubulointerstitial nephritis, Nephropathy toxic, Diabetic nephropathy, Prerenal failure, Proteinuria, Nephrolithiasis, Renal cyst, Urinary retention, Haematuria, Dysuria, Chromaturia, Pollakiuria, Oliguria, Polyuria
<b>Reproductive system and breast disorders</b>	Breast mass, Breast swelling Genital haemorrhage, Uterine disorder
<b>Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders</b>	Respiratory arrest/disorder/distress/failure Pulmonary embolism, Pulmonary oedema, Pulmonary hypertension Atelectasis, Bronchospasm, Pneumonitis, Interstitial lung disease, Pneumonia aspiration, Asthma, Wheezing, Pleural effusion, Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, Haemoptysis, Sleep apnoea syndrome, Hypoxia, Lung disorder, Oropharyngeal pain, Epistaxis, Cough, Rales
<b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders</b>	Toxic skin eruption, Angioedema, Skin necrosis/exfoliation, Lichenoid keratosis, Drug eruption, Dermatitis bullous/exfoliative, Erythema multiforme, Photosensitivity reaction, Hyperhidrosis, Lichen planus, Skin ulcer, Eczema, Pemphigoid, Dermatitis, Erythema, Purpura, Blister, Dry skin, Skin discolouration, Cold sweat
<b>Surgical and medical procedures</b>	Surgery, Hysterectomy, Knee arthroplasty
<b>Vascular disorders</b>	Circulatory collapse, Hypovolaemic shock, Shock haemorrhagic, Shock, Infarction, Haemorrhage, Thrombosis, Hypotension, Orthostatic hypotension, Peripheral arterial occlusive disease, Arteriosclerosis, Deep vein thrombosis, Peripheral vascular disorder, Peripheral venous disease, Phlebitis, Angiopathy, Lymphoedema, Haematoma, Flushing, Hot flush

## 9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

### 9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

The drugs listed in this table are based on either drug interaction case reports or studies, or potential interactions due to the expected magnitude and seriousness of the interaction (i.e., those identified as contraindicated).

**Table 4 - Established or Potential Drug-Drug Interactions**

<b>ALDACTONE</b>	<b>Source of Evidence</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>Clinical comment</b>
Alcohol, barbiturates or narcotics	T	Potential of orthostatic hypotension may occur.	Avoid alcohol, barbiturates or narcotics, especially with initiation of therapy.
Antipyrene	T	Spironolactone enhances the metabolism of antipyrene.	

<b>ALDACTONE</b>	<b>Source of Evidence</b>	<b>Effect</b>	<b>Clinical comment</b>
Cholestyramine/ Ammonium Chloride	CS	Hyperchloremic metabolic acidosis, frequently associated with hyperkalemia, has been reported in patients given spironolactone concurrently with ammonium chloride or cholestyramine.	
Corticosteroids, and adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH)	T	Intensified electrolyte depletion, particularly hypokalemia, may occur.	Monitor serum potassium, and adjust medications, as required.
Diuretics and Antihypertensives	CS	Although ALDACTONE may be administered concomitantly with diuretics and antihypertensives, the effect of ALDACTONE is additive. Hyperkalemia has been associated with the use of angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, angiotensin II antagonists and aldosterone blockers in combination with spironolactone.	It is advisable to reduce the dose of these drugs. In particular, the dose of ganglionic blocking agents should be reduced by at least 50% when ALDACTONE is added to the regimen.
Eplerenone	CT	Severe hyperkalemia has been associated with the use of aldosterone blockers in combination with spironolactone.	
Heparin, low molecular weight heparin	CT	Concomitant use of spironolactone with heparin, low molecular weight heparin may lead to severe hyperkalemia.	
Drugs known to cause hyperkalemia	T	Concomitant use of drugs known to cause hyperkalemia with spironolactone may result in severe hyperkalemia	
Lithium	T	Diuretic agents reduce the renal clearance of lithium and add a high risk of lithium toxicity.	Lithium generally should not be given with diuretics.

ALDACTONE	Source of Evidence	Effect	Clinical comment
Norepinephrine	CT	ALDACTONE reduces the vascular responsiveness to norepinephrine.	Caution should be exercised in the management of patients subjected to regional or general anaesthesia while being treated with spironolactone.
Digoxin	CS	Spironolactone has been shown to increase the half-life of digoxin. This may result in increased serum digoxin levels and subsequent digitalis toxicity.	It may be necessary to reduce the maintenance dose of digoxin when spironolactone is administered, and the patient should be carefully monitored to avoid over- or underdigitalization.
Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs	CS	Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as ASA, mefenamic acid, and indomethacin may attenuate the natriuretic efficacy of diuretics due to inhibition of intrarenal synthesis of prostaglandins and have been shown to attenuate the diuretic action of spironolactone. Hyperkalemia has been associated with the use of indomethacin in combination with potassium-sparing diuretics.	However, it has been shown that ASA does not alter the effect of spironolactone on blood pressure, serum electrolytes, urea nitrogen, or plasma renin activity in hypertensive patients.  If combination use is necessary, monitor renal function, serum potassium, and blood pressure closely. Dose adjustment may be required.
Abiraterone	CS	Spironolactone binds to the androgen receptor and may increase prostate-specific antigen (PSA) levels in abiraterone-treated prostate cancer patients.	

Legend: CS = Case Study; CT = Clinical Trial; T = Theoretical

### 9.5 Drug-Food Interactions

In a 9 subject study, statistically significant increases of approximately 2-fold in spironolactone  $AUC_{(0-24)}$  and greater than 2-fold in  $C_{max}$  were reported after food co-administration. At the same time, increases of approximately 1.4-fold were seen in  $C_{max}$  and  $AUC_{(0-24)}$  of canrenone.

The clinical importance of this finding is not known.

### 9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products have not been established.

## 9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Several reports of possible interference with digoxin radioimmunoassays by spironolactone, or its metabolites, have appeared in the literature. Neither the extent, nor the potential clinical significance of its interference (which may be assay specific) has been fully established.

Spironolactone has been shown to increase the half life of digoxin. This may result in increased serum digoxin levels and subsequent digitalis toxicity (see [9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions](#)).

## 10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 10.1 Mechanism of Action

ALDACTONE (spironolactone) is a specific pharmacologic antagonist of aldosterone, acting primarily through competitive binding of receptors at the aldosterone dependent, sodium potassium exchange site in the distal convoluted renal tubule. ALDACTONE causes increased amounts of sodium and water to be excreted, while potassium loss is minimized.

ALDACTONE acts both as a diuretic and as an antihypertensive drug by this mechanism. It may be given alone or with other diuretic agents which act more proximally in the renal tubule.

### 10.2 Pharmacodynamics

Increased levels of the mineralocorticoid, aldosterone, are present in primary and secondary hyperaldosteronism. Edematous states in which secondary aldosteronism is usually involved include congestive heart failure, hepatic cirrhosis, and nephrotic syndrome. By competing with aldosterone for receptor sites, ALDACTONE provides effective therapy for the edema and ascites in those conditions. ALDACTONE counteracts secondary aldosteronism induced by the volume depletion and associated sodium loss caused by diuretic therapy.

ALDACTONE is effective in lowering the systolic and diastolic blood pressure in patients with primary hyperaldosteronism. It is also effective in most cases of essential hypertension, despite the fact that aldosterone secretion may be within normal limits in benign essential hypertension.

Through its action in antagonizing the effect of aldosterone, ALDACTONE inhibits the exchange of sodium for potassium in the distal renal tubule and helps to prevent potassium loss.

ALDACTONE has not been demonstrated to elevate serum uric acid, to precipitate gout, or to alter carbohydrate metabolism.

### 10.3 Pharmacokinetics

**Table 5 - Summary of spironolactone Pharmacokinetic Parameters in Healthy Volunteers Administered 100 mg daily for 15 days**

	C <sub>max</sub>	T <sub>max</sub>	t <sub>½</sub> (h)	AUC <sub>0-∞</sub>	CL	Vd
<b>7-α-(thiomethyl) spiro lactone (TMS)</b>	391	3.2	13.8	1.25	-	-
<b>6-β-hydroxy-7-ν- (thiomethyl) spiro lactone (HTMS)</b>	125	5.1	15.0	1.50	-	-
<b>Canrenone (C)</b>	181	4.3	16.5	1.41	-	-

	C <sub>max</sub>	T <sub>max</sub>	t <sub>½</sub> (h)	AUC <sub>0-∞</sub>	CL	Vd
<b>Spironolactone</b>	80	2.6	~1.4 (t <sub>½</sub> ∓)	1.30	-	-

## Metabolism

Spironolactone is rapidly and extensively metabolized to a number of metabolites including canrenone and the sulfur-containing 7-thiomethylspironolactone, both of which are pharmacologically active. Approximately 25 to 30% of the dose administered is converted to canrenone, which attains peak serum levels 2-4 hours after single oral administration of spironolactone. In the dose range of 25 mg to 200 mg, an approximately linear relationship exists between a single dose of spironolactone and plasma levels of canrenone.

## Elimination

Plasma concentrations of canrenone decline in two distinct phases, the first phase lasting from 3 to 12 hours, being more rapid than the second phase lasting from 12 to 96 hours. Canrenone clearance data, following multiple doses of spironolactone, indicate that accumulation of canrenone in the body with 100 mg once a day would be lower than with 25 mg four times a day. Both spironolactone and canrenone are more than 90 percent bound to plasma proteins. The metabolites of spironolactone are excreted both in the urine (32-53%), and through biliary excretion in the feces (14-36%).

## Special Populations and Conditions

- **Pediatrics** No pharmacokinetic studies have been performed with spironolactone in the pediatric population. Therefore, safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.
- **Geriatrics** No pharmacokinetic studies have been performed with spironolactone in the elderly population. Caution is advised in patients with hepatic and/or renal impairment (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#) and [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hepatic/biliary/pancreatic](#)).
- **Hepatic Insufficiency** No pharmacokinetic studies have been performed with spironolactone in patients with hepatic insufficiency. Caution is advised in patients with hepatic impairment (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Hepatic/biliary/pancreatic](#)).
- **Renal Insufficiency** No pharmacokinetic studies have been performed with spironolactone in patients with renal insufficiency. ALDACTONE is contraindicated in patients with anuria, acute renal insufficiency or with severe impairment of renal function (GFR < 30 mL/Min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>) (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#)).

## 11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

Store at 15 to 25°C, away from heat and moisture.

## **12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS**

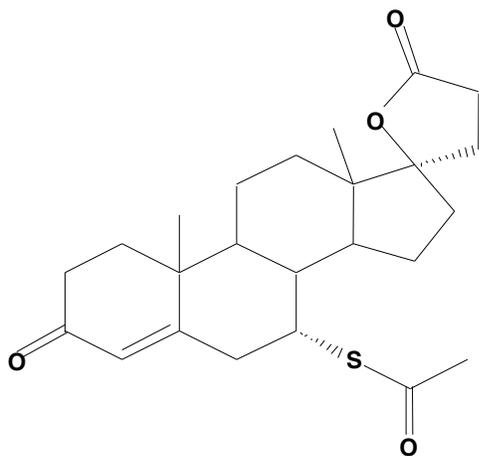
This information is not available for this drug product.

## PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

### 13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

#### Drug Substance

Proper name:	spironolactone
Chemical name:	17 hydroxy 7 $\alpha$ mercapto 3 oxo 17 $\beta$ - pregn 4 ene 21 carboxylic acid $\gamma$ -lactone acetate
Molecular formula and molecular mass:	C <sub>24</sub> H <sub>32</sub> O <sub>4</sub> S ; 416.59
Structural formula:	



Physicochemical properties:	Spironolactone is a synthetic, yellowish, crystalline solid and belongs to the steroid class of chemical compounds. It is insoluble in water, but is soluble in most organic solvents.
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### 14 CLINICAL TRIALS

#### 14.1 Trial Design and Study Demographics

##### Ascites:

Available studies suggest that ALDACTONE (spironolactone) (100 to 400 milligrams (mg) daily) is effective for treating cirrhotic ascites in nonazotemic patients; an initial dose of 100 to 200 mg/day as a single dose has been recommended. Some patients may require doses of up to 1000 mg/day. When administered in doses of 300 to 600 mg/daily, 50% to 90% of patients achieve a satisfactory diuresis, suggesting hyperaldosteronism plays an important role in the pathogenesis of ascites in cirrhotic patients. ALDACTONE should be avoided in patients with renal impairment, due to the risk of hyperkalemia.

##### Congestive Heart Failure:

In patients with severe congestive heart failure the addition of ALDACTONE to standard therapy (e.g., ACE inhibitors, digoxin, thiazide and loop diuretics) significantly reduces morbidity (i.e., reduced hospitalization rate, improvement in symptoms) and mortality. ALDACTONE improves exercise capacity and left ventricular volumes and systolic function (i.e., ejection fraction) in patients with heart failure already on standard therapy including an ACE inhibitor at the maximal tolerated dose. The combination of ALDACTONE and ACE inhibitors is effective in the treatment of heart failure; however, the combination should not be used in patients with renal insufficiency and hyperkalemia.

ALDACTONE improves exercise capacity and left ventricular (LV) volumes and systolic function in patients with heart failure (HF) already on standard treatment including an ACE inhibitor at the maximal tolerated dose. Left atrial end-systolic volume significantly decreased in patients given ALDACTONE compared with baseline ( $p < 0.01$ ). LV ejection fraction significantly improved in patients given ALDACTONE and did not change in the control group (treatment group-by-time interaction,  $p=0.02$ ). Peak oxygen consumption significantly decreased in the control group compared with baseline ( $p < 0.001$ ) and did not change in the ALDACTONE group (treatment group-by-time interaction,  $p < 0.05$ ). A dose-dependent effect was observed on LV ejection fraction and exercise capacity, with the greatest benefits from ALDACTONE in those patients treated with 50 mg/day. (See Tables 6 and 7).

**Table 6 - Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials in Congestive Heart Failure**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
1	12 months, parallel, double-blind non-placebo controlled	-12.5-50 p.o. -Control group	n=106 patients treated with digitalis, diuretics and beta-blockers	62.1 ± 8.3	92/14

**Table 7 - Results of study 1 in Congestive Heart Failure**

Primary Endpoint	Associated value and statistical significance for Drug at specific dosages	Associated value and statistical significance for Placebo or active control
Effect on left ventricular (LV) function	LVEDV: B 275 ± 104 ml F-UP 251 ± 105 ml ( $p=0.06$ ) LVESV: B 188 ± 94 ml F-UP 171 ± 97 ml ( $p=0.03$ )	LVEDV: B 257 ± 80 ml F-UP 253 ± 89 ml ( $p=NS$ ) LVESV: B 173 ± 71 ml F-UP 168 ± 79 ml ( $p=NS$ )

B=baseline; F-UP= follow-up; LVEDV= left ventricular end-diastolic volume; LVESV= left ventricular end-systolic volume; NS= not statistically significant

In patients with severe congestive heart failure the addition of ALDACTONE to standard

therapy significantly reduces morbidity and mortality. In the Randomized ALDACTONE Evaluation Study (RALES) study, patients with severe heart failure (New York Heart Association [NYHA] Class III - IV); left ventricular ejection fraction of no more than 35%) who were receiving standard therapy (i.e., ACE inhibitor, loop diuretic, digoxin) were given either ALDACTONE or placebo. The study was stopped early, after a mean follow-up period of 24 months. There was a 30% reduction in the risk of death ( $p < 0.001$ ). The reduction in the risk of death in the ALDACTONE group was attributed to a lower risk of both death from progressive heart failure and sudden death from cardiac causes. The rate of hospitalization for worsening heart failure was 35% lower in the ALDACTONE group compared with the placebo group ( $p < 0.001$ ). In addition, the rate of hospitalization for all cardiac causes was 30% lower in the ALDACTONE group compared with the placebo group ( $p < 0.001$ ). The reductions in the risk of death and hospitalization were observed after 2 to 3 months of treatment and persisted throughout the study period. A significant improvement in the symptoms of heart failure ( $p < 0.001$ ) occurred in patients who received ALDACTONE (41% of patients improved, 21% did not change, and 38% worsened) compared with placebo (33% of the patients improved, 18% did not change, and 48% worsened). Gynecomastia or breast pain occurred in 10% of the men in the ALDACTONE group and in 1% of the men in the placebo group ( $p < 0.001$ ). The incidence of serious hyperkalemia was minimal and similar in both groups. (see Tables 8 and 9)

**Table 8 - Summary of patient demographics for RALES study in Congestive Heart Failure**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
2	24 months, parallel, double-blind, placebo controlled	-25-50 p.o. -placebo	1663 patients treated with ACE inhibitors, diuretics and digoxin in most cases	65 ± 12	73/27

**Table 9 - Results of RALES study in Congestive Heart Failure**

Primary Endpoint	Associated value and statistical significance for Drug at specific dosages	Associated value and statistical significance for Placebo or active control
Death from any cause	284 deaths (35%) RR = 0.70, 95%CI: 0.60-0.82, $p < 0.001$	386 deaths (46%)

The results of a study involving 214 patients with NYHA functional class II to IV congestive heart failure indicate that the addition of ALDACTONE to conventional therapy that includes ACE inhibitors, loop diuretics, and digoxin is safe and effective in blocking the effects of aldosterone. In addition to conventional therapy, patients were administered either placebo or

ALDACTONE 12.5, 25, 50, or 75 milligrams once daily for 12 weeks. (see Table 10)

**Table 10 - Summary of patient demographics for RALES study in Congestive Heart Failure**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
3	12-week, parallel, double-blind, placebo controlled	-12.5 p.o. -25 p.o. -50 p.o. -75 p.o. -placebo	214 patients treated with ACE inhibitors, diuretics +/- digoxin	63 ± 12 61 ± 9 62 ± 13 62 ± 13 61 ± 12 (placebo)	78/22 82/18 74/26 88/12 83/16 (placebo)

Compared to placebo, the addition of ALDACTONE produced statistically significant increases in plasma renin activity (PRA) and aldosterone excretion and decreases in blood pressure and pro-atrial natriuretic factor (ANF). Urinary aldosterone levels and PRA increased in a dose-dependent manner. Hypokalemia developed in 10% of patients given placebo and in 0.5% given ALDACTONE. The incidence of hyperkalemia increased with doses of ALDACTONE greater than or equal to 50 mg. Hyperkalemia developed in 5% of patients given placebo and in 5%, 13%, 20%, and 24% of patients given ALDACTONE 12.5, 25, 50, and 75 mg, respectively. There were no statistically significant changes in clinical status in ALDACTONE compared with placebo-treated patients.

ALDACTONE administered to congestive heart failure (CHF) patients receiving normal doses of enalapril and furosemide caused an increase in serum magnesium and a decrease in ventricular arrhythmias. In a study involving 42 patients with NYHA functional class II or III CHF receiving enalapril (mean dose 17 mg/day) and furosemide (mean dose 72 mg/day), ALDACTONE 100 mg/day was administered causing statistically significant changes in the following parameters: increased plasma magnesium, decreased sodium retention, reduced urinary potassium and magnesium excretion, elevated plasma aldosterone and renin activity, and a reduction in ventricular premature contractions. (see Table 11)

**Table 11 - Summary of patient demographics for study in Congestive Heart Failure**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
4	8 weeks, parallel, double-blind, placebo controlled	-50-100 p.o. -placebo	214 patients treated with ACE inhibitors and diuretics	68 ± 3 70 ± 2 (placebo)	22/6 10/4 (placebo)

A similar study of CHF showed that the addition of ALDACTONE 50 mg to 75 mg daily significantly reduced hourly premature ventricular complexes compared with baseline ( $p < 0.0001$ ). Episodes of non-sustained ventricular tachycardia during exercise were reduced by 100% in the ALDACTONE group and by 33% in the control group. Antagonism of aldosterone was thought to be an important mechanism in reducing these arrhythmias. (see Table 12)

**Table 12 - Summary of patient demographics for study in Congestive Heart Failure**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
5	20 weeks parallel, non-placebo controlled (4 weeks of observation +16 weeks treatment)	-50 p.o. X 12 weeks then 25 p.o. X 4 weeks -control group	35 patients treated with ACE inhibitors, diuretics and digoxin	48 ± 9	32/3

**Hypertension:**

ALDACTONE is effective in the treatment of hypertension in doses of up to 400 mg/day with reduction in both standing and supine blood pressure with reported mean reduction values for systolic ranging from 20 to 30 mm Hg and for diastolic blood pressure 5 to 20 mm Hg or more.

ALDACTONE has been shown to be effective therapy for patients with refractory hypertension including African American and white patients, with or without primary aldosteronism, who are receiving multidrug regimens that include a diuretic and an ACE inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB). The antihypertensive effects of ALDACTONE persist for 1 to 2 weeks after discontinuation.

Low-dose ALDACTONE added-on to a multidrug regimen is effective in white and African American patients, with or without primary aldosteronism (PA), with resistant hypertension. In this study, patients receiving a multidrug regimen that included a diuretic and an ACE inhibitor or ARB were given ALDACTONE 12.5 to 50 mg daily as add-on therapy in order to achieve a further reduction in blood pressure (BP). (see Table 13)

**Table 13 - Summary of patient demographics for study in Hypertension**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
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6	6- month, parallel, double-blind,	-12.5-50 p.o.	76 patients treated with ACE inhibitors or ARBs and diuretics	55 ± 12	31/45
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At the 6-month follow-up, ALDACTONE produced an additional mean reduction in BP to a similar extent in African American and white patients with or without PA (mean decrease in systolic and diastolic BP, 25 and 12 mm Hg, respectively). The BP response was also similar in patients receiving an ACE inhibitor or an ARB. The mean number of antihypertensives decreased significantly from baseline to the 6-month follow-up ( $p < 0.05$ ) in patients with or without PA. It should be noted that patients with PA were more likely to have ALDACTONE titrated up to 50 mg/day.

ALDACTONE is safe and effective in the treatment of refractory hypertension. This prospective study involved 25 patients (ages 51 to 89 years) with refractory hypertension (hypertension of greater than 6 months duration; blood pressure (BP) greater than 140/90 mm Hg despite treatment with at least 2 antihypertensive agents given at optimal dosage). ALDACTONE was added to the previous regimen at a dosage of 1 mg/kg/day. The dosage of ALDACTONE was reduced as soon as normalization of BP was achieved. (see Table 14)

**Table 14 - Summary of patient demographics for study in Hypertension**

Study #	Study design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Study subjects (n)	Mean age (Range)	Sex (male/female)
6	3- month open-label	1 mg/kg/day p.o.	25	65 ± 11 (51-89)	10/15

For patients receiving an ACE inhibitor, this agent was replaced by ALDACTONE. Following 1 month of treatment with ALDACTONE, 23 patients achieved a BP of  $< 140/90$  mm Hg. The 2 remaining patients achieved a BP of  $< 140/90$  mm Hg by 2 months. After 3 months of therapy with ALDACTONE, the mean number of antihypertensive agents required per patient significantly decreased from 3.2 to 2.1 ( $p < 0.001$ ) including 5 patients who achieved adequate BP control with ALDACTONE monotherapy.

**Hypokalemia:**

ALDACTONE produced significant dose-related increases in plasma potassium and aldosterone, and reductions in plasma sodium and bicarbonate in 15 hypertensive patients taking a diuretic. There was variability in response.

### Nephrotic Syndrome:

ALDACTONE is useful for inducing diuresis in edematous patients with nephrotic syndrome when glucocorticoid therapy is not effective. However, ALDACTONE does not affect the basic pathological process of the disease.

## 15 MICROBIOLOGY

No microbiological information is required for this drug product.

## 16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### Acute Toxicity of Spironolactone:

Species	Route	LD50 ± Standard Error (mg/kg)
Mouse	Intragastric	>1000
	Intraperitoneal	356±94
Rat	Intragastric	>1000
	Intraperitoneal	786±125
Rabbit	Intragastric	>1000
	Intraperitoneal	866±156

### Long-Term Toxicity:

Species / Number	Length of study	Dose (mg/kg/d)	Results
<b>Spironolactone</b>			
Rat (25/sex/gp)	26 w	0, 120, 300, 700	Only minor changes: dose-related increase in liver weights.
Rat (36/sex/gp)	78 w	0, 50, 150, 500	Significant dose-related increase in benign adenomas of thyroid follicular cells and testicular interstitial cells.
Rat (60/sex/gp)	104 w	0, 10, 30, 100, 150	Significant dose-related increase in benign adenomas of thyroid follicular cells. Dose-related increase in liver weights.
Dog (2/sex/gp)	13 w	0, 12, 30, 70 (1-6 w); 100 (7-9 w); 250 (10-13 w)	No treatment-related findings.
Monkey (12/sex/gp)	26 w	0, 125	No treatment-related changes or tumors
Monkey (4/sex/gp)	52 w	0, 20, 50, 125 (1-9 w); 0, 20, 50, 250	No tumors. Increased liver weights in males at high dose after 1 year. Dose-related increase of acinar tissue of mammary gland in males.
<b>Potassium Canrenoate</b>			

Rat (20M, 25F/gp)	26 w	0, 10, 60, 360	High dose: increased serum levels of albumin and protein in females. Increase in ALT in males and females. Hypertrophy of thyroid and adrenal glands. Increase in hypertrophy of FSH cells. Mammary tumors (4 females), adenoma (1 rat), fibro-adenoma (1 rat), adenocarcinoma (1 rat, 60 mg/kg).
Rat (28/sex/gp) (8/sex/gp sacrificed at 13 w)	52 w	0, 30, 90, 270	Granulocytic leukemia in peripheral blood and bone marrow in males and females. Mammary tumors in 14 female rats (3 mid-doses, 8 high-dose).
Rat (50/sex/gp)	104 w	0, 20, 50, 125, 270	Granulocytic leukemia and hepatic, thyroid, testicular and mammary tumors.
Dog (4/sex/gp)	26 w	0, 10, 45, 200	Hypertrophy of mammary glands with secretion of milky substance, increased uterine weight. Proliferation of pituitary cells producing prolactin, hyperplasia of the endometrium, atrophy of the prostate gland and hyperplasia of zona glomerulosa of the adrenal gland.

Seminal vesicles and prostate in rats, dogs and monkeys were significantly reduced in weight. There was a dose-related maturation arrest of the testes in rats treated for 78 and 104 weeks and monkeys treated for 52 weeks.

### **Mutagenicity**

Potassium canrenoate did not produce a mutagenic effect in tests using bacteria and yeast. It did produce a positive mutagenic effect in several in vitro tests in mammalian cells usually requiring metabolic activation. In an in vivo mammalian system, potassium canrenoate was not mutagenic at doses up to 270 mg/kg.

There was no increased incidence of leukemia in rats treated with spironolactone for up to 104 weeks at doses up to 500 mg/kg/day.

### **Teratogenicity**

Teratogenicity studies have been conducted in mice, rats and rabbits administered oral doses of spironolactone (0-50 mg/kg).

In these studies, spironolactone had no embryonic effects in mice or rats. Limited dose-related teratogenic effects (hypoprolactinemia and decreased ventral prostate and seminal vesicle weights in males; increased luteinizing hormone secretion and ovarian and uterine weights in females) were reported in one rat study at doses of 50 and 100 mg/kg/day. Feminization of the external genitalia of male fetuses was reported in another study in rats at 200 mg/kg/day doses. Rabbits receiving 20 mg/kg/day (highest dose administered) had a decreased conception rate, an increased rate of resorption and a lower number of live pups.

## PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

### READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

#### PrALDACTONE

##### Spironolactone tablets USP

Read this carefully before you start taking **ALDACTONE** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **ALDACTONE**.

#### Serious Warnings and Precautions

- **Avoid potassium supplements, salt substitutes and foods containing high levels of potassium** (e.g., bananas, prunes, raisins and orange juice). ALDACTONE causes the kidney to eliminate unneeded water and sodium from the body into the urine, but also reduces the loss of potassium.

Follow your healthcare professional's directions for a low-salt or low-sodium diet and daily exercise program.

#### What is ALDACTONE used for?

ALDACTONE is used in adults to:

- treat high levels of aldosterone, a hormone made by the adrenal gland.
- manage swelling in the body caused by a build-up of fluid in the tissues (edema) due to a medical condition. This may include conditions involving your heart, liver or kidney.
- treat high blood pressure. ALDACTONE is usually used in combination with other medicines.
- treat and prevent low levels of potassium in the blood (hypokalemia).

#### How does ALDACTONE work?

ALDACTONE works by blocking the hormone aldosterone from binding to receptors in the kidney. It causes the kidneys to remove excess water and sodium from the body. It also reduces the loss of potassium. It is a diuretic or "water pill" that increases urination.

This medicine does not cure high blood pressure. It helps to control it. Therefore, it is important to continue taking ALDACTONE regularly even if you feel fine. Do not stop taking ALDACTONE without talking to your healthcare professional.

#### What are the ingredients in ALDACTONE?

Medicinal ingredients: Spironolactone

Non-medicinal ingredients: Calcium sulfate, carnauba wax, corn starch, hypromellose, magnesium stearate, peppermint flavouring, povidone, , polyethylene glycol 400, , opaspray M-1-2042 (25 mg only), opaspray M-1-2668 (100 mg only), and stearic acid.

**ALDACTONE comes in the following dosage forms:**

Tablets; 25 mg and 100 mg

**Do not use ALDACTONE if:**

- you are allergic to spironolactone or to any non-medicinal ingredient in ALDACTONE.
- you have difficulty urinating or produce no urine.
- you have severe kidney problems or Addison’s disease, a condition involving your adrenal glands.
- you have high levels of potassium (hyperkalemia) in your blood.
- you are pregnant.
- you are breastfeeding. ALDACTONE passes into breast milk.
- you are taking eplerenone, used to treat heart failure and high blood pressure.
- you are taking heparin or low molecular weight heparin used to prevent blood clotting.

**To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take ALDACTONE. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:**

- have diabetes.
- have liver or kidney problems.
- have or have ever had gout.
- are taking a Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) used to reduce pain and swelling, such as acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, and celecoxib.
- are taking an angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor. You can recognize ACE inhibitors because their medicinal ingredient ends in “PRIL”. It lowers blood pressure.
- are taking an angiotensin receptor blocker (ARB). You can recognize an ARB because its medicinal ingredient ends in “-SARTAN”. It lowers blood pressure.
- are taking lithium, used to treat bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness).
- plan to become pregnant or think you might be pregnant. If you become pregnant while taking ALDACTONE, call your healthcare professional immediately.
- are having surgery, including dental surgery, and will be given an anesthetic. Tell the healthcare professional or dentist that you are taking ALDACTONE.
- are taking other diuretics or “water pills” used to lower blood pressure.
- have moderate to severe heart problems.
- are dehydrated or suffer from excessive vomiting, diarrhea, or sweating.
- are taking any potassium supplements

**Other warnings you should know about:**

**Driving and using machines:** ALDACTONE can cause dizziness, light-headedness or fainting,

especially when you first start taking it. This can sometimes lead to falls and broken bones. Do not drive a car or do other tasks that require attention such as operating machinery until you know how ALDACTONE affects you.

**Breast development in males:** ALDACTONE contains spironolactone. Spironolactone can cause breast development in males. If you are male and develop tender or enlarged breast tissue while you are taking ALDACTONE, talk to your healthcare professional.

**Blood tests:** ALDACTONE can cause abnormal blood test results. Your healthcare professional will decide when to perform blood tests and will interpret the results.

**Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.**

**The following may interact with ALDACTONE:**

- alcohol, barbiturates (sleeping pills), or narcotics (strong pain medications). corticosteroids used to treat joint pain and swelling.
- digoxin, a heart medication.
- medicines that cause high levels of potassium in blood.
- lithium used to treat bipolar disorder (manic-depressive illness).
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) used to reduce pain and swelling, such as acetylsalicylic acid, ibuprofen, naproxen, and celecoxib.
- abiraterone, a medication used in prostate cancer treatment.
- other blood pressure lowering medications, including diuretics.
- antipyrine, used to relieve ear pain and swelling caused by middle ear infections.
- cholestyramine, used to lower cholesterol levels in the blood.
- adrenocorticotrophic hormone (ACTH), used to treat West Syndrome.
- heparin, used to prevent blood clots.
- norepinephrine, used to treat low blood pressure.
- eplerenone, used to treat heart failure and high blood pressure.

**How to take ALDACTONE:**

- Take ALDACTONE exactly as your healthcare professional tells you. Talk to your healthcare professional if you are uncertain.
- ALDACTONE is usually taken once a day in the morning or twice a day with breakfast and lunch. It is recommended that you take your dose at about the same time every day.

**Usual dose:**

Your healthcare professional will decide on the dose that is right for you. Your dose will depend on what ALDACTONE is being used to treat, your age, and other conditions or illnesses

you have, and if you are taking other medications. Based on how you respond to ALDACTONE, your healthcare professional may change your dose.

**Overdose:**

Symptoms of an overdose may include:

- nausea and vomiting,
- drowsiness,
- dizziness,
- confusion,
- diarrhea,
- rash.

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much ALDACTONE, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**Missed Dose:**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed dose or take a double dose to make up for the missed tablet. Instead, go back to your regular dosing schedule. If you are unsure, talk to your healthcare professional.

**What are possible side effects from using ALDACTONE?**

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking ALDACTONE. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

Side effects may include:

- constipation, diarrhea,
- nausea, vomiting,
- loss of appetite,
- upset stomach, indigestion,
- enlargement of the glands in your mouth,
- dry mouth, thirst,
- abdominal pain and cramps,
- dizziness, spinning sensation (vertigo),
- pins and needles sensation,
- headache,
- drowsiness,
- fever,
- restlessness,
- reduced libido,
- muscle cramps, spasms, pain and/or weakness,

- in men: breast swelling, difficulty in getting or maintaining erections,
- in women: breast discomfort, irregular or missed menstrual periods, postmenopausal bleeding,
- frequent urination.

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
<b>COMMON</b>			
<b>Hypotension</b> (low blood pressure): dizziness, fainting, light-headedness, blurred vision, nausea, vomiting, fatigue (may occur when you go from lying or sitting to standing up)	√		
<b>Hypokalemia</b> (low level of potassium in the blood): muscle weakness, muscle spasms, cramping, constipation, feeling of skipped heart beats or palpitations, fatigue, tingling or numbness		√	
<b>UNCOMMON</b>			
<b>Allergic Reaction:</b> difficulty swallowing or breathing, wheezing, drop in blood pressure, feeling sick to your stomach and throwing up, hives or rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat.			√
<b>Kidney Problems:</b> nausea, vomiting, fever, swelling of extremities, fatigue, thirst, dry skin, irritability, dark urine, increased or decreased urine output, blood in the urine, rash, weight gain (from retaining fluid), loss of appetite, abnormal blood test results, mental status changes (drowsiness, confusion, coma)		√	

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
<b>Liver Problems:</b> yellowing of the skin or eyes, dark urine and pale stools, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite		√	
<b>Hyperglycemia</b> (high blood sugar): increased thirst, frequent urination, dry skin, headache, blurred vision and fatigue	√		
<b>Electrolyte Imbalance:</b> weakness, drowsiness, muscle pain or cramps, rapid, slow or irregular heartbeat		√	
<b>Confusion</b>		√	
<b>Gynecomastia:</b> breast enlargement in men		√	
<b>Vomiting blood</b>		√	
<b>Rapid, excessive weight loss</b>		√	
<b>Dyspnea</b> (shortness of breath)		√	
<b>Urticarial reaction:</b> skin with red spots which burn, itch or sting		√	
<b>Stomach Ulcer</b> (burning pain in the gut): heartburn, long lasting stomach pain, loss of appetite and weight loss		√	
<b>Lung Problems:</b> chest pain, difficulty breathing			√
<b>RARE</b>			
<b>Thrombocytopenia</b> (low blood platelets): bruising or bleeding for longer than usual if you hurt yourself, fatigue and weakness		√	
<b>Leukopenia</b> (decreased white blood cells): infections, fatigue, fever, aches, pains and flu-like symptoms		√	
<b>VERY RARE</b>			

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
<b>Serious Skin Reactions (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome (SJS), Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis (TEN), drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS)):</b> severe skin peeling, scaling or blistering which may also affect your mouth, eyes, nose or genitals, itching, severe rash, skin pain, skin color changes (redness, yellowing, purplish), swelling and redness of eyes or face, flu-like feeling, fever, chills, body aches, swollen glands, cough			√
<b>UNKNOWN FREQUENCY</b>			
<b>Anemia</b> (decreased number of red blood cells): fatigue, loss of energy, looking pale, shortness of breath, weakness		√	
<b>Pancreatitis</b> (inflammation of the pancreas): upper abdominal pain, fever, rapid heart beat, nausea, vomiting, tenderness when touching the abdomen		√	

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

### **Reporting Side Effects**

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

### **Storage:**

Store the medicine at room temperature (15 to 25°C), away from heat and moisture.

Keep out of reach and sight of children.

### **If you want more information about ALDACTONE:**

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website: (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website <http://www.pfizer.ca>, or by calling 1-800-463-6001.

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