

# RxFiles – Drug Comparison Charts

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## CHART PEARLS

7th Edition, Oct 2008

Once again our drug comparison charts have been updated, enhanced and expanded. While we can't summarize all the changes, here are a few highlights from our 7<sup>th</sup> Edition book.

### Selected Revisions

#### ANTIPLATELET & ANTITHROMBOTIC CHART p10-11

- **PROFESS** demonstrates **AGGRENOX** is similar to **PLAVIX**
- **CHARISMA: PLAVIX** & ASA vs ASA alone: combination no better yet ↑ moderate bleeding
- New: dabigatran **PRADAX**, rivaroxaban **XARELTO**
- ASA pre-op considerations; *to stop ASA or continue pre-op*

#### LIPID CHART p 15

- **EZETROL** uncertainty re. efficacy **ENHANCE** & cancer **SEAS**

#### DIABETES CHARTS p 24-27

- Incorporate new CDA guidelines Sept 2008
- Added **AVANDARYL** & sitagliptin **JANUVIA** to chart
- TZD concerns: Heart failure, ↑ weight & fractures **DREAM,ADOPT**
- ↑ Mortality concern with aggressive A1C lowering **ACCORD**
- Managing hypoglycemia, sick days, exercise...
- New insulin considerations: Detemir **LEVEMIR**, Glargine **LANTUS**

#### SMOKING CESSATION CHART p 103

- Added varenicline **CHAMPIX** with note of both potential advantages and uncertainties.

### ONTARGET: ramipril, telmisartan or both

Telmisartan was equivalent to ramipril in vascular disease or high-risk diabetes & was associated with less angioedema NNT=500, 0.1 vs 0.3% & cough NNT=33, 1.1 vs 4.2%, but more hypotension NNH=112, 2.6 vs 1.7%.

Combination of both drugs had ↑ adverse events leading to discontinuation NNH=24 vs ramipril (hypotension NNH=33, diarrhea, syncope, renal dysfunction NNH=31, 13.5 vs 10.2%, & ↑ K<sup>+</sup> NNH=45) without ↑ benefit.

Ramipril lowered BP less than comparators, but had equal clinical benefit.

### New Charts for 2008 - 11 in all

- |   |          |
|---|----------|
| • Evidence Based Medicine Overview        | Pg i     |
| • Heart Failure                           | Pg 12-13 |
| • Insulin: Evidence, Tips & Pearls        | Pg 26-27 |
| • Diabetes: Landmark & Prevention Trials  | Pg 28    |
| • Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS)          | Pg 39    |
| • Nausea & Vomiting Symptom Management    | Pg 40-41 |
| • Urinary Incontinence                    | Pg 44-45 |
| • HIV: Drugs, Side Effects & Co-morbidity | Pg 48-49 |
| • Gout                                    | Pg 58    |
| • Pediatric Pain                          | Pg 61    |
| • ADHD                                    | Pg 86-87 |

**New Drug Additions** : Activelle, Avamys, Amitza, Avinza, Cimzia, Cymbalta, Factive, Invega, Isentress, Omnisar, Mezavant, Neupro, Pradax, Pristiq, Raliva, Rasilez, Relistor, Seasonale, Seroquel XR, Stalevo, Suboxone, Treximet, Voltaren Emulgel, Xarelto & Zeldox.

### Scanning Through The Charts

- **Antihypertensives** – updated guidelines <sup>2008 Canadian</sup> p 6-7
- **Anti-infectives**: added **FACTIVE** & updated telithromycin <sup>p 46</sup>
- **Community Acquired Pneumonia**: added guidelines p 52
- **NSAID/COXIB**: Systematic review of ↑ CV risk p 59
- **Opioid Chart**: new fentanyl 12ug patch; **ZYTRAM** p 60
- **Oral Contraceptive**: **YASMIN, LINESSA** & generics p 75
- **Herbal**: WebLink [www.mskcc.org/about/herbs](http://www.mskcc.org/about/herbs) plus updated information for Co-enzyme Q10, ginseng, glucosamine, green tea, kava kava, milk thistle, saw palmetto, St John's wort & valerian. (See also Weight-loss Herbal Chart <sup>p30</sup>) p 80-81
- **OTC**: new cough guidelines; strengthen warning regarding cough/cold products in age <2yrs p 82; probiotic comments p 46 & p 83, updated B<sub>12</sub> & calcium info p85

### \$ Comparisons <sup>/30day</sup> that caught our



#### Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs) - Page 37

- Rabeprazole **PARIET** 2x10mg od or 20mg od \$41
- Omeprazole **Apo-omeprazole** 20mg od \$46
- (compare: **LOSEC tab** 20mg od \$86; 20mg bid \$165)

#### Atypical Antipsychotics – HS, Low Dosing – Page 96-97

- Quetiapine **SEROQUEL** 25-50mg hs \$19-30
- Risperidone **RISPERDAL** 0.5-1mg hs \$23-29
- Olanzapine **ZYPREXA** 2.5-5mg hs \$71-136

#### Substantially **REDUCED** Saskatchewan Formulary Cost

- Alesse generic=**Aviane** & Min-Ovral generic=**Portia** \$180
- diltiazem generic **Tiazac** 300mg od \$75<sup>eg TIAZAC</sup>→\$47
- fentanyl generic **Fentanyl** 25ug patch q3day \$120→\$78
- felodipine generic **Felodipine** 10mg od \$43→\$32
- pramipexole generic **Pramipexole** 1mg tid \$230→\$145
- ramipril generic **Ramipril** 10mg od \$43→\$31
- quetiapine generic **Seroquel** 600mg po hs \$277→\$185
- risperidone generic **Risperidone** 2mg po bid \$173→\$93
- risperidone **Risperidone Depot** 25mg im q2 weeks \$427→\$350
- sumatriptan generic **Imitrex** 50mg po x6dose \$111→\$72
- venlafaxine generic **Venlafaxine XR** 150mg XR od \$74→\$51

#### Substantially **INCREASED** Saskatchewan Formulary Cost

- Levofloxacin generic legal challenge 500mg po od \$49→\$71
- Also: Avandia, Cuprime, Enbrel, Forteo, Humira, Rituxan & Tysabri

#### Status/modifications/changes of note:

- On Saskatchewan formulary: Concerta, Diovan HCT <sup>320/12.5/25mg</sup> & Resultz
- New **EDS** : generics (for clozapine, fentanyl patch), **Actonel 75mg**, Advagraf, Atripla, Isentress, pantoprazole & rabeprazole 20mg, Strattera
- New **generics**<sup>45</sup>: alendronate 70mg tab, Alphagan P, azithromycin, bupropion, diltiazem, Didrocal, felodipine, IV- <sup>Rocephin, Cipro & Tazosin</sup>, pantoprazole, pioglitazone, ramipril, risperidone, sumatriptan, topiramate & venlafaxine.
- New **full NIHB** : Altace HCT, Alvesco, Aviane, bisoprolol, Champix, DDAMP Melt, Lescol 80mg XL, Portia, Remeron, Reyataz & selegiline. (Previously added Axert, Combigan & Risperdal M-tabs)
- New **prior NIHB** approval : adalimumab, Advair, Duotrav, Elidel, Entocort, Ezetrol, Hydromorph Contin, Isentress, Lantus, Nuvaring, Oxycontin, Plavix, Proscar, Risperdal Consta, Rituxan, Symbicort & Trosec

Correction to 7<sup>th</sup> Ed, HIV chart page 48, NRTs: General Comments 6<sup>th</sup> bullet point should read “\*ddl soln must be mixed as a buffered solution with antacid”.

Check out our new website for new & updated postings!

[www.RxFiles.ca](http://www.RxFiles.ca)

- Newsletters, Q&As, Trial Summaries available to all.
- Updated charts available to those with subscription.
- Links / Program Information / References / Search Feature / Online Store
- RxFiles *Email Notification* of new postings.

## Recent Adverse Reaction Advisories <sup>1</sup>

- **Abacavir**: potential risk of increased cardiac events <sup>D:A:D</sup>
- **ADHD meds**: rare cardiac & psychiatric adverse events
- **Carbamazepine**: ↑Skin SE <sup>SJS,TEN</sup> in Asians with HLA-B\*1502
- **Ceftriaxone**: fatal calcium precipitates in lung & kidneys
- **Darunavir**: hepatotoxicity
- **Desmopressin**: intranasal forms -fatal hyponatremia in kids
- **Herbal products**: some adulterated with sibutramine <sup>for ↓weight</sup>, sildenafil <sup>for erectile dysfunction</sup> & benzodiazepines <sup>for sleep</sup>
- **Ketek**: acute liver failure & myasthenia gravis
- **Lamictal**: ↑risk of non-syndromic oral clefts
- **Modafinil**: severe skin reactions <sup>SJS,TEN</sup> & hypersensitivity
- **Natalizumab**: hypersensitivity, liver injury & 2 PML cases
- **Pergolide**: cardiac valvulopathy reports
- **Raloxifene**: ↑ risk of stroke mortality from the **Ruth** trial
- **Remicade**: possible hepatosplenic T-cell lymphoma in kids
- **Rituximab**: reports of PML <sup>Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy</sup>
- **Rosiglitazone**: ↑ cardiac concerns (?MI & heart failure)
- **Tamiflu**: hallucinations & abnormal behaviour <sup>including self harm</sup>
- **Varenicline**: ↑ neuropsychiatric SE (depressed, mood, suicide)

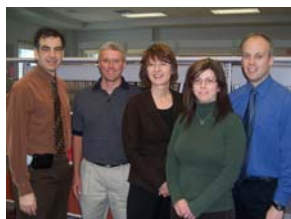
## Outcome Evidence from MAJOR Trials

Major outcome trials & dosages used are often noted on charts when available. *Caution-small print!*

{Recent: **Transcend & OnTarget**(p. 2), **Poise** (p. 3), **Hyvet** (p. 9), **Bafta, Profess & Wave** (p. 10), **Enhance, Corona & Seas** (p.15), **Accord, Advance & Proactive** (p. 24&28), **Inspire & Torch** (p. 101)}

## From the Archives...A Little RxFiles Chart History

RxFiles is celebrating 11+ years of academic detailing in Saskatchewan. Our first newsletters were supplemented by a drug comparison chart. These charts were soon to be found posted on physician's walls and showing up in MD & PharmD required reading packages. We found that they allowed a lot of latitude for broad discussion of almost any drug question that could come up in an academic detailing visit. Although the charts push the margins of page protocol, those who learn to use & like them, find the all-on-one page has its own merits. Although they're not for everyone, we hope you ... *Enjoy the charts!!! TBC*



## 7<sup>th</sup> Edition Quiz Answers in the RxFiles Charts

1. Is there benefit in treating patients over 80 years of age for hypertension? p 9 **Hyvet** trial (Indapamide +/- perindopril)
2. Was it better to have an A1C of 6.4% or 7.5% in the ACCORD trial? p 28 ... *a life or death question for subjects*
3. Which erectile dysfunction drug could be given daily?  
a) sildenafil b) tadalafil c) vardenafil p 42
4. After gastric resection can H. pylori eradication potentially reduce cancer? a) yes b) no p 38
5. Is there a FDA web site alerting potential drug concerns?  
a) yes b) no p 106  
[http://www.fda.gov/cder/aers/potential\\_signals/](http://www.fda.gov/cder/aers/potential_signals/)
6. What makes for a better NNT? p i {trick question?}  
a) 2 b) 30
7. What is the target dose for metoprolol in HF & has the Canadian formulation been proven in outcome trials? p 13
8. How much higher cost, per 10ml insulin is Levemir compared to NPH? a) \$20 b) \$30 c) \$40 d) \$50 p 26a
9. Is dimenhydrinate considered safe for nausea and vomiting in pregnancy? a) yes b) maybe c) no p 40,41  
Bonus: what pregnancy classification does it get in Australia?
10. Which statin that should be avoided in patients on HIV (p49) antiretrovirals: a) atorvastatin b) simvastatin c) pravastatin
11. Topical anesthetics are useful to ↓ pain from a heal poke.  
a) true b) false p 61

## Pictures & Colors Speak a 1000 Words

- = We are **Canadian!** (for international subscribers)
- = **Pregnancy** categories (defined on page 113)
- = A concern if given **Pre-Op**  
e.g. St. John's Wort on Herbal-DI chart (page 80-81)
- = ↓ dose required for **Renal** dysfunction
- = **Scored** tablet strengths - easy to split  
e.g. **ATACAND** family from ACEI/ARB chart (page 2)
- = Exception Drug Status (EDS) - Sask. Drug Plan
- = Not covered by the Saskatchewan Drug Plan
- = Avoid → soybean & peanut allergy
- = Monitoring Recommendations
- CI**: = Contraindication **DI** = Drug Interaction
- G** = generic if available
- SE** = Side Effects **SZ** = Seizure
- = **prior approval** required NIHB (Non-Insured Health Benefits) for eligible First Nations & Inuit 1-800-580-0950
- = **covered** by NIHB (in **OTC charts** & identified **ONLY** for drugs which are **EDS or non formulary** in Sask.)
- = **not covered** by NIHB

**Green** Shading usually indicates **HERBAL/Lifestyle** related

**Blue** Shading usually indicates **PEDIATRIC** related

**Purple** script usually indicates **TRADE NAMES**

**Navy** script usually indicates **MAJOR TRIALS**

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

## New Oct 2008: the RxFiles Charts OVERSIZE Book.

{A larger book, 15½" x 12½", for those who love the charts, but really would like a little larger font! See our website!}

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.bc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/index\\_e.html](http://www.bc-sc.gc.ca/dhp-mps/medeff/advisories-avis/index_e.html)