



Bonus Monographs



Chlorzoxazone

(klor-ZOX-ah-zohn)

PREGNANCY CATEGORY: C
CLASSIFICATION(S):

Skeletal muscle relaxant, centrally-acting

Rx: Paraflex, Parafon Forte DSC, Remular-S

SEE ALSO **SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS, CENTRALLY ACTING.**

ACTION/KINETICS

Inhibits polysynaptic reflexes at both the spinal cord and subcortical areas of the brain. Effects may also be due to sedation. **Onset:** 1 hr. **Time to peak blood levels:** 1–2 hr. **Peak serum levels:** 10–30 mcg/mL (after 750-mg dose). **Duration:** 3–4 hr. **t_{1/2}:** 1 hr. Metabolized in the liver and inactive metabolites excreted in the urine.

USES

As adjunct to rest, physical therapy, and other approaches for treatment of acute, painful musculoskeletal conditions (e.g., muscle spasms, sprains, muscle strain).

SPECIAL CONCERNS

Use during pregnancy only if benefits clearly outweigh risks. Use with caution in clients with known allergies or a history of allergic reactions to drugs.

SIDE EFFECTS

CNS: Dizziness, drowsiness, lightheadedness, overstimulation, malaise.

Dermatologic: Allergic-type skin rashes, petechiae, ecchymoses (rare).

GI: GI upset, GI bleeding (rare). **Allergic reactions:** *Angioneurotic edema,*

anaphylaxis (rare). **Miscellaneous:** Discoloration of urine, liver damage.

OD OVERDOSE MANAGEMENT

Symptoms: N&V, diarrhea, drowsiness, dizziness, lightheadedness, headache, malaise, sluggishness. May be followed by marked loss of muscle tone (voluntary movement may be impossible), decreased or absent deep tendon reflexes, respiratory depression, decreased BP. **Treatment:** Supportive.

ADDITIONAL DRUG INTERACTIONS

Isoniazid ↑ plasma levels of chlorzoxazone due to ↓ liver breakdown.

HOW SUPPLIED

Caplet: 250 mg, 500 mg; *Tablet:* 250 mg, 500 mg

DOSAGE

• **TABLETS, CAPLETS**

Skeletal muscle disorders.

Adults: 250–750 mg t.i.d.–q.i.d. with meals and at bedtime; **pediatric:** 125–500 mg t.i.d.–q.i.d. (or 20 mg/kg in three to four divided doses daily).

NURSING CONSIDERATIONS

SEE ALSO **NURSING CONSIDERATIONS FOR SKELETAL MUSCLE RELAXANTS, CENTRALLY ACTING.**

ASSESSMENT

1. Document indications for therapy; note pain level and pretreatment findings.
2. During physical exam test for weakness, stiffness, ROM, reflexes; with low-back pain, perform rectal exam and note sphincter tone.
3. Obtain baseline renal and LFTs; assess for dysfunction.

CLIENT/FAMILY TEACHING

1. May take with food if GI upset occurs.

2 CHLORZOXAZONE

May be mixed with food or beverages for children.

2. Do not operate dangerous machinery or drive a car until drug effects evident; causes drowsiness.

3. Drug may cause urine to have an orange or purple-red color when exposed to the air.

4. Review importance of RICE (rest,

ice, compression, and elevation) in the setting of an acute injury.

5. Do not overuse extremity during therapy; drug may mask pathology.

6. Return to provider in 3 weeks if no improvement in symptoms.

OUTCOMES/EVALUATE

Relief of musculoskeletal spasm and pain