Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

ACETAZOLAMIDE

a-set-a-zole-a-mide

What does it do?

Acetazolamide is used to reduce eye pressure in glaucoma. It is also used in the treatment and prevention of altitude sickness, and sometimes other conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney, liver or breathing problems, or diabetes.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *acetazolamide* regularly as directed with a glass of water.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *acetazolamide* including:

- aspirin (e.g. Disprin®, in doses used for pain relief)

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain	Tell your doctor immediately
Changes in heartbeat, muscle cramps or weakness Tingling or numbness	Tell your doctor
Peeing more often Flushing Confusion, low mood Stomach upset, loss of appetite, changes in taste	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- You may need blood tests while taking *acetazolamide* to check the amount of potassium in your blood.
- *Acetazolamide* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)