

Hydrochlorothiazide

Hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ or HCT) is a diuretic medication often used to treat high blood pressure and swelling due to fluid build up.



R_x

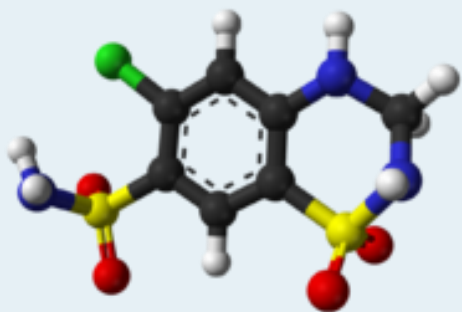
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Hydrochlorothiazide

Common Brand(S):
Microzide, R_x

Generic Name(S):
hydrochlorothiazide





Hydrochlorothiazide Function

It is used to treat high blood pressure. Lowering high blood pressure helps prevent strokes, heart attacks, and kidney problems. Hydrochlorothiazide belongs to a class of drugs known as diuretics/"water pills." It works by causing you to make more urine. This helps your body get rid of extra salt and water. It also reduces extra fluid in the body (edema) caused by conditions such as heart failure, liver disease, or kidney disease. This can lessen symptoms such as shortness of breath or swelling in your ankles or feet.

Common side effects

The more common side effects that can occur with hydrochlorothiazide include:

blood pressure that's lower than normal (especially when standing up after sitting or lying down)

Dizziness

Headache

weakness

Serious side effect

Call your doctor right away if you have serious side effects. Serious side effects and their symptoms can include the following:

severe skin reactions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome and exfoliated dermatitis, with symptoms such as:

painful skin rash

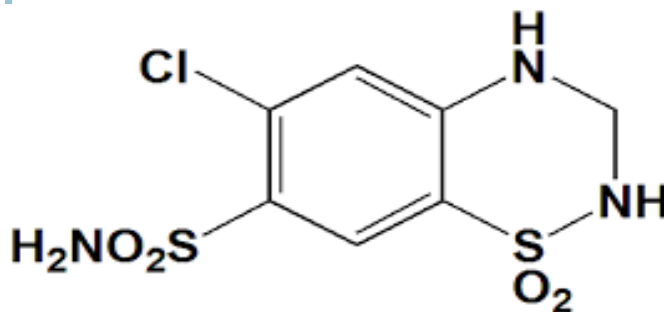
skin peeling and blisters

fever

mouth sores

kidney failure

abnormal heart rate or chest pain



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Frequently Asked Questions

How long does hydrochlorothiazide stay in your system?

Should you use a diuretic with diazoxide?

What other drugs will affect HCTZ?

About Hydrochlorothiazide

Take this medication by mouth as directed by your doctor, usually once daily in the morning with or without food. If you take this drug too close to bedtime, you may need to wake up to urinate. It is best to take this medication at least 4 hours before your bedtime.

You should not use HCTZ if you are allergic to hydrochlorothiazide or if you are unable to urinate.

Before using HCTZ, tell your doctor if you have liver disease, kidney disease, glaucoma, asthma or allergies, gout, diabetes, or if you are allergic to sulfa drugs or penicillin.

Avoid drinking alcohol, which can increase some of the side effects of HCTZ.

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather. Follow your doctor's instructions about the type and amount of liquids you should drink. In some cases, drinking too much liquid can be as unsafe as not drinking enough.

