

5-HT₁ AGONISTS (TRIPTANS)

Almotriptan,
Amerge (naratriptan), **Frova** (frovatriptan),
Imitrex, Onzetra Xsail, Tosymra NS, Treximet (sumatriptan),
Imitrex, Zembrace (sumatriptan injection),
Relpax (eletriptan), **Zomig, Zomig-ZMT** (zolmitriptan)

*Maxalt is found in a separate policy.

RATIONALE FOR INCLUSION IN PA PROGRAM**Background**

The selective serotonin receptor agonists, or "triptans", are a class of medications that have the ability to stop a migraine. Triptans work by binding to serotonin receptors in the brain. Specifically, per Drug Facts and Comparisons pharmacology of the Serotonin 5-HT₁ Receptor Agonists (Triptans): The vascular 5-HT₁ receptor subtype is present on the human basilar artery and in the vasculature of isolated human dura mater. Current theories on the etiology of migraine headaches suggest that symptoms are caused by local cranial vasodilation or the release of vasoactive and proinflammatory peptides from sensory nerve endings in an activated trigeminal system. The therapeutic activity of the serotonin 5-HT₁ receptor agonists in migraine most likely can be attributed to agonist effects at 5-HT_{1B/1D} receptors on the extracerebral, intracranial blood vessels that become dilated during a migraine attack and on nerve terminals in the trigeminal system. Activation of these receptors results in cranial vessel constriction, inhibition of neuropeptide release, and reduced transmission in trigeminal pain pathways (1).

Regulatory Status

FDA-approved indication: Triptan medications are indicated for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults (2-14).

Limitations of Use: (2-14)

- Use only after a clear diagnosis of migraine has been established
- Not intended for the prophylactic therapy of migraine
- Not indicated for the treatment of cluster migraine

Triptan medications are not intended for use in the management of hemiplegic or basilar migraine (2-14).

Off-Label Use: (15)



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Triptans have been found to be safe and effective in the pediatric and adolescent population.

Summary

Triptan medications are indicated for the acute treatment of migraine attacks with or without aura in adults. Triptans are not intended for the prophylactic therapy of migraine or for use in the management of hemiplegic or basilar migraine. Triptans have been found to be safe and effective in the pediatric and adolescent population (1-15).

Prior authorization is required to ensure the safe, clinically appropriate, and cost-effective use of Triptan medications while maintaining optimal therapeutic outcomes.

References

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