

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

PrAZARGA®

brinzolamide and timolol ophthalmic suspension
1.0% w/v/ 0.5% w/v (as timolol maleate)

Elevated Intraocular Pressure Therapy
(Topical Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitor and Topical Beta-Adrenergic Blocking Agent)

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PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY PRODUCT INFORMATION

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength	All Nonmedicinal Ingredients
Ophthalmic (topical)	Suspension / brinzolamide 1.0% w/v and timolol 0.5% w/v (as timolol maleate)	Benzalkonium chloride as preservative. Carbomer 974P, edetate disodium, sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and/or hydrochloric acid (to adjust pH), mannitol, purified water and tyloxapol.

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

AZARGA® (brinzolamide/timolol ophthalmic suspension) is indicated for the reduction of intraocular pressure (IOP) in adult patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension for whom monotherapy provides insufficient IOP reduction and when the use of AZARGA is considered appropriate.

Geriatrics (> 65 years of age):

No overall differences in safety and effectiveness have been observed between elderly and other adult patients.

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):

AZARGA is not recommended in children or adolescents. The safety and effectiveness of AZARGA in pediatric patients have not been established.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

AZARGA is contraindicated in patients with:

- hypersensitivity to brinzolamide, timolol, or to any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container (for a complete listing, see the Dosage Forms, Composition and Packaging section of the Product Monograph)
- bronchial asthma, a history of bronchial asthma, or severe chronic obstructive pulmonary

disease

- sinus bradycardia, sick sinus syndrome, sino-atrial block, second or third degree atrioventricular block, overt cardiac failure, or cardiogenic shock
- severe allergic rhinitis and bronchial hyper-reactivity
- hypersensitivity to other beta blockers
- hyperchloraemic acidosis
- severe renal impairment
- hypersensitivity to sulfonamides

No studies have been conducted with AZARGA or timolol maleate ophthalmic solution in patients with hepatic or renal impairment, or in patients with hyperchloraemic acidosis. Since brinzolamide and its main metabolite are excreted predominantly by the kidney, AZARGA is, therefore, contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment ($\text{CrCl} < 30 \text{ mL/min}$) or hyperchloraemic acidosis.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

General

FOR TOPICAL OPHTHALMIC USE ONLY.

Like other topically applied ophthalmic agents, brinzolamide and timolol, the medicinal ingredients of AZARGA, are absorbed systemically.

Timolol

Due to the beta-adrenergic component, timolol, the same types of cardiovascular, pulmonary and other adverse reactions as seen with systemic beta-adrenergic blocking agents may occur.

Beta adrenergic blocking agents should be administered with caution in patients subject to spontaneous hypoglycaemia or to patients with labile insulin-dependent diabetes as beta adrenergic blocking agents may mask the signs and symptoms of acute hypoglycaemia. They may also mask the signs of hyperthyroidism.

Beta adrenergic blocking agents have been reported to potentiate muscle weakness consistent with certain myasthenic symptoms, such as diplopia, ptosis and generalized weakness.

Timolol may interact with other medicinal products.

The effect on intraocular pressure or the known effects of systemic beta blockade may be potentiated when AZARGA is given to patients already receiving an oral beta-adrenergic blocking agent. The use of two local beta-adrenergic blocking agents is not recommended.

Brinzolamide

AZARGA contains brinzolamide, a sulphonamide. The same type of undesirable effects that are attributable to sulphonamides may occur with topical administration. Hypersensitivity reactions

common to all sulphonamide derivatives can occur in patients receiving AZARGA. If signs of serious reactions or hypersensitivity occur, discontinue the use of this medicinal product.

Acid-base disturbances have been reported with oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors. AZARGA contains brinzolamide, an inhibitor of carbonic anhydrase, and although administered topically, is absorbed systemically. The same types of adverse reactions that are attributable to oral carbonic inhibitors (i.e. acid-base disturbances) may occur with topical administration. AZARGA is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment. Caution is advised when using AZARGA in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment because of the possible risk of metabolic acidosis.

There is potential for an additive effect on the known systemic effects of carbonic anhydrase inhibition in patients receiving an oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and AZARGA. The concomitant administration of AZARGA and oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors has not been studied and is not recommended. The use of two local carbonic anhydrase inhibitors is not recommended.

Cardiovascular

Cardiac reactions, and rarely, death in association with cardiac failure, have been reported following administration of timolol maleate.

Cardiac failure should be adequately controlled before beginning therapy with AZARGA. Patients with a history of severe cardiac disease should be monitored for signs of cardiac failure.

AZARGA is not recommended for use in patients with cardiovascular diseases (e.g., coronary heart disease, Prinzmetal's angina, cardiac failure, etc.) or hypotension, as it can cause worsening of Prinzmetal angina, severe peripheral and central circulatory disorders, and hypotension.

Caution is advised when using AZARGA in patients with severe peripheral circulatory disturbances/disorders, such as severe forms of Raynaud's disease or Raynaud's syndrome.

Hepatic

AZARGA has not been studied in patients with hepatic impairment and, therefore, should be used with caution in such patients.

Immune

Anaphylactic Reactions

While taking beta adrenergic blocking agents, patients with a history of atopy or a history of severe anaphylactic reaction to a variety of allergens may be more reactive to repeated challenges with such allergens; such patients may be unresponsive to the usual doses of adrenaline used to treat anaphylactic reactions.

Driving and Operating Machinery

Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors can impair the ability to perform tasks requiring mental alertness and/or physical coordination. As AZARGA is absorbed systemically, caution is advised when using AZARGA in patients requiring mental alertness and/or physical coordination.

Ophthalmologic

There is limited experience with AZARGA in the treatment of patients with pseudoexfoliative glaucoma or pigmentary glaucoma.

AZARGA has not been studied in patients with narrow-angle glaucoma and is not recommended for use in these patients.

Carbonic anhydrase activity has been observed in both the cytoplasm and around the plasma membranes of the corneal epithelium. There is an increased potential for developing corneal edema in patients with low endothelial cell counts.

The possible role of brinzolamide on corneal endothelial function has not been investigated in patients with compromised corneas (particularly in patients with low endothelial count). Specifically, patients wearing contact lenses have not been studied and careful monitoring of these patients when using brinzolamide is recommended, since carbonic anhydrase inhibitors may affect corneal hydration which may lead to a corneal decompensation and oedema, and wearing contact lenses might increase the risk for the cornea. Likewise, in other cases of compromised corneas such as patients with diabetes mellitus or corneal dystrophies, careful monitoring is recommended.

AZARGA contains the preservative benzalkonium chloride, which may cause eye irritation and is known to discolour soft contact lenses. Contact with soft contact lenses is to be avoided. Patients must be instructed to remove contact lenses prior to the instillation of AZARGA and wait at least 15 minutes after dosing before contact lenses are reinserted.

Benzalkonium chloride has also been reported to cause punctate keratopathy and/or toxic ulcerative keratopathy. Close monitoring is required with frequent or prolonged use.

Choroidal detachment has been reported with administration of aqueous suppression therapy (e.g., timolol, acetazolamide) after filtration procedures.

AZARGA may cause temporary blurred vision or other visual disturbances that can affect the ability to drive or use machines. If blurred vision occurs at instillation, the patient must wait

until the vision clears before driving or using machinery.

Peri-Operative Considerations

Surgical Anesthesia

Beta blocking ophthalmological preparations may block systemic beta-agonist effects, such as that of adrenaline. Anesthesiologist should be informed if and when patients are receiving AZARGA.

Renal

AZARGA is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment. Caution is advised when using AZARGA in patients with mild to moderate renal impairment.

Respiratory

Respiratory reactions, including death due to bronchospasm in patients with asthma, have been reported following administration of timolol maleate.

Sexual Function/Reproduction

The effect of AZARGA on human fertility is unknown. Nonclinical data do not suggest an effect of brinzolamide or timolol on fertility following oral dosing. In animals, developmental toxicity was observed with brinzolamide at doses that induced maternal toxicity.

Special Populations

Pregnant Women:

AZARGA is not recommended during pregnancy or in women of child bearing potential not using contraception.

Developmental toxicity studies with brinzolamide in rabbits at oral doses of 1, 3, and 6 mg/kg/day (43, 129, and 258 times the recommended human ophthalmic dose) produced maternal toxicity at 6 mg/kg/day and a significant increase in the number of fetal variations, such as accessory skull bones, which was only slightly higher than the historic value at 1 and 6 mg/kg. In rats, statistically decreased body weights of fetuses from dams receiving oral doses of 18 mg/kg/day (783 times the recommended human ophthalmic dose) during gestation were proportional to the reduced maternal weight gain, with no statistically significant effects on organ or tissue development. Increases in unossified sternebrae, reduced ossification of the skull, and unossified hyoid that occurred at 6 and 18 mg/kg were not statistically significant. No treatment-related malformations were seen. Following oral administration of ¹⁴C-brinzolamide to pregnant rats, radioactivity was found to cross the placenta and was present in the fetal tissues and blood.

Data on a limited number of exposed pregnancies indicate no adverse effects of timolol in ophthalmic solutions on pregnancy or on the health of the fetus/newborn child, but bradycardia and arrhythmia have been reported in one case in the fetus of a woman treated with timolol ophthalmic solution. To date, no other relevant epidemiological data are available.

Nursing Women:

AZARGA should not be used by women nursing neonates/infants.

It is not known whether topical AZARGA is excreted in human breast milk; however, a risk to the nursing child cannot be excluded. Available pharmacodynamic / toxicological data in animals have shown that following oral administration, brinzolamide and timolol are excreted in breast milk.”

Pediatrics (< 18 years of age):

The safety and effectiveness of AZARGA in children have not been established.

Geriatrics (> 65 years of age):

No overall differences in safety and effectiveness have been observed between elderly and other adult patients.

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

No untoward safety issues were identified based upon a review of the laboratory data (haematology, blood chemistry, and urinalysis) from a single pharmacokinetic study.

ADVERSE REACTIONS**Adverse Drug Reaction Overview**

In clinical studies involving over 500 patients treated with AZARGA, the most frequently reported adverse drug reaction was temporary blurred vision (6%) upon instillation, lasting from a few seconds to a few minutes.

Dysgeusia (bitter or unusual taste in the mouth following topical ocular instillation) was the most frequently reported systemic adverse drug reaction. It is likely caused by passage of the eye drops in the nasopharynx via the nasolacrimal canal and is attributable to the brinzolamide component of this combination product. Nasolacrimal occlusion or gently closing the eyelid after instillation may help reduce the incidence of this effect.

AZARGA contains brinzolamide which is a sulphonamide inhibitor of carbonic anhydrase with systemic absorption. Gastrointestinal, nervous system, haematological, renal and metabolic effects are generally associated with systemic carbonic anhydrase inhibitors. The same type of adverse drug reactions that are attributable to oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors may occur with topical administration.

Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions

Because clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions the adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse drug reaction information from clinical trials is useful for identifying drug-related adverse events and for approximating rates.

In 5 clinical studies, AZARGA was administered to 501 patients at a dose of one drop two times daily for up to 1 year. The most frequent adverse drug reactions ($\geq 1\%$) seen in clinical trials are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Treatment-Related Adverse Drug Reactions $\geq 1\%$

MedDRA Preferred Term (Version 10.0)	AZARGA N = 501 (%)	COSOPT® N = 264 (%)	AZOPT N = 203 (%)	Timolol N = 236 (%)
Eye Disorders				
blurred vision	6%	1%	3%	1%
eye irritation	4%	12%	2%	3%
eye pain	3%	9%	0%	1%
foreign body sensation in eyes	1%	0%	0%	0%
Nervous System Disorders				
dysgeusia	2%	2%	5%	0%

Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Drug Reactions (<1%)

Eye disorders: abnormal sensation in eye, anterior chamber flare, asthenopia, blepharitis, blepharitis allergic, conjunctivitis allergic, conjunctival hyperaemia, corneal disorder, corneal erosion, dry eye, erythema of eyelid, eye discharge, eyelid margin crusting, eyelids pruritis, eye pruritis, intraocular pressure decreased, lacrimation increased, ocular hyperaemia, photophobia, punctate keratitis, scleral hyperaemia;

Psychiatric disorders: insomnia;

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cough, pharyngolaryngeal pain, rhinorrhea;

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: hair disorder, lichen planus;

Vascular disorders: blood pressure decreased.

Additional Adverse Reactions Observed in Clinical Trials with the Individual Components of AZARGA

AZARGA contains brinzolamide and timolol (as timolol maleate). Additional adverse reactions associated with the use of the individual components observed in clinical studies that may potentially occur with AZARGA include:

Brinzolamide 1.0%

Blood and the lymphatic system disorders: blood chloride increased, red blood cell count decreased; **Cardiac disorders:** angina pectoris, arrhythmia, bradycardia, cardio-respiratory distress, heart rate increased, heart rate irregular, palpitation, tachycardia; **Ear and labyrinth disorders:** tinnitus, vertigo; **Eye disorders:** conjunctivitis, corneal epithelium defect, corneal epithelium disorder, corneal oedema, corneal staining, deposit eye, diplopia, eye allergy, eye swelling, eyelid disorder, eyelid oedema, glare, hypoaesthesia eye, intraocular pressure increased, keratitis, keratoconjunctivitis sicca, keratopathy, madarosis, meibomianitis, ocular discomfort, optic nerve cup/disc ratio increased, photopsia, pterygium, scleral pigmentation, subconjunctival cyst, visual acuity reduced, visual disturbance; **Gastrointestinal disorders:** abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, dry mouth, dyspepsia, flatulence, frequent bowel movements, gastrointestinal disorder, hypoaesthesia oral, nausea, oesophagitis, paraesthesia oral, stomach

discomfort, upper abdominal pain, vomiting; **General disorders and administration site conditions:** asthenia, chest discomfort, chest pain, fatigue, feeling abnormal, feeling jittery, irritability, malaise, medication residue, pain, peripheral oedema; **Hepatobiliary disorders:** liver function test abnormal; **Immune system disorders:** hypersensitivity; **Infections and infestations:** nasopharyngitis, pharyngitis, rhinitis, sinusitis; **Injury, poisoning and procedural complications:** foreign body in eye; **Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** arthralgia, back pain, muscle spasms, myalgia, pain in extremity; **Nervous system disorders:** ageusia, amnesia, dizziness, headache, hypoaesthesia, motor dysfunction, memory impairment, paraesthesia, somnolence, tremor; **Psychiatric disorders:** apathy, depressed mood, depression, libido decreased, nervousness, nightmare; **Renal and urinary disorders:** pollakiuria, renal pain; **Reproductive system and breast disorders:** erectile dysfunction; **Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** asthma, bronchial hyperactivity, dyspnoea, epistaxis, nasal congestion, nasal dryness, postnasal drip, sneezing, throat irritation, upper respiratory tract congestion; **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** alopecia, dermatitis, erythema, pruritus generalized, rash, rash maculo-papular, skin tightness, urticaria; **Vascular disorders:** blood pressure increased, hypertension

Timolol 0.5%

Cardiac disorders: arrhythmia, atrioventricular block, bradycardia, cardiac arrest, cardiac failure, palpitation; **Eye disorders:** conjunctivitis, diplopia, eyelid ptosis, keratitis, visual disturbance; **Gastrointestinal disorders:** diarrhoea, nausea; **General disorders and administration site conditions:** asthenia, chest pain; **Metabolism and nutrition disorders:** hypoglycemia; **Nervous system disorders:** cerebral ischaemia, cerebrovascular accident, dizziness, headache, myasthenia gravis, paresthesia, syncope; **Psychiatric disorders:** depression; **Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** bronchospasm, dyspnoea, nasal congestion, respiratory failure; **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** alopecia, rash; **Vascular disorders:** hypotension

Abnormal Hematologic and Clinical Chemistry Findings

AZARGA had no clinically relevant treatment-related effect on laboratory parameters.

Post-Market Adverse Drug Reactions

Adverse reactions identified from post-marketing experience with the individual components that have not been reported previously in the above-mentioned clinical trials with AZARGA, brinzolamide 1.0% or timolol 0.5% are listed below.

AZARGA

Blood and the lymphatic system disorders: white blood cell count decreased; **Cardiac disorders:** heart rate decreased; **Eye disorders:** eyelid oedema, visual impairment, vital dye staining cornea present; **Gastrointestinal disorders:** abdominal discomfort, diarrhea, dry mouth, nausea; **General disorders and administration site conditions:** chest pain, fatigue; **Immune system disorders:** hypersensitivity; **Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** myalgia; **Nervous system disorders:** dizziness, headache; **Psychiatric disorders:** hallucination, depression; **Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** dyspnoea, epistaxis, oropharyngeal pain; **Renal and urinary disorders:** blood urine present; **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** alopecia, erythema, rash; **Vascular disorders:** blood pressure increased

Brinzolamide 1.0%

Blood and the lymphatic system disorders: agranulocytosis, thrombocytopenia; **Cardiac disorders:** cardiac disorder, supraventricular extrasystoles; **Congenital and familial/genetic disorders:** congenital anomaly; **Ear and labyrinth disorders:** ear pain; **Eye disorders:** accommodation disorder, anterior chamber fibrin, blepharospasm, choroidal detachment, conjunctival haemorrhage, conjunctival irritation, conjunctival oedema, conjunctival scar, corneal degeneration, corneal opacity, dark circles under eyes, descemet's membrane disorder, eye oedema, eyelid exfoliation, iris disorder, iritis, macular oedema, ocular vascular disorder, oculogyration, optic disc drusen, periorbital disorder, uveitis, visual brightness; **Gastrointestinal disorders:** abdominal pain, dysphagia, mouth haemorrhage, pancreatitis acute; **General disorders and administration site conditions:** adverse drug reaction, condition aggravated, drug ineffective, drug intolerance, face oedema, facial pain, feeling cold, pyrexia, sensation of foreign body; **Hepatobiliary disorders:** jaundice; **Immune system disorders:** anaphylactic shock; **Injury, poisoning and procedural complications:** drug exposure during pregnancy, injury, limb injury, periorbital haematoma, transplant failure; **Infections and infestations:** bronchitis, herpes ophthalmic, herpes virus infection, pneumonia; **Investigations:** blood lactic acid increased, blood urea increased, body temperature decreased, electrocardiogram abnormal, gamma-glutamyltransferase increased, hepatic enzyme increased; **Metabolism and nutrition disorders:** anorexia, metabolic acidosis; **Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** musculoskeletal discomfort; **Nervous system disorders:** anosmia, aphonia, burning sensation, burning sensation mucosal, cerebral infarction, cerebrovascular accident, convulsion, disturbance in attention, facial palsy, hyperaesthesia, hypogeusia, hyposmia, lethargy, loss of consciousness; **Psychiatric disorders:** agitation, anxiety, bradyphrenia, depressive symptom, fear, restlessness, thought blocking; **Renal and urinary disorders:** micturition disorder, micturition urgency, renal failure acute; **Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** bronchospasm, dry throat, dysphonia, lung disorder, nasal discomfort, nasal turbinate abnormality, respiratory distress, respiratory failure; **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** dermatitis contact, dry skin, eczema, hair colour changes, hair texture abnormal, hyperhidrosis, periorbital oedema, pruritis,

psoriasis, rash generalised, rash pruritic, rash vesicular, skin hyperpigmentation, skin reaction, swelling face, vascular purpura; **Surgical and medical procedures:** sinus operation; **Vascular disorders:** angiopathy, haematoma, hot flush

Timolol 0.5%

Cardiac disorders: accelerated idioventricular rhythm, atrioventricular block complete, cardiotoxicity, myocardial infarction, sinus bradycardia; **Congenital and familial/genetic disorders:** multiple congenital abnormalities; **Ear and labyrinth disorders:** vertigo
Endocrine disorders: thyroid disorder; **Eye disorders:** conjunctival oedema, corneal deposits, corneal oedema, corneal opacity, corneal scar, ectropion, eye allergy, eye disorder, keratopathy, miosis, visual acuity reduced,; **General disorders and administration site conditions:** chest discomfort, drug ineffective, drug interaction, fatigue, peripheral coldness, tachyphylaxis;
Immune system disorders: hypersensitivity; **Infections and infestations:** nasopharyngitis
Injury, poisoning and procedural complications: accidental exposure, drug exposure during pregnancy, fall, medication error, transplant failure; **Investigations:** blood phosphorus increased, heart rate increased, pulse abnormal, respiratory rate increased, skin test positive; **Metabolism and nutrition disorders:** metabolic acidosis; **Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** muscular weakness, myalgia; **Nervous system disorders:** amnesia, balance disorder, depressed level of consciousness, hypotonia, lethargy, nervous system disorder; **Psychiatric disorders:** confusional state, nervousness; **Reproductive system and breast disorders:** menorrhagia; **Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** dermatitis, dermatitis contact, erythema, periorbital oedema, pruritus, skin exfoliation, toxic epidermal necrolysis

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Overview

Specific drug interaction studies were not conducted with AZARGA. In clinical studies, AZARGA was used concomitantly with the following systemic medications without evidence of adverse interactions: antihistamines, anti-infectives, cardiovascular medications, central nervous system medications, analgesic /antipyretic medications, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, psychotherapeutic agents, antidiabetic medications, and thyroid agents. However, the potential for interactions with any drug should be considered.

Drug-Drug Interactions

AZARGA contains brinzolamide, a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and, although administered topically, is absorbed systemically. Acid-base disturbances have been reported with oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors. The potential for interactions must be considered in patients receiving AZARGA.

The cytochrome P-450 isozymes responsible for metabolism of brinzolamide include CYP3A4 (main), CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8 and CYP2C9. It is expected that inhibitors of CYP3A4 such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, clotrimazole, ritonavir and troleandomycin will inhibit the metabolism of brinzolamide by CYP3A4. Caution is advised if CYP3A4 inhibitors are given concomitantly. Brinzolamide is not an inhibitor of cytochrome P-450 isozymes.

Concomitant use of salicylates (e.g., acetylsalicylic acid) with AZARGA is not recommended. AZARGA may lead to decreased efficacy of the salicylate, CNS toxicity, metabolic acidosis, and other adverse reactions. These alterations were not observed in clinical trials with brinzolamide ophthalmic suspension 1%; however, in patients treated with oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors, rare cases of acid-base alterations have occurred with high dose salicylate therapy.

Concomitant use of oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors and AZARGA is not recommended. There is a potential for an additive effect on the known systemic effects of carbonic anhydrase inhibition in patients receiving an oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and brinzolamide eye drops.

There is a potential for additive effects resulting in hypotension and/or marked bradycardia when ophthalmic solutions with beta blockers such as timolol are administered concomitantly with oral calcium channel blockers, guanethidine, other beta adrenergic blocking agents, antiarrhythmics, (e.g., amiodarone), digitalis glycosides or parasympathomimetics.

The hypertensive reaction to sudden withdrawal of clonidine can be potentiated when taking beta adrenergic blocking agents.

Potentiated systemic beta-blockade (e.g. decreased heart rate) has been reported during combined treatment with CYP2D6 inhibitors (e.g., quinidine, cimetidine, fluoxetine, paroxetine) and timolol.

Mydriasis resulting from concomitant use of ophthalmic beta-blockers and adrenaline (i.e., epinephrine) has been reported occasionally.

Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food are not anticipated following topical ocular administration.

Drug-Herb Interactions

Interactions with herbal products are not anticipated following topical ocular administration.

Drug-Laboratory Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests are not anticipated following topical ocular administration.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Dosing Considerations

When substituting another ophthalmic antiglaucoma agent with AZARGA, the other agent should be discontinued and AZARGA should be started the following day.

If more than one topical ophthalmic medicinal product is being used, the medicines must be administered at least 5 minutes apart.

Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

The adult dose is one drop of AZARGA in the conjunctival sac of the affected eye(s) twice daily.

Missed Dose

If a dose is missed, a single drop should be applied as soon as possible before reverting to regular routine. Do not use a double dose to make up for the one missed.

Administration

Patients should be instructed to shake the bottle well before use.

Nasolacrimal occlusion or gently closing the eyelid for 2 minutes after instillation is recommended. This may reduce the systemic absorption of medications administered via the ocular route and result in a decrease in systemic adverse events.

Do not allow the dropper tip of the bottle to touch the eye or other surrounding structures, because this could cause eye injury or contaminate the tip with common bacteria known to cause eye infections. Serious damage to the eye with subsequent loss of vision may result if you use eye drop solutions that have become contaminated. Do not use suspension if the bottle is cracked or damaged in any way.

Instruct patients to keep the bottle tightly closed when not in use. After the cap is removed, if the tamper evident snap collar is loose, instruct patients to remove it before using the product.

OVERDOSAGE

For management of suspected drug overdose, consult your regional poison control centre.

No data are available in humans with regards to overdose by accidental or deliberate ingestion of AZARGA. In case of accidental ingestion of AZARGA, symptoms of overdose from beta blockade may include bradycardia, hypotension, cardiac failure, and bronchospasm.

If overdose with AZARGA occurs, treatment should be symptomatic and supportive. Electrolyte imbalance, development of an acidotic state, and possibly central nervous system effects may occur. Serum electrolyte levels (particularly potassium) and blood pH levels should be monitored. Studies have shown that timolol does not dialyse readily.

ACTION AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action

AZARGA contains two active substances: brinzolamide and timolol maleate. These two components decrease elevated IOP primarily by reducing aqueous humour secretion, but do

so by different mechanisms of action. The combined effect of these two agents results in additional IOP reduction compared to either compound alone.

Brinzolamide is a potent inhibitor of human carbonic anhydrase II (CA-II), the predominant isozyme in the eye. Inhibition of carbonic anhydrase in the ciliary processes of the eye decreases aqueous humour secretion, presumably by slowing the formation of bicarbonate ions with subsequent reduction in sodium and fluid transport.

Timolol is a non-selective beta adrenergic blocking agent that has no intrinsic sympathomimetic, direct myocardial depressant or membrane-stabilising activity. Tonography and fluorophotometry studies in man suggest that its predominant action is related to reduced aqueous humour formation and a slight increase in outflow facility.

Pharmacodynamics

AZARGA, when applied topically to the eye, has the action of reducing elevated as well as normal intraocular pressure, whether or not accompanied by glaucoma. Elevated intraocular pressure is a major risk factor in the pathogenesis of glaucomatous visual field loss. The higher the level of intraocular pressure, the greater the likelihood of glaucomatous visual field loss and optic nerve damage. The Advanced Glaucoma Intervention Study (AGIS) (1) established elevated intraocular pressure as a positive risk factor for glaucomatous visual field loss. Eyes with intraocular pressures below 18 mmHg at all visits were found to have little to no visual field loss during the six-year monitoring period.

Clinical effects:

In a twelve-month, controlled clinical trial in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension who, in the investigator's opinion could benefit from a combination therapy, and who had baseline mean IOP of 25 to 27 mmHg, the mean IOP-lowering effect of AZARGA dosed twice daily was 7 to 9 mmHg (2).

In a six-month, controlled clinical study in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension and baseline mean IOP of 25 to 27 mmHg, the mean IOP-lowering effect of AZARGA dosed twice daily was 7 to 9 mmHg, and was up to 3 mmHg greater than that of brinzolamide 1.0% dosed twice daily and up to 2 mmHg greater than that of timolol 0.5% dosed twice daily. A statistically superior reduction in mean IOP was observed compared to both brinzolamide and timolol at all time-points and visits throughout the study (3).

In two controlled clinical trials, the ocular discomfort upon instillation of AZARGA was significantly lower than that of COSOPT* (2, 4).

Pharmacokinetics

Table 2: Steady State Red Blood Cell Concentrations of brinzolamide and N-desethyl brinzolamide following administration of AZARGA in Healthy Subjects

	C_{107} (μM)	$\text{AUC}_{15-107\text{day}}$ ($\mu\text{M}\cdot\text{day}$)
brinzolamide	18.4 ± 3.01	1681 ± 225
N-desethyl-brinzolamide	1.57 ± 1.13	118 ± 61.8

Table 3: Steady State Plasma Concentrations of timolol following administration of AZARGA in Healthy Subjects

	C_{max} (ng/ml)	T_{max} (h)	AUC_{0-12} (ng·h/ml)	$t_{1/2}$ (h)
timolol	0.824 ± 0.453	0.79 ± 0.45	4.71 ± 2.49	4.8 ± 1.8 h

Brinzolamide pharmacokinetics are inherently non-linear due to saturable binding to carbonic anhydrase in whole blood and various tissues. Steady-state exposure does not increase in a dose-proportional manner.

Absorption:

Following topical ocular administration of AZARGA, brinzolamide and timolol are absorbed through the cornea and into the systemic circulation. Brinzolamide binds strongly to carbonic anhydrase in red blood cells (RBCs). Plasma drug concentration is low. Whole blood elimination half-life is prolonged (>100 days) in humans due to RBC carbonic anhydrase binding, resulting in significant accumulation of brinzolamide in the blood. In contrast, circulating timolol is present in plasma and has a relatively short half-life. Minimal accumulation occurs following chronic dosing.

Distribution:

Studies in rabbits showed that during a course of topical ocular BID administration, brinzolamide significantly accumulates in ICB, choroid and especially retina. Plasma protein binding of brinzolamide is moderate (about 60%). Brinzolamide is sequestered in RBCs due to its high affinity binding to CA-II and to a lesser extent to carbonic anhydrase I (CA-I). Its active N-desethyl metabolite also accumulates in RBCs where it binds primarily to CA-I. The affinity of brinzolamide and metabolite to RBC and tissue CA results in low plasma concentrations. Binding to carbonic anhydrase may be a reason for prolonged ocular retention of brinzolamide.

Timolol can be measured in human aqueous humour after administration of timolol ophthalmic solution and in plasma for up to 12 hours after administration of AZARGA.

Metabolism:

Brinzolamide is metabolized by hepatic cytochrome P450 isozymes, specifically CYP3A4, CYP2A6, CYP2B6, CYP2C8 and CYP2C9. The primary metabolite is N-desethylbrinzolamide followed by the N-desmethoxypropyl and O-desmethyl metabolites as well as an N-propionic acid analog formed by oxidation of the N-propyl side chain of O-desmethyl brinzolamide.

Brinzolamide and N-desethylbrinzolamide do not inhibit cytochrome P450 isozymes at concentrations at least 100-fold above maximum systemic levels.

Timolol is metabolised by two pathways. One route yields an ethanolamine side chain on the thiadiazole ring and the other giving an ethanolic side chain on the morpholine nitrogen and a second similar side chain with a carbonyl group adjacent to the nitrogen. Timolol metabolism is mediated primarily by CYP2D6.

Excretion:

Brinzolamide is eliminated primarily by renal excretion (approximately 60%). About 20% of the dose has been accounted for in urine as metabolite. Brinzolamide and N-desethyl-brinzolamide are the predominant components in the urine along with trace levels (<1%) of the N-desmethoxypropyl and O-desmethyl metabolites. Data in rats showed some biliary excretion (about 30%), primarily as metabolites.

Timolol and its metabolites are primarily excreted by the kidneys. Approximately 20% of a timolol dose is excreted in the urine unchanged and the remainder excreted in urine as metabolites. The plasma $t_{1/2}$ of timolol is 4.8 hours after administration of AZARGA.

Special Populations and Conditions

Pediatrics: AZARGA has not been evaluated in the pediatric population.

Geriatrics: No overall differences in safety and effectiveness have been observed between elderly and other adult patients.

Gender: Following topical ocular administration of AZARGA, there were no clinically relevant differences in systemic exposure to brinzolamide, N-desethyl brinzolamide or timolol, when analyzed by gender.

Race: No efficacy and safety differences due to ethnicity are expected with AZARGA.

Hepatic Insufficiency: AZARGA has not been studied in patients with hepatic disease.

Renal Insufficiency: AZARGA is contraindicated in patients with severe renal impairment ($CrCl < 30$ mL/min) or hyperchloraemic acidosis. AZARGA has not been studied in patients with renal impairment.

STORAGE AND STABILITY

Store at 2°C – 30°C. Discard 60 days after opening.

SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

None.

DOSAGE FORMS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

AZARGA contains the medicinal ingredients brinzolamide 1.0% (10 mg/mL) and timolol 0.5% (5 mg/mL, as timolol maleate), the preservative benzalkonium chloride 0.01%, and the nonmedicinal ingredients carbomer 974P, edetate disodium, sodium chloride, sodium hydroxide and/or hydrochloric acid (to adjust pH), mannitol, purified water and tyloxapol.

AZARGA is formulated at a pH of approximately 7.2 and is isotonic.

AZARGA is supplied in an 8 mL round low density polyethylene bottle with a low density polyethylene dispensing plug and white polypropylene cap. Tamper evidence is provided by a closure with an extended skirt that locks to the bottle finish on application and breaks away from the closure on opening.

Net contents are 5 mL supplied in an 8 mL bottle.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

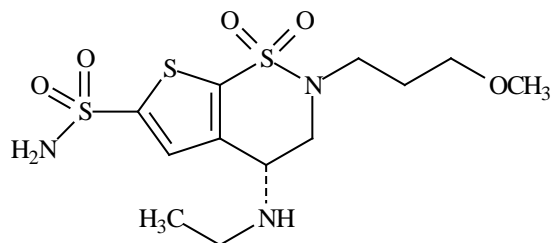
Drug Substance

Proper name: brinzolamide

Chemical name: (*R*)-4-(Ethylamino)-3,4-dihydro-2-(3-methoxypropyl)-2*H*-thieno[3,2-*e*]-1,2-thiazine-6-sulfonamide 1,1-dioxide

Molecular formula and molecular mass: C₁₂H₂₁N₃O₅S₃; 383.51

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: White to off-white powder or crystals. Insoluble in water; slightly soluble in alcohol and in methanol.

Drug Substance

Proper name: timolol maleate

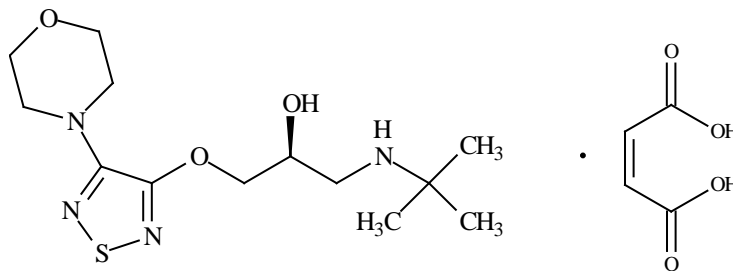
Chemical name: (-)-1-(*tert*-Butylamino)-3-[(4-morpholino-1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl)oxy]-2-propanol maleate (1:1) (salt)

Molecular formula: C₁₃H₂₄N₄O₃S • C₄H₄O₄

Molecular mass timolol maleate: 432.49

Molecular mass timolol: 316.42

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: White or almost white, odorless, crystalline powder. Soluble in water, in alcohol, and in methanol; sparingly soluble in chloroform and in propylene glycol; insoluble in ether and in cyclohexane.

CLINICAL TRIALS

Study demographics and trial design

A summary of the patient demographics for each of the 4 studies relevant to the evaluation of the efficacy and comfort of AZARGA is provided in Table 4. Overall, these demographics are representative of the population that would be expected to receive this medicinal product.

Table 4: Summary of patient demographics for clinical trials

Study #	Trial design	Dosage, route of administration and duration	Intent to Treat study subjects (n=number)	Mean age (Range)	Gender
C-97-22 Safety and Efficacy	Double-masked, parallel group, randomised	AZARGA: 1 drop BID Timolol: 1 drop BID 2 weeks	n = 66	60.8 yrs (31-87 yrs)	19 M 47 F
C-05-24 Safety and Efficacy	Double-masked, parallel group, randomised	AZARGA: 1 drop BID AZOPT: 1 drop BID Timolol: 1 drop BID 6 months	n = 517	62.8 yrs (26-90 yrs)	221 M 296 F
C-05-10 Safety and Efficacy	Double-masked, parallel group, randomised	AZARGA: 1 drop BID COSOPT*: 1 drop BID 12 months	n = 431	64.9 yrs (22-90 yrs)	180 M 251 F
C-05-49 Comfort	Double-masked, crossover, randomised	AZARGA: 1 drop BID COSOPT*: 1 drop BID 1 week	n = 95	67.6 yrs (32-90 yrs)	33 M 62 F

Study results

Three clinical studies were conducted to assess the efficacy and safety of AZARGA. All three studies demonstrated that AZARGA dosed twice daily produces statistically significant and clinically relevant reductions in IOP from baseline.

An additional clinical study was conducted to evaluate the comfort of the combination product. Comparison to Monotherapy (C-97-22)

A fourteen-day, multicentre, triple-masked, parallel group study (n=66) was conducted to evaluate AZARGA b.i.d. compared to 0.5% timolol b.i.d. in patients with elevated IOP \geq 22 mmHg, inadequately controlled after 3 weeks of 0.5% timolol b.i.d. monotherapy.

AZARGA dosed twice daily produced statistically significant additional mean reductions in IOP (2.8 mmHg to 3.3 mmHg) from an open-label Timolol 0.5% Solution baseline greater than 21 mmHg. Differences in mean IOP change from baseline ranged from 1.0 to 1.6 mmHg in favour of the AZARGA treatment group and were statistically significant ($p \leq 0.0413$) for 4 of the 5 on-therapy time points.

Table 5: Mean IOP Change from Baseline (mmHg) (C-97-22)

	Baseline		Day 1	Day 7		Day 14	
	8AM	10AM	8AM	8AM	10AM	8AM	10AM
AZARGA							
Mean	24.6	23.7	-2.8	-2.7	-3.3	-3.2	-3.3
N	33	33	33	33	33	33	33
P-value	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
Timolol							
Mean	23.9	23.4	-1.6	-1.4	-2.3	-1.7	-2.3
N	30	30	30	28	28	30	30
P-value	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	0.0005	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
Difference	0.7	0.3	-1.2	-1.3	-1.0	-1.6	-1.1
P-value	0.1736	0.5965	0.0200	0.0144	0.0679	0.0034	0.0413

Contribution of Elements (C-05-24)

A 6-month, multi-centre, double-masked, active-controlled, randomized, parallel group study was designed to demonstrate the contribution of elements of AZARGA relative to its individual components, AZOPT (brinzolamide 1.0%) suspension and Timolol 0.5% Solution, in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension.

AZARGA dosed twice daily produced IOP-lowering efficacy that was superior to both AZOPT and Timolol 0.5% Solution as evidenced by statistically significantly lower ($p < 0.05$) mean IOP values at all 6 on-therapy assessment times over the 6 month study. Mean IOP in the intent-to-treat (ITT) analysis ranged from 17.1 to 19.0 mmHg for the AZARGA group, 20.4 to 22.0 mmHg for the AZOPT group, and 18.8 to 20.4 mmHg for the Timolol 0.5% Solution group. Differences in mean IOP favored the AZARGA group and ranged from -3.3 to -2.7 mmHg for comparisons against the AZOPT group, and from -1.8 to -1.3 mmHg for comparisons against the Timolol 0.5% Solution group.

AZARGA-dosed twice daily produced statistically significant and clinically relevant diurnal IOP control. Among patients enrolled at selected sites (approximately 33% of total patients in study) where additional IOP measurements were performed at 12:00 PM, 4:00 PM and 8:00 PM, AZARGA demonstrated statistically significantly superior IOP-lowering efficacy relative to AZOPT and Timolol 0.5% Solution. Mean IOP across these 6 additional on-therapy assessment times ranged from 17.0 to 17.8 mmHg for the AZARGA group, 20.0 to 20.8 mmHg for the AZOPT group, and 19.2 to 20.3 mmHg for the Timolol 0.5% Solution group. Differences in mean IOP between the AZARGA and AZOPT groups ranged from -3.1 to -2.2 mmHg and were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) at each of the 6 additional on-therapy assessment times. Differences in mean IOP between the AZARGA and Timolol 0.5% Solution groups ranged from -2.8 to -1.5 mmHg and were statistically significant ($p < 0.05$) at each of the 6 additional on-therapy assessment times.

Table 6: Mean IOP Change from Baseline (mmHg) (C-05-24)

	Baseline		Combined		Week 2		Month 3		Month 6	
	8AM	+2 HRS	8AM	+2 HRS	8AM	+2 HRS	8AM	+2 HRS	8AM	+2 HRS
AZARGA										
Mean	27.1	25.8	-8.3	-8.5	-8.4	-8.7	-8.3	-8.7	-8.1	-8.0
N	171	171	171	171	170	170	171	171	171	171
P-value	--	--	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
AZOPT										
Mean	27.1	25.6	-5.3	-5.2	-5.1	-5.2	-5.6	-5.3	-5.2	-5.1
N	173	173	173	173	172	172	173	173	173	173
P-value	--	--	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001
Timolol										
Mean	27.0	25.4	-6.8	-6.2	-6.9	-6.6	-6.9	-6.4	-6.6	-5.7
N	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173	173
P-value	--	--	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001	<.0001

Combined = Results pooled across Week 2, Month 3 and Month 6.

Comparative Study (C-05-10)

A twelve-month, multinational study conducted at 45 centres was designed to compare the IOP-lowering efficacy and safety of AZARGA to that of COSOPT* (dorzolamide 20 mg/ml and timolol 5 mg/ml). Both medications were dosed twice daily at 8 AM and 8 PM.

AZARGA produced statistically significant and clinically relevant reductions from baseline in IOP, with mean reductions in the per protocol analysis ranging from approximately 7 to 9 mmHg. These equate to IOP reductions of 28% to 35%. Furthermore, AZARGA provided clinically relevant control of IOP throughout the day, with approximately 60% of patients achieving IOP levels <18 mmHg at least at 1 visit.

AZARGA demonstrated the same IOP-lowering efficacy as COSOPT*. Treatment group differences in means numerically favoured AZARGA at 9 of 12 study visit and times in the per protocol analysis and at 11 of 12 study visits and times in the intent-to-treat analysis.

Table 7: Comparison of Mean IOP (mmHg) AZARGA versus COSOPT* (C-05-10)

Timepoints		AZARGA		COSOPT*		Treatment Effect		
		Mean	N	Mean	N	Difference†	Upper 95% CI	Lower 95% CI
Baseline^a	8AM	27.3	218	27.3	201	-0.0	0.6	-0.7
	10AM	25.9	218	26.1	201	-0.2	0.4	-0.8
	4PM	24.8	218	24.8	201	-0.0	0.6	-0.6
Week 2	8AM	-8.5	216	-8.0	198	-0.6	0.2	-1.3
	10AM	-8.8	195	-8.7	185	-0.4	0.4	-1.1
Month 3	8AM	-9.1	208	-8.7	187	-0.6	0.2	-1.3
	10AM	-9.2	207	-8.8	186	-0.6	0.2	-1.3
Month 6	8AM	-8.8	205	-8.3	181	-0.5	0.3	-1.2
	10AM	-8.8	204	-8.7	181	-0.1	0.6	-0.8
	4PM	-7.5	200	-7.4	180	0.1	0.9	-0.6
Month 9	8AM	-8.7	198	-8.2	173	-0.5	0.3	-1.2
	10AM	-8.8	198	-8.6	173	-0.3	0.5	-1.1
Month 12	8AM	-8.7	191	-8.5	169	-0.1	0.6	-0.8
	10AM	-8.6	192	-8.9	168	0.2	1.0	-0.5
	4PM	-7.2	192	-7.7	168	0.7	1.4	-0.1

† negative values favour AZARGA

CI = confidence interval

Comfort Study (C-05-49)

A one-week, double-masked, randomized, active-controlled, parallel trial was conducted to evaluate the ocular discomfort of AZARGA compared to COSOPT*. Patient assessment was based on burning and stinging using a 5-point scale (0 = none, 4 = very severe).

The ocular comfort of AZARGA was superior to COSOPT*, as evidenced by a significantly higher percentage of patients on AZARGA that experienced no burning or stinging after 1 week of dosing compared to COSOPT* (48.9% and 14.9%, respectively, $p=0.0004$). The mean discomfort scores at the Week 1 visit were 1.53 for the COSOPT* group and 0.77 for the AZARGA group in the intent-to-treat analysis ($p=0.0003$).

The ocular comfort of AZARGA was further supported by a review of treatment-related adverse events which demonstrated a higher incidence of ocular pain (23.4% vs. 10.4%) and ocular irritation (17.0% vs. 8.3%) in patients treated with COSOPT*.

DETAILED PHARMACOLOGY

Brinzolamide is a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor (CAI) with high affinity for, and potent inhibitory activity against, human carbonic anhydrase II with a K_i of 0.13 nM and an IC_{50} of 3.2 nM. Carbonic anhydrase is an enzyme found in many tissues of the body, including the eye. It catalyzes the reversible reaction involving the hydration of carbon dioxide and the dehydration of carbonic acid. Inhibition of carbonic anhydrase in the ciliary processes of the eye decreases aqueous humour secretion, presumably by slowing the formation of bicarbonate ions with subsequent reduction of sodium and fluid transport. The result is a reduction in intraocular pressure (IOP).

Timolol has been utilised as the primary therapy for the reduction of elevated IOP in patients with ocular hypertension or open-angle glaucoma for many years. Tonography and fluorophotometry studies suggest that timolol's predominant action is related to a reduction in aqueous humour formation following blockade of the beta-adrenoreceptors on the non-pigmented epithelial cells of the ciliary body.

Human Pharmacodynamics

The active components of AZARGA, brinzolamide and timolol maleate, are approved therapeutic agents for the reduction of elevated intraocular pressure in patients with open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension, with different mechanisms of action. AZARGA produces greater mean IOP reductions than those produced by either AZOPT (brinzolamide 1% ophthalmic suspension), or Timolol Maleate Ophthalmic Solution, 0.5% used alone.

Animal Pharmacodynamics

No non-clinical ocular or systemic pharmacodynamic studies were conducted on AZARGA since the pharmacology of each active component has been well established previously in the medical and scientific literature. Previous studies have shown that the concomitant application of carbonic anhydrase inhibitors with timolol results in an additional reduction in IOP compared to the administration of either single agent (5, 6).

Human Pharmacokinetics

In Vitro Studies

No *in vitro* studies were conducted with AZARGA in humans.

In Vivo Studies

Following twice daily topical ocular administration of AZARGA in healthy subjects for 13 weeks (which followed a 2-week oral phase with brinzolamide 1-mg dosed twice daily, to shorten the time to reach steady-state), the mean whole blood concentrations (RBC) of brinzolamide averaged $18.8 \pm 3.29 \mu\text{M}$, $18.1 \pm 2.68 \mu\text{M}$ and $18.4 \pm 3.01 \mu\text{M}$ on Study Weeks 4, 10 and 15, respectively, indicating that steady-state RBC concentrations of brinzolamide were maintained (RBC saturation of CA-II at $\sim 20 \mu\text{M}$). The mean RBC concentrations of the active metabolite of brinzolamide (N-desethyl brinzolamide) increased gradually during the study, reaching a mean RBC concentration of $1.57 \pm 1.13 \mu\text{M}$ at Week 15. The mean $\text{AUC}_{15-107\text{day}}$ for brinzolamide and N-desethyl brinzolamide were $1681 \pm 225 \mu\text{M}\cdot\text{day}$ and $118 \pm 61.8 \mu\text{M}\cdot\text{day}$, respectively.

Following AZARGA administration, the mean peak concentration (C_{max}) of timolol at steady-state ($0.824 \pm 0.453 \text{ ng/mL}$) was reached at an average of 0.79 ± 0.45 hours after dosing. After the peak, plasma concentrations of timolol declined with a mean $t_{1/2}$ of 4.8 ± 1.8 hours. The mean steady-state C_{max} of timolol following bilateral BID topical ocular administration of AZARGA is over 100 times lower than the mean C_{max} ($84.3 \pm 44.8 \text{ ng/mL}$) observed in subjects following a 20-mg oral dose of Timolol.

MICROBIOLOGY

Not applicable.

TOXICOLOGY

Single Dose Studies

Brinzolamide/Timolol Combination

Single-dose studies were not conducted with the brinzolamide/timolol combination. However, single dose topical ocular and oral studies were conducted with brinzolamide and single dose toxicity studies by three routes of administration were conducted with timolol.

Brinzolamide

Single-dose toxicity studies included a 1-day topical ocular irritation evaluation in rabbits and acute oral toxicity studies in rats and mice. Exaggerated topical ocular dosing studies with a 2.0% formulation of brinzolamide indicated that ocular irritation and comfort scores were consistent with those normally observed with ophthalmic suspensions, and no significant clinical findings were noted.

Single-dose oral toxicity studies were conducted in rats and mice to assess the acute toxicity of brinzolamide. The oral LD_{50} of brinzolamide in mice was estimated to be 1,400 mg/kg, with the oral LD_{50} in rats estimated at 1,000 to 2,000 mg/kg.

Timolol

Acute oral dosing studies established an LD₅₀ of approximately 1000 mg/kg for mice and rats. The most frequent clinical observations were decreased activity and bradypnea. Oral acute interaction studies in mice in which timolol maleate was administered with probenecid, methyldopa, hydralazine, hydrochlorothiazide, or tolbutamide, showed that these drugs had no effect on the toxicity of timolol maleate. Timolol maleate had no effect on hypoprothrombinemia induced by bishydroxycoumarin in the dog.

Repeat-Dose Topical Ocular Administration

Brinzolamide/Timolol Combination

Toxicologic evaluations of the brinzolamide/timolol fixed combination conducted during 6 and 9 month evaluations in New Zealand albino and pigmented rabbits revealed no significant treatment-related observations during in-life or after microscopic evaluation of ocular and systemic tissues. The only finding that has been observed consistently in topical ocular rabbit studies with brinzolamide has been slight corneal thickening. This has been established as a species-specific effect and has not been observed in monkey topical ocular studies with brinzolamide or clinical studies with AZARGA. In addition, microscopic evaluation of the corneal tissue in animals where thickening has occurred did not reveal any adverse cellular effects.

Table 8: Summary of Repeated Dose Topical Ocular Nonclinical Safety Studies Conducted with A Combination of Brinzolamide and Timolol

Duration / Species / Strain	No. of Animals	Dose and Frequency	Brinzolamide/ Timolol Doses (mg/ml)	Results/Findings
2-Week/ Rabbit/ NZW	4/sex/group	1 drop BID, OU	UC, 0/0 (Vehicle), <u>20/5</u>	Slight increase in corneal thickness in treated groups
3/6-Month/ Rabbit/ NZW	10(4 ^a)/sex/group	1 drop TID, OU	UC, 0/0 (Vehicle), 10/5, <u>20/5</u>	Slight increase in corneal thickness in treated groups
9-Month/ Rabbit/ NZ Pigmented	6/sex/group	1 drop BID or TID, OU	UC, 0/0 ^c (Vehicle) ^c , 10/5 ^b , <u>20/5^c</u>	No test-article related changes

^a euthanised at 3 months
^b one group was dosed BID and a second group was dosed TID
^c dosed TID
UC = untreated control; BID = twice a day; TID = three times a day; OU = both eyes
The highest No Observed Adverse Effect Level (NOAEL) is underlined.

Brinzolamide

Five repeat-dose topical ocular studies were conducted in rabbits, ranging in duration from 1 to 6 months, and a 1-year topical ocular study was conducted in nonhuman primates.

These studies demonstrated that there was no significant ocular toxicity or irritation when the drug was administered topically. Irritation scores were unremarkable and similar to controls.

Concentrations of brinzolamide ophthalmic suspension as high as 4.0% were administered chronically up to 4 times a day in rabbits and three times a day in monkeys without significant toxicological findings.

Table 9: Summary of Repeated-Dose Topical Ocular Nonclinical Safety Studies Conducted with Brinzolamide

Duration / Species / Strain	No. of Animals	Dose and Frequency	Brinzolamide Doses (mg/ml)	Results
1-Month/ Rabbit/NZW	4/sex/group	2 drops TID; OD	UC, 0 (Vehicle), 10, <u>30</u> - gel forming solution	No significant findings
1-Month/ Rabbit/ NZW	4/sex/group	1 drop QID; OD	UC, 0 (Vehicle), 20, <u>40</u> – suspension	No significant findings
1/3-Month/ Rabbit/ NZW	1-Month 3/sex/group; 3-Month 4/sex/group	2 drops QID; OD	UC, 0 (Vehicle), 20, <u>40</u> – suspension	No significant findings
3-Month/ Rabbit/ NZW	5/sex/group	1 drop TID; OU	UC, 0 (Vehicle), 10, <u>20</u> – suspension	Slight increase in corneal thickness in brinzolamide treated groups
6-Month/ Rabbit/ NZW	10/sex/group	2 drops QID; OD	UC, 0 (Vehicle), 20, <u>40</u> – suspension	No significant findings
1-Year/ Monkey/ Cynomolgus	4/sex/group	2 drops TID; OD	UC, 0 (Vehicle), 10, 20, <u>40</u> – suspension	No significant findings

Underlined = NOAEL - the identified (No Adverse Effect Level) for the study.
UC = untreated control; TID = three times a day; QID = four times a day; NZW = New Zealand White; OD = right eye; OU = both eyes

Timolol

No adverse ocular effects were observed in rabbits and dogs administered Timolol 0.5% Solution topically in studies lasting one and two years, respectively.

Repeat-Dose Systemic Administration

Brinzolamide/Timolol Combination

Systemically administered repeat-dose studies were not conducted with the brinzolamide/timolol combination. Repeat-dose oral toxicity studies were conducted with brinzolamide and with timolol.

Brinzolamide

Repeat-dose oral toxicity studies in rats and mice established the urinary system as the primary site of toxicity, consistent with known effects of CAIs. Pharmacological effects on urine volume, specific gravity and electrolytes were observed. Minimal to mild nephropathy, with crystalline material in the urine, was observed at the higher dose levels. The No Observed Effect Level (NOEL) for brinzolamide in a chronic 6-month rat study was 1 mg/kg/day with a steady-state whole blood concentration of 62.7 to 70.8 µM.

Timolol

Timolol was administered orally to rats at dose levels 5, 10 and 25 mg/kg/day for up to 67 weeks. No physical signs, ocular signs or deaths which could be attributed to the drug were evident.

In a 54 week oral study, timolol was administered to dogs at doses of 5, 10 and 25 mg/kg/day. Body weight and food consumption were normal and no physical signs attributable to treatment were evident. Slight focal hyperplasia of the transitional epithelium was seen in the renal pelvis of one dog receiving 25 mg/kg/day.

In rats treated with 100 to 400 mg/kg timolol maleate for seven weeks, excessive salivation seen 5 to 10 minutes after dosing had a dose related incidence in the first week of the study. At necropsy, organ weight studies revealed a significant increase in the kidneys, spleen and liver of some treated animals. Except for splenic congestion, there were no morphological changes to account for the increase in organ weights. Rats treated with 1 gram per day for eight weeks exhibited ptyalism, muscle tremors and transient pale extremities.

In dogs, doses of 200 mg/kg timolol maleate or higher, were lethal to some animals. Low grade tubular nephrosis and trace amounts of hyaline casts in the collecting and convoluted tubules occurred in one of two dogs administered 100 mg/kg/day and in both dogs receiving 400 mg/kg/day. Small foci of tubular degeneration and regeneration occurred in the nephrotic areas. Similar slight multi focal degeneration of the collecting tubules in the medulla of both kidneys was evident in one of four dogs in a 15 day intravenous toxicity study.

Genotoxicity:

Brinzolamide

Two *in vitro* and two *in vivo* mutation assays were conducted with brinzolamide in order to evaluate the genotoxicity potential of the drug substance. Results of the *in vitro* bacterial mutation and the two *in vivo* assays unequivocally demonstrate a lack of mutagenicity. The *in vitro* mammalian cell mutation assay indicated a potential for mutagenicity, but when the cytotoxicity and class of drug was put into context, brinzolamide was considered nonmutagenic.

Timolol

In the Ames assays, the highest concentrations of timolol employed, 5,000 or 10,000 µg/plate, were associated with statistically significant elevations of revertants observed with tester strain TA100 (in seven replicate assays), but not in the remaining three strains. In the assays with tester strain TA100, no consistent dose-response relationship was observed, and the ratio of test to control revertants did not reach the criterion for a positive Ames test. Timolol maleate was not mutagenic in the *in vitro* neoplastic cell transformation assay (up to 100 µg/ml). Timolol maleate was also not mutagenic when tested *in vivo* in the mouse micronucleus test and cytogenetic assay (doses up to 800 mg/kg). (7)

Carcinogenicity:

Brinzolamide

An initial cell proliferation study in rats confirmed an absence of proliferation potential with brinzolamide. Brinzolamide has been characterised as unequivocally noncarcinogenic based on 2-year oral dosing studies in mice and rats.

Timolol

Two-year oral carcinogenicity studies were conducted in the mouse and the rat with timolol. In the mouse study, there were statistically significant increases in the incidence of benign and malignant pulmonary tumours, benign uterine polyps and mammary adenocarcinomas in female mice at 500 mg/kg/day (approximately 35,000 times the systemic exposure following the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose of 5 mg/ml), but not at 5 or 50 mg/kg/day (approximately 350 or 3,500, respectively, times the systemic exposure following the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose). Subsequently, this increase was determined to be associated with elevated serum prolactin which occurred in female mice administered oral timolol at 500 mg/kg/day, but not at doses of 5 or 50 mg/kg/day. The relevance of this finding in mice has not been established in humans (7).

In the rat study, where timolol maleate was administered orally, there was a statistically significant increase in the incidence of adrenal pheochromocytomas in male rats administered 300 mg/kg/day (approximately 21,000 times the systemic exposure following the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose). Similar differences were not observed in rats administered 100 mg/kg/day oral doses equivalent to approximately 7,000 times the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose (7).

Reproduction and Development:

Brinzolamide

Brinzolamide when given orally demonstrated no effect on male or female fertility.

Brinzolamide increased the incidence of unossified sternebrae or hyoid and reduced ossification of the skull in rats at 18 mg/kg/day given orally. Reduced ossification was not dose-dependent. In rabbits, no malformations were observed and ossification appeared to be unaffected. In a peri- and postnatal effect study, F₁ pup body weights were significantly reduced, as compared with controls, throughout the lactation period, at the 15 mg/kg/day dose level. These effects are comparable with other drugs of this class (8, 9, 10).

Timolol

In reproduction and fertility studies in rats with timolol, there were no adverse effects on male or female fertility at doses up to 150 mg/kg/day or 10,000 times the systemic exposure following the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose (7).

Teratogenicity studies with timolol in mice, rats, and rabbits at oral doses up to 50 mg/kg/day (3,500 times the systemic exposure following the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose) demonstrated no evidence of foetal malformations. Although delayed foetal ossification was observed at this dose in rats, there were no adverse effects on postnatal development of offspring. Doses of 1,000 mg/kg/day (71,000 times the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose) were maternotoxic in mice and resulted in an increased number of foetal resorptions. Increased foetal resorptions were also seen in rabbits at doses of 90 mg/kg/day or 6,400 times the maximum recommended human ophthalmic dose, in this case without apparent maternotoxicity (7).

Other Studies:**Brinzolamide**

Brinzolamide is considered to have little or no potential to induce contact sensitisation based on a guinea pig maximisation test. The main impurities, S-isomer and N-desethyl were characterised as nongenotoxic in bacterial mutagenicity and mouse micronucleus tests. In addition, a 1-month topical ocular rabbit study was performed with concentrations of S-isomer up to 2 mg/ml. This study determined that the impurity S-isomer was safe in the AZOPT formulation well above the specified limit.

Timolol

The potential for delayed contact sensitisation of timolol maleate was evaluated in the guinea pig maximisation test. No significant response occurred after the primary challenge, and a re-challenge was conducted on Day 35. Responses in both the primary (0/20) and re-challenge (1/20) procedures were comparable with negative controls (0/10). In this study, timolol maleate showed no evidence of delayed contact dermal sensitisation.

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PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

PrAZARGA®
brinzolamide and timolol
ophthalmic suspension

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when AZARGA® suspension was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about AZARGA suspension. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION**What the medication is used for:**

AZARGA suspension is used to treat high pressure in the eye. This pressure can lead to an illness called glaucoma.

What it does:

AZARGA suspension is a combination of treatments to reduce pressure in the eye for conditions such as glaucoma. It contains two ingredients which work together to reduce pressure within the eye. Brinzolamide is a carbonic anhydrase inhibitor and timolol is a beta-blocker. Both brinzolamide and timolol work by reducing the production of fluid within the eye.

When it should not be used:

- if you are allergic to brinzolamide, timolol or any other of the ingredients of AZARGA suspension (see What the important nonmedicinal ingredients are).
- if you are allergic to medications called sulfonamides (medicines used to treat diabetes and infections).
- if you are allergic to beta blockers (medicines used to treat heart disease or lower blood pressure).
- if you have respiratory problems such as asthma, bronchitis, severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or other types of breathing problems.
- if you have heart problems, such as a slow heartbeat, heart failure or disorders of heart rhythm.
- if you have too much acidity in your blood (a condition called hyperchloraemic acidosis).
- if you have severe kidney problems.

What the medicinal ingredients are:

The medicinal ingredients are brinzolamide and timolol maleate. One mL of suspension contains 10 mg of brinzolamide and 5 mg of timolol (as timolol maleate).

What the important nonmedicinal ingredients are:

Preservative: benzalkonium chloride. The other ingredients are carbomer 974P, disodium edetate, mannitol, purified water, sodium chloride and tyloxapol. Tiny amounts of hydrochloric acid and/or sodium hydroxide are added to keep acidity levels (pH levels) normal.

What dosage forms it comes in:

AZARGA suspension contains tiny white particles suspended in a clear liquid. It is supplied as 5 mL of suspension in an 8 mL plastic DROP-TAINER® dispenser bottle with a screw cap.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

BEFORE you use AZARGA suspension, talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have had:

- **angina (chest pains), heart disease (symptoms can include chest pain or tightness, breathlessness or choking), circulation problems or low blood pressure.** AZARGA suspension may make any of these worse.
- **diabetes.** AZARGA suspension can mask the symptoms of low blood sugar (hypoglycaemia) such as shakiness and dizziness, so you need to use it with care.
- **liver problems.**
- **thyroid problems.**
- **cornea problems or glaucoma.**
- **chronic muscle weakness (a condition called myasthenia gravis).**
- **history of severe allergic reactions or tendency to develop severe allergic reactions.**

BEFORE taking AZARGA suspension, tell your doctor if you are taking or planning to take other carbonic anhydrase inhibitors or beta-blockers. Do not take AZARGA suspension while taking another carbonic anhydrase inhibitor or beta-blocker.

While you are using AZARGA suspension, talk to your doctor immediately if you:

- develop an eye infection, swelling, redness or irritation of the eyelid.
- suffer any eye injury or have eye surgery.

Pregnancy or breast-feeding

If you are pregnant, or might get pregnant, breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed, talk to your doctor before you use AZARGA suspension. Do not use AZARGA suspension when you are pregnant unless your doctor tells you otherwise. AZARGA is not recommended for nursing women.

Surgery

Before having surgery, tell your doctor that you are taking AZARGA suspension as it may change the effect of some medicines used during anesthesia.

Driving and using machines

AZARGA suspension may reduce coordination and mental alertness and cause blurred vision. Do not drive or use machinery until these symptoms go away.

If you wear contact lenses

There is a preservative in AZARGA suspension (benzalkonium chloride) that can discolour soft contact lenses and may cause eye irritation. Do not wear contact lenses while using AZARGA suspension. Wait 15 minutes after using AZARGA suspension before putting your lenses back in.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Tell your doctor about all drugs, including eye drops, that you are using or plan to use, including those without a prescription.

Drugs that may interact with AZARGA suspension include:

- heart or blood pressure medications such as beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers, digitalis, guanethidine, amiodarone and other beta-adrenergic blocking agents.
- quinidine (medicine used to treat heart conditions and malaria).
- cimetidine (medicine used to treat ulcers and acid reflux)
- antivirals, antifungals and antibiotics such as ketoconazole, itraconazole, clotrimazole, ritonavir and troleandomycin.
- salicylates such as acetylsalicylic acid (ASA).
- antidepressants such as fluoxetine, paroxetine.
- adrenaline (epinephrine).
- medicines belonging to class of drugs known as carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Always use AZARGA suspension exactly as your doctor has told you.

Usual adult dose:

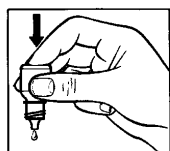
One drop in the eye or eyes, twice a day - morning and night.

Only use AZARGA suspension in both eyes if your doctor told you to. Take it for as long as your doctor told you to.

How to Use:



1



2



3

- Get the AZARGA suspension bottle and a mirror.
- Wash your hands.
- Shake well before use.
- Twist off the bottle cap. If the security snap collar is loose after moving the cap, remove the snap collar before using AZARGA suspension.
- Hold the bottle, pointing down, between your thumb and fingers.
- Tilt your head back. Pull down your eyelid with a clean finger, until there is a 'pocket' between the eyelid and your eye. The drop will go in here (picture 1).
- Bring the bottle tip close to the eye. Use the mirror if it helps.
- **Do not touch your eye or eyelid, surrounding areas or other surfaces with the dropper.** It could contaminate the drops, cause an eye infection and damage the eyes.

- Gently press on the base of the bottle to release one drop of AZARGA suspension at a time
- Do not squeeze the bottle: it is designed so that a gentle press on the bottom is all that it needs (picture 2).
- After using AZARGA suspension, press a finger into the corner of your eye, by the nose for 2 minutes (picture 3). This helps to stop AZARGA suspension getting into the rest of the body.
- If you use drops in both eyes, repeat the steps for your other eye.
- Close the bottle cap firmly immediately after use.
- Use up one bottle before opening the next bottle.

Do not use the suspension if the bottle is cracked or damaged.

If a drop misses your eye, try again.

If you are using other eye drops, wait at least 5 minutes between using AZARGA suspension and the other drops.

Overdose:

If you use more AZARGA suspension than you should, rinse your eye with warm water. Do not put in any more drops until it is time for your next regular dose.

In case of overdose, particularly oral ingestion, contact your doctor, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you forget to use AZARGA suspension, continue with the next dose as planned. Do not use a double dose to make up for the missed dose. Do not use more than one drop in the affected eye(s) twice daily.

If you stop using AZARGA suspension without speaking to your doctor, the pressure in your eye will not be controlled which could lead to a loss of sight.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Like all medicines, AZARGA suspension can cause side effects although not everybody gets them.

You can usually carry on taking the drops, unless the effects are serious. If you are worried, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

The most common side effects in the eye include blurred vision, eye irritation, eye pain, and abnormal eye sensation. The most common side effect in other areas of body includes bad taste.

Less common side effects include redness of the eye, decreased pressure in eye, itchy eye, eye surface inflammation with surface damage, dry eye, eye discharge, allergic conjunctivitis (eye allergy), corneal disorder (problems with the cornea, such as damage, inflammation and swelling), eyelid abnormality, irritation, itching, redness, pain, swelling, or crusting, increased

tear production, inflammation inside the eye, sensitivity to light, tired eyes and corneal staining.

Less common side effects in other areas of body include abdominal discomfort, decreased blood pressure, abnormal increase in heart rate, blood in urine, body weakness, chronic lung disease, cough, bronchospasm (constriction of the airways with difficulty in breathing), asthma, difficulty sleeping, hair disorder, decrease in white blood cell count runny nose, skin inflammation, redness, or itching, abnormal skin sensation, ringing in ears and throat irritation and/or pain.

Side effects for which the frequency is not known include seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there (hallucination) and depression. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you experience any of these symptoms.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Slow heartbeat			✓
Rare	Heart effects such as irregular heartbeat, low blood pressure			✓
	Allergic reactions with symptoms such as swelling of the mouth and throat, shortness of breath, hives, severe itching and rash			✓

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking AZARGA suspension, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use AZARGA suspension after the expiry date which is stated on the bottle and the carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store at 2°C to 30°C. Discard 60 days after opening.

REPORTING SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected side effects associated with the use of health products to Health Canada by:

- Visiting the Web page on Adverse Reaction Reporting (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/medeffect-canada/adverse-reaction-reporting.html>) for information on how to report online, by mail or by fax; or
- Calling toll-free at 1-866-234-2345.

NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found on the Health Canada website or by contacting the sponsor Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., at: 1-800-363-8883.

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