

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

**^{Pr} Famotidine Injection
10 mg/mL**

Histamine H₂-Receptor Antagonist

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PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

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THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Histamine H₂-Receptor Antagonist

ACTIONS AND CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Famotidine is a competitive inhibitor of histamine H₂-receptors. The primary clinically important pharmacologic activity of famotidine is inhibition of gastric juice secretion. Famotidine reduces the acid and pepsin content, as well as the volume, of basal, nocturnal, and stimulated gastric secretion.

INDICATIONS AND CLINICAL USE

Famotidine Injection is indicated in some hospitalized patients with pathological hypersecretory conditions or intractable ulcers, or as an alternative to the oral dosage form for short-term use in patients who are unable to take oral medication.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity to any component of this medication. Cross sensitivity in this class of compounds has been observed. Therefore, famotidine should not be administered to patients with a history of hypersensitivity to other H₂-receptor antagonists.

PRECAUTIONS

Patients with Moderate or Severe Renal Insufficiency

Since CNS adverse effects have been reported in patients with moderate and severe renal insufficiency, longer intervals between doses or lower doses may need to be used in patients with moderate (creatinine clearance 30-50 mL/min) or severe (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min) renal insufficiency to adjust for longer elimination half-life of famotidine (see HUMAN PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION).

Drug Interactions

Studies with famotidine in man, in animal models, and *in vitro* have shown no significant interference with the disposition of compounds metabolized by the hepatic microsomal enzymes, e.g., cytochrome P450 system. Compounds tested in man have included warfarin, theophylline, phenytoin, diazepam, aminopyrine and antipyrine. Indocyanine green as an index of hepatic blood flow and/or hepatic drug extraction has been tested and no significant effects have been found. In addition, studies with famotidine have shown no augmentation of expected blood alcohol levels resulting from alcohol ingestion.

Use in Gastric Ulcer

Gastric malignancy should be excluded prior to initiation of therapy of gastric ulcer with famotidine. Symptomatic response of gastric ulcer to famotidine therapy does not preclude the presence of gastric malignancy.

Use in Pregnancy

Reproductive studies have been performed in rats and rabbits at oral doses of up to 2000 and 500 mg/kg/day, respectively (approximately 2500 and 625 times the maximum recommended human dose, respectively), and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to famotidine. There are, however, no adequate or well-controlled studies in pregnant women.

Since the safe use of famotidine in pregnant women has not been established, the benefits of treatment with famotidine should be weighed against potential risks.

Nursing Mothers

Famotidine is detectable in human milk. Nursing mothers should either stop this drug or should stop nursing.

Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness in children have not been established.

Use in Elderly Patients

No dosage adjustment is required based on age (see HUMAN PHARMACOLOGY, Pharmacokinetics). This drug is known to be substantially excreted by the kidney, and the risk of toxic reactions to this drug may be greater in patients with impaired renal function. Because elderly patients are more likely to have decreased renal function, care should be taken in dose selection, and it may be useful to monitor renal function. Dosage adjustment in the case of moderate or severe renal impairment is necessary (see PRECAUTIONS, Patients with Moderate or Severe Renal Insufficiency and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Dosage Adjustment for Patients with Moderate or Severe Renal Insufficiency).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Famotidine is usually well tolerated; most adverse reactions have been mild and transient. The adverse reactions listed below have been reported during clinical trials in 2333 patients. In those controlled clinical trials in which famotidine was compared to placebo, the overall incidence of adverse experiences in the group which received famotidine 40 mg at bedtime, was similar to the placebo group. No antiandrogenic or other adverse hormonal effects have been observed.

The following adverse reactions have been reported at a rate greater than 1% in patients on therapy with famotidine in controlled clinical trials, and may be causally related to the drug: headache (4.6%), dizziness (1.2%), constipation (1.2%) and diarrhea (1.6%).

Other reactions have been reported in clinical trials but occurred under circumstances where a causal relationship could not be established. However, in these rarely reported events, that possibility cannot be excluded. Therefore, these observations are listed to serve as alerting information to

physicians.

Gastrointestinal	8.0%
Nausea	1.6%
Vomiting	0.9%
Anorexia	0.5%
Abdominal discomfort	0.3%
Dry mouth	0.2%
Nervous System/Psychiatric	7.3%
Insomnia	0.6%
Somnolence	0.4%
Anxiety	0.3%
Paresthesia	0.3%
Depression	0.2%
Libido decreased	0.1%
Respiratory	4.4%
Bronchospasm	<0.1%
Body as a Whole	3.0%
Fatigue	0.6%
Asthenia	0.3%
Fever	0.2%
Musculoskeletal	1.7%
Musculoskeletal pain including muscle cramps	0.1%
Arthralgia	0.1%
Skin	1.7%
Pruritus	0.4%
Rash	0.3%
Alopecia	0.2%
Flushing	0.2%
Acne	0.1%
Dry skin	0.1%
Cardiovascular	1.0%
Palpitations	0.2%
Special Senses	0.9%
Taste disorder	0.1%
Tinnitus	0.1%
Orbital Edema	<0.1%
Urogenital	0.9%

The adverse reactions reported for the tablets may also occur with famotidine injection. In addition, transient irritation at the injection site has been observed with famotidine injection.

The following additional adverse reactions have been reported since the drug was marketed: urticaria, liver enzyme abnormalities, cholestatic jaundice, anaphylaxis, angioedema. Toxic epidermal necrolysis has been reported very rarely with H₂-receptor antagonists. As with other H₂-receptor antagonists, cases of bradycardia, A-V block and other arrhythmias have been reported rarely in patients treated with famotidine.

The following adverse reactions have been reported; however, a causal relationship to therapy with famotidine has not been established: agitation, confusion, hallucinations, grand mal seizures, rare cases of impotence, thrombocytopenia, pancytopenia, leukopenia and agranulocytosis.

Gynecomastia has been reported rarely. In most cases that were followed up, it was reversible after discontinuing treatment.

Laboratory Abnormalities

Laboratory parameters may be affected during treatment with famotidine, but the changes are usually not considered serious. Among the laboratory changes that were reported during clinical trials were increases in AST, ALT, BUN, and serum creatinine. These changes were rarely of clinical significance.

Only three patients had to be discontinued from therapy because of laboratory adverse experiences, however, laboratory abnormalities were present at baseline.

SYMPTOMS AND TREATMENT OF OVERDOSAGE

There is no experience to date with deliberate overdose. Doses of up to 800 mg/day have been employed in patients with pathological hypersecretory conditions with no serious adverse effects. In the event of overdose, treatment should be symptomatic and supportive. Unabsorbed material should be removed from the gastrointestinal tract, the patient should be monitored, and supportive therapy should be employed.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Intravenous Administration

In some hospitalized patients with pathological hypersecretory conditions or intractable ulcers, or in patients who are unable to take oral medication, Famotidine Injection may be administered. The recommended dosage is 20 mg every 12 hours.

Intravenous injection therapy should be changed to oral treatment as soon as the acute situation is under control.

Concomitant Use with Antacids

Antacids may be given concomitantly if needed.

Dosage Adjustment for Patients with Moderate or Severe Renal Insufficiency

In patients with moderate (creatinine clearance 30-50 mL/min) or severe (creatinine clearance <30 mL/min) renal insufficiency, the elimination half-life of famotidine is increased. For patients with severe renal insufficiency, it may exceed 20 hours, reaching approximately 24 hours in anuric patients. Since CNS adverse reactions have been reported in patients with moderate and severe renal insufficiency, to avoid excess accumulation of the drug in patients with moderate and severe renal insufficiency, the dose of famotidine may be reduced to half the dose or the dosing interval may be prolonged to 36 - 48 hours as indicated by the patient's clinical response.

PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

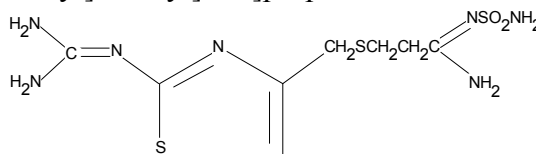
DRUG SUBSTANCE

Proper Name: famotidine

Chemical Name:

N'-(aminosulfonyl)-3-[[[2-[(diaminomethylene)amino]-4-thiazolyl] methyl]thio]propanimidamide.

Structural Formula:



Molecular Formula: C₈H₁₅N₇O₂S₃

Molecular Weight: 337.44

pH and pKa: pH 9.04 - 9.54 and pKa = 6.49

Melting Point: 163 – 164°C

Description: Famotidine is a white to pale yellow crystalline powder that is freely soluble in dimethylformamide and in glacial acetic acid, slightly soluble in methanol, very slightly soluble in water, and practically insoluble in alcohol, in acetone, in chloroform, in ether and in ethyl acetate. Famotidine is sensitive to light.

COMPOSITION

Famotidine Injection 10 mg/mL: Each mL of clear, colourless Famotidine Injection contains famotidine 10 mg and the following non-medicinal ingredients: L-aspartic acid 4 mg, mannitol 20 mg and water for injection q.s. 1 mL. The multidose injection also contains benzyl alcohol 0.9% added as preservative.

STABILITY AND STORAGE RECOMMENDATIONS

Famotidine Injection, 10 mg/mL: Store between 2-8°C (36-46°F). Protect from light. Do not freeze. Unused portions from single dose vials should be discarded. Unused portions from multidose vials should be discarded 28 days after initial puncture.

Diluted intravenous solution should be used within 24 hours due to the possibility of microbial contamination during preparation.

DILUTED SOLUTIONS

Dilution of Famotidine Injection for Infusion				
Famotidine Injection	Volume of Compatible I.V. Solution	Final Volume	Final Concentration	Rate of Infusion
2 mL	3 mL	5 mL	4 mg/mL	Not less than 2 minutes
2 mL	8 mL	10 mL	2 mg/mL	Not less than 2 minutes
2 mL	100 mL	102 mL	0.196 mg/mL	15-30 minutes

Famotidine intravenous solutions are compatible with: water for injection, 0.9% sodium chloride injection, 5% dextrose injection, 10% dextrose injection, lactated Ringer's injection and sodium bicarbonate injection 5%.

Note: As with all parenteral drug products, intravenous admixtures should be inspected visually for clarity, particulate matter, precipitate, discolouration and leakage prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. Solutions showing haziness, particulate matter, precipitate, discolouration or leakage should not be used. Discard unused portions.

AVAILABILITY OF DOSAGE FORMS

Famotidine Injection, 10 mg/mL: A clear, colourless to slight yellow solution. Available in non-preserved unit dose vials of 2 mL (packages of 10). Also available in preserved multiple dose vials of 4 mL (packages of 1 and 5) and 20 mL (packages of 1 and 10).

PHARMACOLOGY

I. HUMAN PHARMACOLOGY

In both normal volunteers and hypersecretors, famotidine inhibited basal nocturnal and daytime gastric secretion, as well as secretion stimulated by a variety of stimuli, such as pentagastrin and food.

After oral administration, the onset of the antisecretory effect occurred within one hour; the maximum effect was dose-dependent, occurring within one to three hours. Duration of inhibition of secretion was 10 to 12 hours. After intravenous administration, the maximum effect was achieved within 30 minutes. Single intravenous doses of 10 and 20 mg inhibited basal nocturnal secretion for a period of 10-12 hours. The 20 mg dose was associated with the longest duration of action in most subjects.

Single oral doses of 20 and 40 mg inhibited basal nocturnal acid secretion in all subjects; mean gastric acid secretion was inhibited by 86% and 94%, respectively, for a period of at least 10 hours. Similar doses given in the morning suppressed food-stimulated acid secretion in all subjects, with mean suppression of 76% and 84%, respectively, 3 to 5 hours after drug, and of 25% and 30%, respectively, 8 to 10 hours after drug; however, in some subjects who received the 20 mg dose, the antisecretory effect was dissipated earlier, within 6-8 hours. There was no cumulative effect with repeated doses. The basal nocturnal intragastric pH was raised by evening doses of 20 and 40 mg of famotidine to mean values of 5.0 and 6.4, respectively. When famotidine was given in the morning, the basal daytime interdigestive pH at 3 and 8 hours after 20 or 40 mg of famotidine was raised to about 5.0.

Fasting and postprandial serum gastrin levels may be slightly elevated during periods of drug antisecretory effect, and with chronic therapy an increase in gastric bacterial flora may occur. Gastric emptying and exocrine pancreatic function are not affected by famotidine.

The presence of gastroesophageal reflux disease appears to correlate best with the percentage of time over 24 hours during which the esophagus is exposed to acid. In gastroesophageal reflux disease patients, 20 mg twice a day and 40 mg twice a day of famotidine reduced intraesophageal acid exposure into the normal range as measured by 24 hour intraesophageal pH monitoring. In clinical studies of gastroesophageal reflux disease patients with endoscopically verified erosive or ulcerative esophagitis, 40 mg twice a day was more effective than 20 mg twice a day in healing esophageal lesions. Both dosage regimens were superior to placebo.

In patients treated for six months with famotidine, relapse of esophageal erosion or ulceration was significantly less than in patients treated with placebo. Famotidine was also shown to be superior to placebo in preventing symptomatic deterioration.

Other Effects

Systemic pharmacologic effects of famotidine in the CNS, cardiovascular, respiratory or endocrine systems have not been found to date. Serum prolactin levels do not rise after intravenous bolus doses of 20 mg famotidine and no antiandrogenic effects have been detected.

Pharmacokinetics

Famotidine is incompletely absorbed. The mean bioavailability of oral doses is 40-45%. Bioavailability may be slightly increased by food, or slightly decreased by antacids; however, these effects are of no clinical consequence. Famotidine undergoes minimal first-pass metabolism. After oral doses, peak plasma levels occur in 1-3 hours. Plasma levels after multiple doses are similar to those after single doses. Fifteen to 20% of famotidine in plasma is protein bound. Famotidine has an elimination half-life of 2.5-3.5 hours. It is eliminated by renal (65-70%) and metabolic (30-35%) routes. Renal clearance is 250-450 mL/min., indicating some tubular excretion.

Twenty-five to 30% of an oral dose and 65-70% of an intravenous dose are recovered in the urine as unchanged compound. The only metabolite identified in man is the S-oxide. There is a close relationship between creatinine clearance values and the elimination half-life of famotidine. In patients with severe renal insufficiency, i.e., creatinine clearance less than 30 mL/min., famotidine elimination half-life may exceed 20 hours and adjustment of dosing intervals may be necessary (see PRECAUTIONS, DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION). In elderly patients, there are no clinically significant age-related changes in the pharmacokinetics of famotidine. However, in elderly patients with decreased renal function, the clearance of the drug may be decreased (see PRECAUTIONS, Use in Elderly Patients).

II. ANIMAL PHARMACOLOGY

Famotidine inhibits gastric secretion evoked by histamine and other secretagogues. In dogs, the ED₅₀ was 0.03 mg/kg after oral or intravenous administration of famotidine. An oral dose of 2.1 mg/kg in dogs inhibited gastric secretion for at least 24 hours. An oral dose of 3 mg/kg one hour prior to feeding inhibited the acid response in dogs during a 4-hour post feeding period by an average of 96%.

Mechanism of Action

Famotidine is a specific, competitive, H₂-receptor antagonist. There was no effect *in vitro* on responses mediated by H₁-histamine, beta₁-adrenergic, or cholinergic receptors. Famotidine was inactive in radioligand binding to dopaminergic, neuroleptic, serotonergic, adrenergic, cholinergic, and purinergic sites. Famotidine was also inactive in an androgen receptor assay.

The interaction between famotidine and H₂-receptors is tissue-dependent. In guinea pig lungs and rabbit gastric glands the effects of famotidine were surmountable and readily reversible on washout, indicating classic competitive inhibition at the H₂-receptor sites. However, in guinea pig atria, famotidine acted as a non-competitive H₂ antagonist, and recovery after washout of famotidine was retarded.

Absorption and Distribution

The absorption, distribution, metabolism and excretion of famotidine were studied in two animal species. Absorption was 28% in the rat and 43% in the dog. The plasma half-life in dogs was 2.5 hours, which was unchanged after repeated doses, indicating no tendency for the drug to accumulate. In rats, the highest levels of radioactivity after an oral dose of famotidine were found in the gastrointestinal tract, kidneys, liver, submandibular glands, arteries, epiphyseal membrane, fascia, and uvea. The distribution pattern was not affected on repeated dosing. Famotidine did not effectively cross the blood-brain or placental barrier of rats. It was present in rat milk.

Metabolism and Excretion

The only metabolite of famotidine in rat and dog urine was the sulfoxide derivative, which was present in minor amounts. Urinary and fecal excretion of radioactivity in rats accounted for 28% and 70%, respectively, of an oral dose, compared to 83% and 17% respectively, of an intravenous dose. About 2.4% of the dose in rats was excreted in the bile. Dogs excreted 45% of an oral dose in the urine, compared to 100% of an intravenous dose.

Effects on Liver Microsomal Drug-Metabolizing Enzymes

Famotidine did not affect pentobarbital or hexobarbital sleeping times and it did not affect ascorbic acid excretion, suggesting that famotidine does not induce drug-metabolizing enzymes. Famotidine caused none of the changes induced by cimetidine on the pharmacokinetics of diazepam, warfarin, and propranolol. Famotidine produced only minimal suppression of aminopyrine and diazepam N-demethylase activity *in vitro*, and showed little affinity for testosterone hydroxylases of mouse liver *in vitro*.

Gastrointestinal Effects other than Antisecretory

Famotidine prevented gastric erosions induced in rats by cold restraint, water immersion, pyloric ligation, or drugs such as acetylsalicylic acid, histamine or prednisolone; also duodenal ulcers caused by cysteamine and mepirizole. It also significantly accelerated the healing of the gastric lesions induced by acetic acid and the duodenal ulcers produced by mepirizole.

The antiulcer effect of famotidine plus magnesium and aluminum hydroxides was greater than the sum of the effects of these drugs used separately.

Famotidine inhibited the gastric lesions and hemorrhage resulting from blood removal and histamine injection in anaesthetized rats.

In normal rats, famotidine had no effect on the concentration of gastric mucosal histamine, but it did reduce the levels of cAMP, particularly in response to histamine stimulation.

In anaesthetized cats, famotidine had no effect on the intragastric electropotential when tested at intragastric doses more than ten-fold greater than those required to block gastric secretion maximally.

Cardiorenal Effects

The cardiorenal effects of famotidine were studied in dogs and rats. Ten mg/kg of famotidine administered orally were without effect on the blood pressure of spontaneously hypertensive rats. In anaesthetized dogs, intravenous administration of 1.0 and 4.0 mg/kg of famotidine was without effect on cardiovascular parameters relating to the autonomic nervous system, blood pressure, heart rate, or respiratory function. In conscious dogs, an oral dose of 10 mg/kg was without diuretic effect.

Central Nervous System Effects

The effects of famotidine on the central nervous system were studied in squirrel monkeys, mice, and cats. In monkeys, famotidine had a bidirectional effect on lever pressing (avoidance response) causing an increase at the low dose (1.0 mg/kg p.o.) and a small decrease at 9 mg/kg. In mice following intraperitoneal administration of 6 to 150 mg/kg no overt behavioural signs or symptoms of central nervous system activity were observed. In mice, famotidine was not active as an antagonist of the CNS actions of TRH, neurotensin, substance P, or amphetamine. Famotidine was free of major or minor tranquilizing, anticonvulsant, anticholinergic, ganglionic blocking, or dopaminergic activity. In cats, famotidine did not affect the EEG or arousal response but did prolong the duration of hippocampal after-discharge. Only 4% of the plasma concentration of the drug was detected in the cerebrospinal fluid.

TOXICOLOGY

Acute Toxicity

Species	Sex	Route	LD ₅₀ (mg/kg)
Mouse	M	P.O.*	4,684
	F	P.O.*	3,233
Mouse	M	I.V. (4%)	254
	F	I.V. (4%)	358
Rat	M	P.O.*	4,907
	F	P.O.*	4,049
Rat	M	I.P.	987
	F	I.P.	814

*In solution (acidic, 50 – 55°C deionized water).

Subacute and Chronic Toxicity

Famotidine is well tolerated by both rats and dogs at doses of 2 g/kg twice a day orally in subacute studies and at doses up to 1000 or 2000 mg/kg/day for one year in these species. Eosinophilic cytoplasmic granularity of gastric chief cells was seen at a higher incidence in rats given 200 mg/kg/day or more of the compound compared to controls. This is considered as a secondary effect due to the exaggerated pharmacologic activity of the compound at these extremely high dosage levels and is considered of no toxicologic significance. In a 106-week study in rats designed to study the carcinogenic potential of the compound, this gastric change did not progress to hyperplasia or neoplasia. Similarly, mice (given the compound for 92 weeks) showed no evidence of a neoplastic potential. Based on the results from studies performed using pharmacologically-related compounds, this change was fully reversible.

Intravenous administration of famotidine was well tolerated by rats for 13 weeks at dosage levels of up to 20 mg/kg/day and by dogs, except for occasional emesis, at dosage levels of up to 10 mg/kg/day for 5 to 26 weeks.

Reproduction Studies

In studies with rats given oral doses of up to 2000 mg/kg/day or intravenous doses of up to 200 mg/kg/day (approximately 2500 and 250 times the maximum recommended human dose, respectively), fertility and reproductive performance were not affected.

Famotidine given orally to pregnant rats up to 2000 mg/kg/day or intravenously at dosage levels up to 200 mg/kg/day, from Days 7 to 17 of pregnancy did not reveal any evidence of embryoletality or teratogenicity.

Oral administration of famotidine to pregnant rabbits from Days 6 to 18 of pregnancy at dosage levels up to 500 mg/kg/day revealed no evidence of embryolethality or teratogenicity.

Mutagenicity

Famotidine was tested in a reverse-mutation test (Ames Test) using *Salmonella typhimurium* and *Escherichia coli* with and without metabolic activation. No mutagenic potential was seen. These same studies were performed with famotidine/sodium, nitrite reaction mixture and C-nitroso derivatives of famotidine and they were also negative. Famotidine and C-nitroso derivatives of famotidine were tested in the rec-assay using *Bacillus subtilis* H17 and M45 and the tests were negative for DNA-damaging capacity of the compounds. In *in vivo* studies in mice, a micronucleus test and a chromosomal aberration test, no evidence of a mutagenic effect was seen.

Carcinogenicity

A 92-week oral carcinogenicity study was conducted in mice at doses of 20, 200 and 2000 mg/kg/day. No evidence of a carcinogenic potential was seen.

A 106-week oral carcinogenicity study in rats given doses of 20, 200 and 2000 mg/kg/day did not reveal any carcinogenic potential for famotidine.

Special Studies

The effects of famotidine on the thyroid of rats were evaluated after five weeks of oral administration at doses up to 2000 mg/kg/day. No evidence of treatment-related alterations of serum thyroid hormone levels, thyroid weight or the microscopic appearance were seen after administration of famotidine.

In immunogenicity studies, no effect on the production of IgE antibodies was seen in the sera of mice which were injected, once intraperitoneally, with famotidine alone (up to 2 mg/8 mL/kg) or coupled with either mouse serum albumin or ovalbumin. The sera were used to measure passive cutaneous anaphylaxis in rats which were then challenged with solutions of antigens similar to those antigens used for the initial dose in mice. Similarly, no evidence of an anaphylactic reaction was seen in guinea pigs challenged intravenously with famotidine after initiating doses (three times, subcutaneously, at six-day intervals) of up to 10 mg/mL.

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