

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH
INCLUDING PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

^{Pr}**APO-CLINDAMYCIN**

Clindamycin Hydrochloride Capsules

Capsules, 150 mg and 300 mg clindamycin (as clindamycin hydrochloride), Oral

USP

Antibiotic

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Date of Initial Authorization:
JAN 28, 2002

Date of Revision:
February 20, 2025

Submission Control Number: 292161

RECENT MAJOR LABEL CHANGES

4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, 4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment	02/2024
7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS, Renal	02/2024
4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, 4.4 Administration	02/2025
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PART I: HEALTH PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

1 INDICATIONS

APO-CLINDAMYCIN (clindamycin hydrochloride capsules) is indicated in the treatment of serious infections due to sensitive anaerobic bacteria, such as *Bacteroides* species, *Peptostreptococcus*, anaerobic streptococci, *Clostridium* species and microaerophilic streptococci.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN is also indicated in serious infections due to sensitive gram-positive aerobic organisms (staphylococci, including penicillinase-producing staphylococci, streptococci and pneumococci) when the patient is intolerant of, or the organism is resistant to other appropriate antibiotics.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN is indicated for the treatment of the *Pneumocystis jirovecii* pneumonia in patients with AIDS. Clindamycin in combination with primaquine may be used in patients who are intolerant to, or fail to respond to conventional therapy.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN is indicated for prophylaxis against alpha-hemolytic (viridans group) streptococci before dental, oral and upper respiratory tract surgery.

- a) The prophylaxis of bacterial endocarditis in patients allergic to penicillin with any of the following conditions: congenital cardiac malformations, rheumatic and other acquired valvular dysfunction, prosthetic heart valves, previous history of bacterial endocarditis, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, surgically constructed systemic-pulmonary shunts, mitral valve prolapse with valvular regurgitation or mitral valve prolapse without regurgitation but associated with thickening and/or redundancy of the valve leaflets.
- b) Patients taking oral penicillin for prevention or recurrence of rheumatic fever should be given another agent such as clindamycin, for prevention of bacterial endocarditis.

To reduce the development of drug-resistant bacteria and maintain the effectiveness of APO-CLINDAMYCIN and other antibacterial drugs, APO-CLINDAMYCIN should be used only to treat or prevent infections that are proven or strongly suspected to be caused by susceptible bacteria. When culture and susceptibility information are available, they should be considered in selecting or modifying antibacterial therapy. In the absence of such data, local epidemiology and susceptibility patterns may contribute to the empiric selection of therapy.

1.1 Pediatrics

Pediatrics (over one month of age): Based on the data submitted and reviewed by Health Canada, the safety and efficacy of clindamycin hydrochloride capsules in pediatric patients has been established. Therefore, Health Canada has authorized an indication for pediatric use. It is not known if use of clindamycin in pediatric patients is associated with differences in safety or effectiveness compared with adult patients.

1.2 Geriatrics

Geriatrics (> 65 years of age): Insufficient data are available to Health Canada. Clinical studies of clindamycin did not include sufficient numbers of patients aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger patients.

2 CONTRAINDICATIONS

APO-CLINDAMYCIN is contraindicated in patients with a known hypersensitivity to clindamycin or lincomycin or to any ingredient in the formulation or component of the container.

Until further clinical experience is obtained APO-CLINDAMYCIN is not indicated in the newborn (infant below 30 days of age). For a complete listing, see [6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING](#).

4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Note: APO-CLINDAMYCIN is only available in a 150 mg and 300 mg capsule formulation.

4.1 Dosing Considerations

APO-CLINDAMYCIN dose modification may not be necessary in patients with renal disease. APO-CLINDAMYCIN dosage modification is not necessary in patients with hepatic insufficiency. Dosage adjustments are not necessary in the elderly with normal hepatic function and normal (age-adjusted) renal function.

4.2 Recommended Dose and Dosage Adjustment

Adults:

Mild infections:	150 mg every 6 hours.
Moderately severe infections:	300 mg every 6 hours.
Severe infections:	450 mg every 6 hours.

Children (over one month of age and able to swallow capsules):

Clindamycin should be dosed based on total body weight regardless of obesity.

One of the following two dosage ranges should be selected depending on the severity of the infection:

1. 8 to 16 mg/kg/day (4 to 8 mg/lb/day) divided into 3 or 4 equal doses.
2. 16 to 20 mg/kg/day (8 to 10 mg/lb/day) divided into 3 or 4 equal doses.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN capsules are not suitable for children who are unable to swallow them

whole. The capsules do not provide exact mg/kg doses therefore it may be necessary to use the clindamycin granules for oral solution in some cases. **Note:** APO-CLINDAMYCIN is only available in a 150 mg and 300 mg capsule formulation.

***Pneumocystis jiroveci* pneumonia in patients with AIDS**

APO-CLINDAMYCIN (clindamycin hydrochloride) 300 to 450 mg may be given orally every 6 hours in combination with 15 to 30 mg of primaquine for 21 days. Alternatively, clindamycin injection (clindamycin phosphate) 600 to 900 mg (IV) may be given every 6 hours or 900 mg (IV) every 8 hours in combination with oral daily dose of 15 to 30 mg of primaquine. If patients should develop serious hematologic adverse effects, reducing the dosage regimen of primaquine and/or APO-CLINDAMYCIN capsule should be considered.

For prevention of endocarditis

Adults: 300 mg orally 1 hour before procedure; then 150 mg 6 hours after initial dose.

Children: 10 mg/kg (not to exceed adult dose) orally 1 hour before procedure; then 5 mg/kg 6 hours after initial dose.

Note: With β -hemolytic streptococcal infections, treatment should continue for at least 10 days to diminish the likelihood of subsequent rheumatic fever or glomerulonephritis.

4.4 Administration

Absorption of APO-CLINDAMYCIN is not appreciably modified by ingestion of food and the capsules may be taken with meals.

To avoid the possibility of oesophageal irritation, APO-CLINDAMYCIN capsules should be taken with a full glass of water and no less than 30 minutes before lying down.

4.5 Missed Dose

If a dose is missed, it should be taken as soon as remembered unless it is almost time for the next dose. The dose should not be doubled to make up for a missed dose.

5 OVERDOSAGE

Activated charcoal may be administered to aid in the removal of unabsorbed drug. General supportive measures are recommended.

No cases of overdosage have been reported. It would be expected however, that should overdosage occur, gastrointestinal side effects including abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea might be seen. During clinical trials one 3-year old child was given 100 mg/kg of clindamycin hydrochloride for five days and showed mild abdominal pain and diarrhea. One 13-year old patient was given 75 mg/kg for five days with no side effects. In both cases laboratory values remained normal.

Hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis are not effective means of removing the compound from the blood. No specific antidote is known.

The average biological half-life of clindamycin is 2.4 hours.

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

6 DOSAGE FORMS, STRENGTHS, COMPOSITION AND PACKAGING

Table 1. Dosage Forms, Strengths, Composition and Packaging

Route of Administration	Dosage Form / Strength/Composition	Non-medicinal Ingredients
Oral	capsule / 150 mg and 300 mg clindamycin	Stearic acid and talc. Capsule shell: 150 mg and 300 mg: FD&C Blue #1, gelatin and titanium dioxide. 150 mg only: D&C Red #28, D&C Red #33, FD&C Red #40 and FD&C Yellow #5. The edible ink on the capsule shell contains: ammonium hydroxide 28%, propylene glycol, shellac glaze-45% (20% esterified), simethicone and titanium dioxide.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN 150 mg: Each hard gelatin capsule with lavender body and maroon opaque cap, imprinted "APO 150" contains 150 mg of clindamycin base. Supplied in bottles of 100.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN 300 mg: Each hard gelatin capsule with light blue opaque body and light blue opaque cap, imprinted "APO 300" contains 300 mg of clindamycin base. Supplied in bottles of 100.

7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

General

APO-CLINDAMYCIN does not diffuse adequately into cerebrospinal fluid and thus should not be used in the treatment of meningitis.

The use of antibiotics occasionally results in overgrowth of non-susceptible organisms - particularly yeasts. Should super-infections occur, appropriate measures should be taken as dictated by the clinical situation.

Care should be exercised when treating patients with multiple medications (see [9 DRUG INTERACTIONS](#)).

Due to the risk of oesophagitis and oesophageal ulcer, it is important to ensure compliance with administration guidance (see [4.4 Administration](#)).

Gastrointestinal

APO-CLINDAMYCIN should be prescribed with caution in patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease, particularly colitis, inflammatory bowel disease (including regional enteritis and ulcerative colitis), or a history of antibiotic-associated colitis (including pseudomembranous colitis).

***Clostridioides difficile*-associated disease (CDAD):**

Clostridioides difficile-associated disease (CDAD) has been reported with use of many antibacterial agents, including clindamycin hydrochloride. CDAD may range in severity from mild diarrhea to fatal colitis. It is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhea, or symptoms of colitis, pseudomembranous colitis, toxic megacolon, or perforation of colon subsequent to the administration of any antibacterial agent. CDAD has been reported to occur over 2 months after the administration of antibacterial agents.

Treatment with antibacterial agents may alter the normal flora of the colon and may permit overgrowth of *Clostridioides difficile*. *C. difficile* produces toxins A and B, which contribute to the development of CDAD. CDAD may cause significant morbidity and mortality. CDAD can be refractory to antimicrobial therapy.

If the diagnosis of CDAD is suspected or confirmed, appropriate therapeutic measures should be initiated. Mild cases of CDAD usually respond to discontinuation of antibacterial agents not directed against *Clostridioides difficile*. In moderate to severe cases, consideration should be given to management with fluids and electrolytes, protein supplementation, and treatment with an antibacterial agent clinically effective against *Clostridioides difficile*. Surgical evaluation should be instituted as clinically indicated; as surgical intervention may be required in certain severe cases (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS](#)).

Hematologic

In patients with G-6-PD deficiency, the combination of clindamycin with primaquine may cause hemolytic reactions. Routine blood examinations should be done during therapy with primaquine to monitor potential hematologic toxicities. Reference should also be made to the primaquine product monograph for other possible risk groups for other hematologic reactions (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS](#)).

If patients should develop serious hematologic adverse effects, reducing the dosage regimen of primaquine and/or APO-CLINDAMYCIN should be considered (see [4 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION](#)).

Hepatic/Biliary/Pancreatic

In patients with moderate to severe liver disease, prolongation of the half-life of clindamycin has

been found. However, it was postulated from studies that when given every eight hours, accumulation of clindamycin should rarely occur. Therefore, dosage reduction in liver disease is not generally considered necessary. Periodic liver enzyme determinations should be made when treating patients with severe liver disease.

Immune

APO-CLINDAMYCIN should be prescribed with caution in atopic individuals.

The 150 mg capsules contain FD&C yellow no. 5 (tartrazine), which may cause allergic-type reactions (including bronchial asthma) in certain susceptible individuals. Although the overall incidence of FD&C yellow no. 5 (tartrazine) sensitivity in the general population is low, it is frequently seen in patients who also have acetylsalicylic acid hypersensitivity.

Serious hypersensitivity reactions, including anaphylactoid reactions, severe skin reactions such as drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS), and dermatological reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN) and acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) have been reported in patients on clindamycin therapy. If a hypersensitivity reaction occurs APO-CLINDAMYCIN should be discontinued and appropriate therapy should be initiated (see [2 CONTRAINDICATIONS](#), [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS](#)).

Monitoring and Laboratory Tests

Routine blood examinations should be done during concomitant therapy with primaquine to monitor potential hematologic toxicities.

Periodic liver and kidney function tests and blood counts should be performed during prolonged therapy when treating patients with severe liver disease.

As with all antibiotics, perform culture and sensitivity studies in conjunction with drug therapy.

Renal

APO-CLINDAMYCIN dose modification may not be necessary in patients with renal disease. The serum half-life of clindamycin is increased slightly in patients with markedly reduced renal function.

Clindamycin is potentially nephrotoxic. Acute kidney injury including acute renal failure has been reported. Therefore, monitoring of renal function should be considered during therapy of patients with pre-existing renal dysfunction or taking concomitant nephrotoxic drugs and monitoring of renal function should be performed if therapy is prolonged.

Sensitivity/Resistance

Development of drug-resistant bacteria:

Prescribing APO-CLINDAMYCIN in the absence of a proven or strongly suspected bacterial

infection is unlikely to provide benefit to the patient and risks the development of drug-resistant bacteria.

7.1 Special Populations

7.1.1 Pregnant Women

There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Safety for use in pregnancy has not been established.

Clindamycin should not be used in pregnancy unless clearly needed and unless the expected benefits to the mother outweigh any potential risks to the fetus.

Clindamycin crosses the placenta in humans. After multiple doses, amniotic fluid concentrations were approximately 30% of maternal blood concentrations. Clindamycin was widely distributed in fetal tissues with the highest concentration found in liver.

Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and mice using subcutaneous and oral doses of clindamycin ranging from 20 to 600 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to clindamycin except at doses that caused maternal toxicity. In one mouse strain, cleft palates were observed in treated fetuses; this response was not produced in other mouse strains or in other species, and therefore may be a strain specific effect. Oral and subcutaneous reproductive toxicity studies in rats and rabbits revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to clindamycin, except at doses that caused maternal toxicity. Animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response.

7.1.2 Breast-feeding

Clindamycin has been reported to appear in human breast milk in ranges from <0.5 to 3.8 mcg/mL.

Clindamycin has the potential to cause adverse effects on the breastfed infant's gastrointestinal flora such as diarrhea or blood in the stool, or rash. Because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants, if clindamycin is required by a nursing mother, it is not a reason to discontinue breastfeeding, but an alternate drug may be preferred. If APO-CLINDAMYCIN is used by a nursing mother, monitor the infant for possible adverse effects on the gastrointestinal flora, such as diarrhea, candidiasis (thrush, diaper rash) or blood in the stool indicating possible antibiotic-associated colitis.

The developmental and health benefits of breastfeeding should be considered along with the mother's clinical need for APO-CLINDAMYCIN and any potential adverse effects on the breastfed child from APO-CLINDAMYCIN or from the underlying maternal condition.

7.1.4 Geriatrics

Geriatrics (> 60 years of age): Experience has demonstrated that antibiotic-associated colitis may occur more frequently and with increased severity among elderly and debilitated patients. These patients should be carefully monitored for the development of diarrhea.

8 ADVERSE REACTIONS

8.2 Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Clinical trials are conducted under very specific conditions. The adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials; therefore, may not reflect the rates observed in practice and should not be compared to the rates in the clinical trials of another drug. Adverse reaction information from clinical trials may be useful in identifying and approximating rates of adverse drug reactions in real-world use.

Adverse drug reaction frequencies for the three clindamycin formulations (clindamycin capsules, clindamycin granules for oral solution and clindamycin injection) are based on the clinical data sources from the original drug submission and on the total number of patients enrolled in the clinical trials (N=1787).

Adverse drug reactions that were considered causally related to clindamycin and observed in $\geq 1\%$ of patients are presented below in [Table 2](#). They are listed according to MedDRA system organ class.

Table 2. Adverse Drug Reactions Occurring in $\geq 1\%$ of Patients treated with clindamycin within the Original Clinical Trials

Adverse Reaction System Organ Class / Preferred Term	clindamycin Total N=1787¹ n (%)
Gastrointestinal disorders	
Diarrhea	26 (1.45)
Investigations	
Liver function test abnormal	66 (3.7)
Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders	
Rash maculopapular	21 (1.18)

¹clindamycin hydrochloride capsules N=851; clindamycin granules for oral solution N=340; clindamycin phosphate injection N=596

8.3 Less Common Clinical Trial Adverse Reactions

Less common adverse drug reactions that were considered causally related to clindamycin and observed in $< 1\%$ of patients are listed below

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Eosinophilia.

Gastrointestinal disorders: Nausea, abdominal pain and vomiting.

General disorders and administration site conditions: Local irritation, pain, abscess formation have been seen with IM injection.

Nervous system disorders: Dysgeusia.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Urticaria, erythema multiforme and pruritus.

8.5 Post-Market Adverse Reactions

Additional adverse events which have been reported in temporal association with clindamycin formulations (clindamycin capsules, clindamycin granules for oral solution and clindamycin injection) since market introduction are listed below. Because they are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, estimates of frequency cannot be established.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders: Agranulocytosis, leucopenia, neutropenia and thrombocytopenia. In clindamycin/primaquine combination studies, serious hematologic toxicities (grade III, grade IV neutropenia or anemia, platelet counts $< 50 \times 10^9/L$, or methemoglobin levels of 15% or greater) have been observed.

Cardiac disorders: Cardio-respiratory arrest and hypotension have been seen with rapid intravenous administration.

Gastrointestinal disorders: Colitis and pseudomembranous colitis. *Clostridioides difficile*-associated disease (CDAD) has been observed and may manifest as a range of symptoms varying from watery diarrhea to fatal colitis, the onset of which may occur during or after antibacterial treatment (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#)). Oesophagitis[‡] and oesophageal ulcer[‡] have been reported with the oral formulations.

[‡] Possible occurrence of oesophagitis and oesophageal ulcer, particularly if taken in a lying position and/or with a small amount of water.

General disorders and administration site conditions: Injection site irritation and thrombophlebitis. These reactions can be minimized by deep IM injection and avoidance of indwelling intravenous catheters.

Hepatobiliary disorders: Jaundice.

Immune system disorders: Generalized mild to moderate morbilliform-like skin rashes, anaphylactic shock, anaphylactoid reactions, anaphylactic reactions, hypersensitivity, and drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (DRESS).

Infections and infestations: *Clostridioides difficile* colitis.

Musculoskeletal: Polyarthrititis.

Renal and urinary disorders: Renal dysfunction as evidenced by azotemia, oliguria and/or proteinuria. Acute kidney injury including acute renal failure has been reported. (see [7 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS](#))

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders: Toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), erythema multiforme, dermatitis exfoliative, dermatitis bullous, dermatitis vesiculobullous, rash morbilliform, vaginal infection, vaginitis, acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP), angioedema.

Vascular disorders: Thrombophlebitis has been seen with rapid intravenous administration.

9 DRUG INTERACTIONS

9.2 Drug Interactions Overview

Clindamycin is metabolized predominantly by CYP3A4, and to a lesser extent CYP3A5, to the major metabolite clindamycin sulfoxide and minor metabolite, N-desmethylclindamycin. Therefore inhibitors of CYP3A4 and CYP3A5 may reduce clindamycin clearance and inducers of these isoenzymes may increase clindamycin clearance. In the presence of strong CYP3A4 inducers such as rifampin, monitor for loss of effectiveness.

In vitro studies indicate that clindamycin does not inhibit CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2E1, or CYP2D6 and only moderately inhibits CYP3A4. Therefore, clinically important interactions between clindamycin and coadministered drugs metabolized by these CYP enzymes are unlikely.

Clindamycin has been shown to have neuromuscular blocking properties and potential antagonism with erythromycin and aminoglycosides (see [Table 3](#)).

In a clindamycin/primaquine combination study, serious hematologic toxicities have been observed, but the contribution of clindamycin, if any, is unknown (see [8 ADVERSE REACTIONS](#)).

9.4 Drug-Drug Interactions

The drugs listed in this table are based on either drug interaction case reports or studies, or potential interactions due to the expected magnitude and seriousness of the interaction.

Table 3. Established or Potential Drug-Drug Interactions

Proper name	Ref	Effect	Clinical comment
Neuromuscular blocking agents Examples include: atracurium, doxacurium,	CS	Clindamycin has been shown to have neuromuscular blocking properties that may enhance the action of other neuromuscular blocking agents.	Use with caution in patients receiving these agents concurrently.

Proper name	Ref	Effect	Clinical comment
pancuronium, vecuronium			
aminoglycosides	T	Clindamycin is reported to antagonize bactericidal activity of aminoglycosides <i>in vitro</i> . <i>In vivo</i> antagonism has not been demonstrated.	
erythromycin	T	Antagonism has been demonstrated between clindamycin and erythromycin <i>in vitro</i> . Clindamycin and erythromycin may compete for the same protein binding site in bacteria.	Due to possible clinical significance the two drugs should not be administered concurrently.
Inhibitors of CYP3A4, CYP3A5	T	Clearance of clindamycin may be reduced.	
Inducers of CYP3A4, CYP3A5	T	Clearance of clindamycin may be increased.	Monitor for loss of effectiveness.
Strong inducers of CYP3A4 such as rifampin	CS and CT	Rifampin appears to dramatically decrease the serum clindamycin concentration.	Serum clindamycin levels and effectiveness should be carefully monitored. A clinically relevant effect of clindamycin on rifampin concentrations is not expected.

Legend: CS = Case Study; CT = Clinical Trial; T = Theoretical

9.5 Drug-Food Interactions

Interactions with food have not been established.

9.6 Drug-Herb Interactions

Efficacy of clindamycin should be closely monitored in patients using concomitant St. John's wort, a CYP3A4 inducer.

9.7 Drug-Laboratory Test Interactions

Interactions with laboratory tests have not been established.

10 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

10.1 Mechanism of Action

Clindamycin is a lincosamide antibiotic that inhibits bacterial protein synthesis. It binds to the 50S ribosomal subunit and affects both ribosome assembly and the translation process. At usual doses, clindamycin exhibits bacteriostatic activity *in vitro*.

The mechanism of action of clindamycin in combination with primaquine on *Pneumocystis jiroveci* is not known.

10.2 Pharmacodynamics

(see [15 MICROBIOLOGY](#))

10.3 Pharmacokinetics

Absorption:

Clindamycin is rapidly and almost completely (90%) absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract in man and peak serum levels are seen in about 45 minutes. The average peak serum level following a single 150 mg dose in adults is 2.74 mcg/mL. Therapeutically effective average levels of 0.73 mcg/mL are found at 6 hours after a 150 mg dose.

The absorption of clindamycin is not appreciably affected by food intake. Peak serum levels following a single 250 mg oral dose of clindamycin with the patient in the fasting state were 3.1 mcg/mL at 45 minutes whereas the same dose administered with food gave a peak level of 2.4 mcg/mL. A 250 mg dose administered one hour after food gave a peak level of 2.8 mcg/mL but this peak did not occur until two hours after administration of the medication. A 250 mg dose with the patient in a fasting state and with food administered one hour after the medication resulted in peak levels of 3.1 mcg/mL at 12 hours.

Distribution:

Clindamycin binds primarily to alpha-1-acid glycoprotein. Protein binding is concentration dependent, ranging from 60% to 94% at therapeutic serum concentrations.

In three patients following the administration of 150 mg of clindamycin serum levels reached 2.25 mcg/mL in 2 hours and declined to 1.5 mcg/mL at 4 hours. During this period antibiotic synovial fluid levels were 1 mcg/mL at 2 hours and remained unchanged for the next and last 2 hours of observation.

Clindamycin is widely distributed in body fluids and tissues. Serum levels are rapidly attained as noted above. Tissue levels of clindamycin have been determined in various tissues in adult patients undergoing surgical procedures as noted in [Table 4](#).

Clindamycin does not cross the blood-brain-barrier even in the presence of inflamed meninges.

TABLE 4

Specimen	No. of Specimens	Average Serum Level	Average Fluid Level mcg/mL	Tissue Level mcg/gm
Pancreatic fluid (C6-264)	4	1.15	45.1	
Bile (C6-264)	19	3.35	52.45	
Gall Bladder (C6-24)	16	0.81		4.33
Liver (C6-265)	1	42.35		3.80
Kidney (C6-265)	1	1.50		9.07
Bone (C4-390)	2	2.44		9.91

Metabolism:

In vitro studies in human liver and intestinal microsomes indicated clindamycin is predominantly oxidized by CYP3A4, with minor contribution from CYP3A5, to form clindamycin sulfoxide and a minor metabolite, N-desmethylclindamycin.

Elimination:

The average elimination half-life is 2.4 hours. After oral administration of clindamycin hydrochloride, elimination half-life is increased to approximately 4.0 hours (range 3.4 to 5.1 h) in the elderly compared to 3.2 hours (range 2.1 to 4.2 h) in younger adults.

The 48 hour urinary excretion of clindamycin in adults following a single dose of 150 mg represented 10.9% of the administered dose (range 4.8% to 12.8%). These measurements were made by bio-assay and both the percent recovered and the urinary concentration are quite variable. The urinary concentration following a single 50 mg dose of clindamycin in the first 24 hours ranged from 8 to 25 mcg/mL of urine.

Fecal excretion of clindamycin has also been determined. Patients on a three week study when administered 1 gram of clindamycin per day had an average of 283 mcg/gm of stool. Patients on lincomycin 2 grams per day under the same conditions showed 3980 mcg/gm of stool. In single dose studies following administration of 250 mg of clindamycin, only 2.7% of the dose was excreted in the feces in 48 to 96 hours.

Special Populations and Conditions

Geriatrics: Pharmacokinetic studies with clindamycin have shown no clinically important differences between young and elderly subjects with normal hepatic function and normal (age-adjusted) renal function after oral or intravenous administration.

Obese Pediatric Patients Aged 2 to Less than 18 Years and Obese Adults Aged 18 to 20 Years:

An analysis of pharmacokinetic data in obese pediatric patients aged 2 to less than 18 years and obese adults aged 18 to 20 years demonstrated that clindamycin clearance and volume of distribution normalized by total body weight are comparable regardless of obesity.

11 STORAGE, STABILITY AND DISPOSAL

Temperature:

Store at controlled room temperature (15°C to 30°C).

Other:

Keep in a safe place out of the reach and sight of children.

12 SPECIAL HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

There are no special handling instructions.

PART II: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION

13 PHARMACEUTICAL INFORMATION

Drug Substance

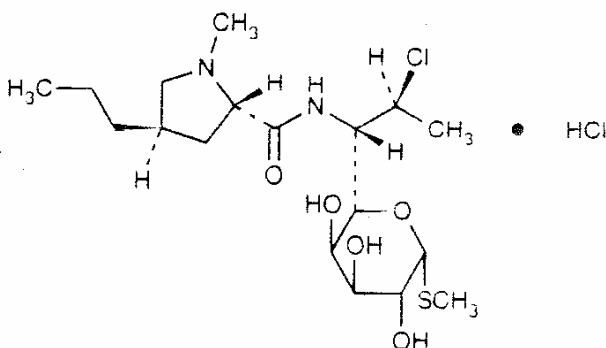
Proper name: Clindamycin hydrochloride, USP

Chemical name(s): 1) L-*threo*-α-D-*galacto*-Octopyranoside, methyl 7-chloro-6,7,8-trideoxy-6-[[[1-methyl-4-propyl-2-pyrrolidiny]carbonyl]amino]-1-thio-, (2*S*-*trans*) monohydrochloride

2) Methyl 7-chloro-6,7,8-trideoxy-6-(1-methyl-*trans*-4-propyl-L-2-pyrrolidinecarboxamino)-1-thio-L-*threo*-α-D-*galacto*-octopyranoside monohydrochloride.

Molecular formula and molecular mass: C₁₈H₃₃ClN₂O₅S.HCl (anhydrous),
461.44 g/mol (anhydrous), 479.46 g/mol (monohydrate)

Structural formula:



Physicochemical properties: Clindamycin hydrochloride is the hydrated hydrochloride salt of clindamycin, a substance produced by the chlorination of lincomycin and is a white to almost white, crystalline powder. It is soluble in water, pyridine, ethanol and DMF (N,N-dimethylformamide). Clindamycin hydrochloride has a pH of 4.4, a pKa of 7.6, a partition coefficient of 185 and a melting point of 141 to 143°C.

14 CLINICAL TRIALS

The authorized indications were based on safety and efficacy clinical trials which were conducted with clindamycin hydrochloride.

14.2 Comparative Bioavailability Studies

A randomized, two-way, single-dose, crossover comparative bioavailability study of APO-CLINDAMYCIN 300 mg capsules (Apotex Inc.) with DALACIN® C 300 mg capsules (Pharmacia & Upjohn) was conducted in healthy, adult, male subjects under fasting conditions. Comparative bioavailability data from the 14 subjects that were included in the statistical analysis are presented in the following table:

SUMMARY TABLE OF THE COMPARATIVE BIOAVAILABILITY DATA

Clindamycin (1 x 300 mg) Geometric Mean Arithmetic Mean (CV %)				
Parameter	Test ¹	Reference ²	% Ratio of Geometric Means	90% Confidence Interval
AUC _T (mcg·h/mL)	10.35 10.83 (34.26)	10.78 11.26 (32.24)	96.0	86.3-106.9
AUC _I (mcg·h/mL)	10.67 11.24 (37.99)	11.14 11.64 (32.34)	95.8	85.7-107.1
C _{MAX} (mcg/mL)	2.97 3.02 (20.07)	2.87 3.01 (33.57)	103.4	94.0-113.6
T _{max} ³ (h)	0.63 (0.50-1.50)	0.75 (0.50-1.50)		
T _{1/2} ⁴ (h)	2.44 (31.44)	2.61 (30.06)		

¹ APO-CLINDAMYCIN (Clindamycin Hydrochloride) capsules, 300 mg (Apotex Inc.).

² DALACIN® C (Clindamycin Hydrochloride) capsules, 300 mg (Pharmacia & Upjohn) (Canada).

³ Expressed as the median (range) only.

⁴ Expressed as arithmetic mean (CV%) only.

15 MICROBIOLOGY

Efficacy is related to the time period over which the agent level is above the minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) of the pathogen (%T/MIC).

Resistance

Resistance to clindamycin is most often due to mutations at the rRNA antibiotic binding site or methylation of specific nucleotides in the 23S RNA of the 50S ribosomal subunit. These alterations can determine *in vitro* cross resistance to macrolides and streptogramins B (MLS_B phenotype). Resistance is occasionally due to alterations in ribosomal proteins. Resistance to clindamycin may be inducible by macrolides in macrolide-resistant bacterial isolates. Inducible resistance can be demonstrated with a disk test (D-zone test) or in broth. Less frequently encountered resistance mechanisms involve modification of the antibiotic and active efflux. There is complete cross resistance between clindamycin and lincomycin. As with many antibiotics, the incidence of resistance varies with the bacterial species and the geographical area. The incidence of resistance to clindamycin is higher among methicillin-resistant staphylococcal isolates and penicillin-resistant pneumococcal isolates than among organisms susceptible to these agents.

Breakpoints

The prevalence of acquired resistance may vary geographically and with time for selected species and local information on resistance is desirable, particularly when treating severe infections. As necessary, expert advice should be sought when the local prevalence of resistance is such that the utility of the agent in at least some types of infections is questionable.

Particularly in severe infections or therapy failure microbiological diagnosis with verification of the pathogen and its susceptibility to clindamycin is recommended.

Resistance is usually defined by susceptibility interpretive criteria (breakpoints) established by Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) or European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) for systemically administered antibiotics.

In order to assess the significance of *in vitro* antibiotic activity against bacterial species, it is necessary to compare the organism's minimum inhibitory concentration (MIC) to the defined susceptibility interpretive breakpoints for the antibiotic. [Table 5](#) identifies the currently-accepted MIC interpretative breakpoints for clindamycin.

The *in vitro* activity of clindamycin in combination with primaquine has not been determined.

Clinical and Laboratory Standards Institute (CLSI) breakpoints for relevant organisms are listed below.

Table 5. CLSI Susceptibility Interpretive Criteria for Clindamycin

Pathogen	Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC in mcg/mL)			Disk Diffusion (Zone Diameters in mm) ^a		
	S	I	R	S	I	R
<i>Staphylococcus</i>	S	I	R	S	I	R

Pathogen	Minimal Inhibitory Concentrations (MIC in mcg/mL)			Disk Diffusion (Zone Diameters in mm) ^a		
	≤0.5	1-2	≥4	≥21	15–20	≤14
spp.	≤0.5	1-2	≥4	≥21	15–20	≤14
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> and other <i>Streptococcus</i> spp.	≤0.25	0.5	≥1	≥19	16–18	≤15
Anaerobic Bacteria ^b	≤2	4	≥8	NA	NA	NA

NA = not applicable

^aDisk content 2 micrograms of clindamycin

^bMIC ranges for anaerobes are based on agar dilution methodology.

A report of “Susceptible” (S) indicates that the pathogen is likely to be inhibited if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the concentrations usually achievable. A report of “Intermediate” (I) indicates that the result should be considered equivocal, and, if the microorganism is not fully susceptible to alternative, clinically feasible drugs, the test should be repeated. This category implies possible clinical applicability in body sites where the drug is physiologically concentrated or in situations where high dosage of drug can be used. This category also provides a buffer zone that prevents small, uncontrolled technical factors from causing major discrepancies in interpretation. A report of “Resistant” (R) indicates that the pathogen is not likely to be inhibited if the antimicrobial compound in the blood reaches the usually achievable concentrations; other therapy should be selected.

The reported clindamycin MIC₉₀ value (i.e., the concentration of clindamycin that inhibits 90% of test isolates) was utilized as the most descriptive measure of clindamycin activity. Where the data from more than one study are summarized, the weighted average MIC₉₀ value was calculated to account for differences in the number of strains in each study.

Standardized susceptibility test procedures require the use of laboratory controls to monitor and ensure the accuracy and precision of the supplies and reagents used in the assay, and the techniques of the individuals performing the test. Standard clindamycin powder should provide the MIC ranges in [Table 6](#) For the disk diffusion technique using the 2 mcg clindamycin disk the criteria provided in [Table 6](#) should be achieved.

Table 6. CLSI Acceptable Quality Control (QC) Ranges for Clindamycin to be Used in Validation of Susceptibility Test Results

QC Strain	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration Range (mcg/mL)	Disk Diffusion Range (Zone Diameters in mm)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 29213	0.06–0.25	NA

QC Strain	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration Range (mcg/mL)	Disk Diffusion Range (Zone Diameters in mm)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 25923	NA	24–30
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> ATCC 49619	0.03–0.12	19–25
<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i> ATCC 25285	0.5–2 ^a	NA
<i>Bacteroides thetaiotaomicron</i> ATCC 29741	2–8 ^a	NA
<i>Eggerthella lenta</i> ATCC 43055	0.06–0.25 ^a	NA

NA=Not applicable.

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^aMIC ranges for anaerobes are based on agar dilution methodology.

The European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing (EUCAST) breakpoints are presented below.

Table 7. EUCAST Susceptibility Interpretive Criteria for Clindamycin

Organism	MIC breakpoints (mg/L)		Zone diameter breakpoints (mm) ^a	
	S ≤	R >	S ≥	R <
<i>Staphylococcus</i> spp.	0.25	0.5	22	19
<i>Streptococcus</i> Groups A, B, C and G	0.5	0.5	17	17
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i>	0.5	0.5	19	19
<i>Viridans group streptococci</i>	0.5	0.5	19	19
Gram-positive anaerobes	4	4	NA	NA
Gram-negative anaerobes	4	4	NA	NA
<i>Corynebacterium</i> spp.	0.5	0.5	20	20

^aDisk content 2 mcg of clindamycin
NA=not applicable; S=susceptible; R=resistant

EUCAST QC ranges for MIC and disk zone determinations are in the table below.

Table 8. EUCAST Acceptable Quality Control (QC) Ranges for Clindamycin to be Used in Validation of Susceptibility Test Results

QC Strain	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration Range (mcg/mL)	Disk Diffusion Range (Zone Diameters in mm)
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> ATCC 29213	0.06–0.25	23-29

QC Strain	Minimum Inhibitory Concentration Range (mcg/mL)	Disk Diffusion Range (Zone Diameters in mm)
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> ATCC 49619	0.03–0.125	22-28

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The *in vitro* susceptibility of clinical isolates to clindamycin is presented in [Table 9](#) (gram-positive aerobic bacteria), [Table 10](#) (gram-negative aerobic bacteria), [Table 11](#) (gram-positive anaerobic bacteria), [Table 12](#) (gram-negative anaerobic bacteria) and [Table 13](#) (*Chlamydia* spp and *Mycoplasma* spp).

Table 9. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against gram-positive aerobic bacteria ^a			
Organism	N ^b	MIC ₉₀ Range ^c	MIC ₉₀ ^d
<i>Bacillus cereus</i>	46	1	1
<i>Corynebacterium diphtheriae</i>	192	0.1	0.1
<i>Listeria monocytogenes</i>	218	1-8	2.22
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> (methicillin-susceptible)	286	0.12-2	0.50
<i>Staphylococcus saprophyticus</i>	57	0.12-0.25	0.16
<i>Streptococcus agalactia</i>	59	≤0.06-0.50	0.15
<i>Streptococcus bovis</i>	22	0.04	0.04
<i>Streptococcus pneumoniae</i> (penicillin-susceptible)	660	0.03-0.25	0.23
<i>Streptococcus pyogenes</i>	141	0.13-0.25	0.08
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp, Group B	38	≤0.12-0.25	0.15
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp, Group C	30	≤0.12-0.50	0.22
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp, Group G	34	0.06-0.50	0.31
<i>Streptococcus</i> spp, viridans Group (penicillin-susceptible)	67	≤0.06-1.6	0.53

^aclinical efficacy has not been established for some of these species

^bN, total number of isolates

^cRange of reported MIC₉₀ values

^dMIC₉₀ for single study or weighted average MIC₉₀ for two or more studies

Table 10. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against gram-negative aerobic bacteria ^a			
Organism	N ^b	MIC ₉₀ Range ^c	MIC ₉₀ ^d
<i>Campylobacter jejuni</i>	449	0.39-8	1.7
<i>Campylobacter fetus</i>	41	1-1.6	1.2
<i>Campylobacter coli</i>	31	0.50	0.50
<i>Gardnerella vaginalis</i>	156	≤0.06-0.39	0.3
<i>Helicobacter pylori</i>	47	2-3.1	2.6
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (β-lactamase-negative)	77	4	4
<i>Neisseria gonorrhoeae</i> (β-lactamase-	54	2	2

Table 10. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against gram-negative aerobic bacteria^a			
Organism	N^b	MIC₉₀ Range^c	MIC₉₀^d
positive)			

^aclinical efficacy has not been established for some of these species
^bN, total number of isolates
^cRange of reported MIC₉₀ values
^dMIC₉₀ for single study or weighted average MIC₉₀ for two or more studies

Table 11. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against gram-positive anaerobic bacteria^a			
Organism	N^b	MIC₉₀ Range^c	MIC₉₀^d
<i>Actinomyces israelii</i>	46	0.12	0.12
<i>Actinomyces</i> spp	38	0.50-1	0.8
<i>Clostridium botulinum</i>	224	4	4
<i>Clostridioides difficile</i>	191	4->256	57.7
<i>Clostridium novyi</i>	18	2	2
<i>Clostridium perfringens</i>	386	0.25-8	3.4
<i>Clostridium ramosum</i>	98	4-12.5	8.3
<i>Eubacterium</i> spp	45	0.4-2	1.1
<i>Lactobacillus</i> spp	88	0.50-1	0.8
<i>Peptostreptococcus anaerobes</i>	283	0.25-0.50	0.4
<i>Peptostreptococcus asaccharolyticus</i>	268	0.25-2	1.5
<i>Peptostreptococcus magnus</i>	90	2	2
<i>Peptostreptococcus prevotii</i>	87	0.12-4	2.9
<i>Peptostreptococcus tetradius</i>	28	0.5	0.5
Anaerobic gram-positive cocci	247	0.5-1	0.9
<i>Propionibacterium acnes</i>	267	0.10-0.25	0.2
<i>Propionibacterium</i> spp	71	0.12-0.20	0.16

^aclinical efficacy has not been established for some of these species
^bN, total number of isolates
^cRange of reported MIC₉₀ values
^dMIC₉₀ for single study or weighted average MIC₉₀ for two or more studies

Table 12. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against gram-negative anaerobic bacteria^a			
Organism	N^b	MIC₉₀ Range^c	MIC₉₀^d
<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i> group	4,284	0.5-8	2.45
<i>Bacteroides fragilis</i>	2,002	≤0.20-4	2.22
<i>Bacteroides melaninogenicus</i>	224	≤0.03-0.50	0.07
<i>Bacteroides</i> spp	141	≤0.06-0.50	0.31
<i>Bacteroides bivius</i>	155	≤0.03-≤0.05	≤0.11
<i>Bacteroides disiens</i>	33	≤0.03-≤0.06	≤0.05
<i>Fusobacterium</i> spp	330	≤0.10-2	0.85
<i>Mobiluncus mulieris</i>	10	0.06	0.06
<i>Mobiluncus curtisii</i>	12	0.12	0.12
<i>Veillonella</i> spp	38	0.06-0.25	0.20

Table 12. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against gram-negative anaerobic bacteria^a			
Organism	N^b	MIC₉₀ Range^c	MIC₉^d
^a clinical efficacy has not been established for some of these species			
^b N, total number of isolates			
^c Range of reported MIC ₉₀ values			
^d MIC ₉₀ for single study or weighted average MIC ₉₀ for two or more studies			

Clindamycin has demonstrated *in vitro* activity against *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Mycoplasma* spp (see [Table 13](#)). For *Chlamydia trachomatis*, the MIC₉₀ for clindamycin is reached at 2.3 mcg/mL; *in vitro* synergism with gentamicin has also been demonstrated.

Table 13. <i>In vitro</i> activity of clindamycin against <i>Chlamydia</i> spp and <i>Mycoplasma</i> spp^a			
Organism	N^b	MIC₉₀ Range^c	MIC₉₀^d
<i>Chlamydia trachomatis</i>	84	0.5-5.9	2.3
<i>Mycoplasma hominis</i>	106	0.25-0.8	0.58
<i>Mycoplasma pneumoniae</i>	9	4	4
^a clinical efficacy has not been established for some of these species			
^b N, total number of isolates			
^c Range of reported MIC ₉₀ values			
^d MIC ₉₀ for single study or weighted average MIC ₉₀ for two or more studies			

Development of resistance to clindamycin by staphylococci is slow and stepwise rather than rapid and streptomycin-like. Clindamycin, like lincomycin, participates in the dissociated cross-resistance phenomenon with erythromycin. Clindamycin is not cross-resistant with penicillin, ampicillin, tetracycline or streptomycin. It is, however, cross-resistant with lincomycin.

Resistance to clindamycin may occur by one of several mechanisms. Resistance does not appear to be caused by reduced drug uptake but rather is generally due to alterations in the bacterial target site (50S ribosomal subunit). Resistance can result from either changes in a ribosomal protein at the receptor site or a change in the 23S ribosomal RNA by methylation of adenine. Rare isolates of staphylococci and some veterinary isolates of streptococci may enzymatically inactivate clindamycin by adenylation. Plasmid-mediated transferable resistance to clindamycin (and erythromycin) in *B. fragilis* was reported in 1979. Despite the existence of multiple resistance mechanisms, the reported incidence of clindamycin resistance in the *B. fragilis* group has remained relatively low (averaging 5.3% from 1970 to 1987 in over 7,600 isolates). Susceptibility of isolates to clindamycin should be assessed by individual MIC determinations.

16 NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

General Toxicology:

Animal

The results of acute toxicity studies are shown in [Table 14](#):

TABLE 14

Animal LD ₅₀ Results		
Species	Route	LD ₅₀ (mg/kg)
Adult mouse	IP	262
Adult mouse	IV	143
Adult rat	Oral	2714
Adult rat	SC	2618
Newborn rat	SC	245

The following subacute and chronic animal toxicology was performed:

5 Day Oral Tolerance Study in Rats

500 mg/kg was administered to rats with no drug related toxicity noted except that all rats developed diarrhea at this dose level.

5 Day Oral Tolerance Study in the Dog

Doses of 113 mg/kg and 500 mg/kg were administered. The higher dose was vomited 1 to 2 hours after administration but otherwise no abnormalities of a drug related nature were noted.

6 Month Subacute Oral Toxicity in the Rat

Clindamycin, at doses of 30, 100 and 300 mg/kg, was given to groups of 20 rats daily for 6 months. Data obtained after one month were normal. Similarly, data at the end of 6 months showed no drug related effects. A fourth group of 20 rats received a dose of 600 mg/kg for 3 months and also showed the drug to be well tolerated by male and female rats without any drug related effects.

1 Month Subacute Oral Toxicity in the Dog

Clindamycin, at doses of 30, 100 and 300 mg/kg, was given to 3 groups of 6 dogs with a comparable group of 6 dogs as a control. All dogs were healthy and all dose levels well tolerated.

Fluctuations in the serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase values were seen in the 300 mg/kg group after 2 weeks therapy. Less fluctuation was seen in the SGOT levels and other tests of hepatic function did not reflect the adaptive metabolic change which these elevated transaminase values are believed to show. Two dogs in each group were sacrificed and no drug related lesions were found upon complete necropsy and microscopic observations on these dogs.

1 Year Chronic Oral Toxicity in the Rat

Doses of 0, 30, 100 and 300 mg/kg were administered daily to rats for one year and 600 mg/kg for 6 months. As expected, mortality did occur due to coincidental disease and the group at 600 mg/kg had a higher mortality rate although no definitive drug related findings were noted.

1 Year Chronic Oral Toxicity in the Dog

Dogs were administered clindamycin at doses of 0, 30, 100 and 300 mg/kg for 1 year. Some dose related elevations of serum glutamic pyruvic transaminase values were seen during the 7th to 9th month of this study, but periodic liver biopsies examined by light and electron microscopy did not disclose any hepatic cell damage. All other data noted no drug related changes.

Carcinogenicity: Long term studies in animals have not been performed with clindamycin to evaluate carcinogenic potential.

Genotoxicity: Genotoxicity tests performed included a rat micronucleus test and an Ames Salmonella reversion test. Both tests were negative.

Reproductive and Developmental Toxicology:

Teratogenic and Reproductive Studies in the Rat and Rabbit

Teratology evaluation of 20-day rat fetuses was made and no evidence of teratogenic effect was noted. Treated rat dams gave birth to normal litters and no evidence was obtained that clindamycin affected the fecundity of the dam or the development of the offspring.

Oral and subcutaneous reproductive toxicity studies in rats and rabbits revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to clindamycin, except at doses that caused maternal toxicity.

In oral embryo fetal development studies in rats and subcutaneous embryo fetal development studies in rats and rabbits, no developmental toxicity was observed except at doses that produced maternal toxicity.

Teratogenic and Reproductive Studies in the Mouse

Clindamycin, in doses of 20, 50 and 200 mg/kg, was administered to pregnant mice from day 6 through day 15 of gestation. At the 200 mg/kg level there was pronounced expected toxicity associated with a 40% mortality. Similarly, at this toxic level there was increased foetal loss. Litter size, litter weight and mean pup weight were significantly reduced. At the 200 mg/kg level there was an increased incidence of major malformations which is thought to be due to malnutrition of the dam as a result of this toxic dose of the drug.

17 SUPPORTING PRODUCT MONOGRAPHS

1. DALACIN[®] C (Clindamycin hydrochloride capsules), 150 mg and 300 mg, submission control 282148, Product Monograph, Pfizer Canada Inc. (APR 18, 2024).

PATIENT MEDICATION INFORMATION

READ THIS FOR SAFE AND EFFECTIVE USE OF YOUR MEDICINE

Pr APO-CLINDAMYCIN

Clindamycin Hydrochloride Capsules

Read this carefully before you start taking **APO-CLINDAMYCIN** and each time you get a refill. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about this drug. Talk to your healthcare professional about your medical condition and treatment and ask if there is any new information about **APO-CLINDAMYCIN**.

Antibacterial drugs like APO-CLINDAMYCIN treat only bacterial infections. They do not treat viral infections such as the common cold. Although you may feel better early in treatment, APO-CLINDAMYCIN should be taken exactly as directed. Misuse or overuse of APO-CLINDAMYCIN could lead to the growth of bacteria that will not be killed by APO-CLINDAMYCIN (resistance). This means that APO-CLINDAMYCIN may not work for you in the future. Do not share your medicine.

What is APO-CLINDAMYCIN used for?

- To treat serious infections caused by germs (bacteria).
- To help prevent serious infections during and after surgery.

How does APO-CLINDAMYCIN work?

APO-CLINDAMYCIN prevents the growth of germs causing your infection.

What are the ingredients in APO-CLINDAMYCIN?

Medicinal ingredients: Clindamycin hydrochloride

Non-medicinal ingredients:

Stearic acid and talc.

Capsule shell: 150 mg and 300 mg: FD&C Blue #1, gelatin and titanium dioxide.

150 mg only: D&C Red #28, D&C Red #33, FD&C Red #40 and FD&C Yellow #5.

The edible ink on the capsule shell contains: ammonium hydroxide 28%, propylene glycol, shellac glaze-45% (20% esterified), simethicone and titanium dioxide.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN comes in the following dosage forms:

Capsules: 150 mg and 300 mg

Do not use APO-CLINDAMYCIN if:

- You are allergic (hypersensitive) to
 - Clindamycin
 - Lincomycin
 - Other ingredients in the product (see list of [non-medicinal ingredients](#))

To help avoid side effects and ensure proper use, talk to your healthcare professional before you take APO-CLINDAMYCIN. Talk about any health conditions or problems you may have, including if you:

- have a history of intestinal disorders such as colitis (inflammation of the colon), or inflammatory bowel disease.
- have diarrhea or usually get diarrhea when you take antibiotics or have ever suffered from problems with your stomach or intestines (e.g. bowel disease, colitis).
- suffer from problems with your kidneys or liver.
- have glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G-6-PD) deficiency and taking primaquine. You need to have routine blood tests while taking APO-CLINDAMYCIN with primaquine to monitor for potential blood cell changes.
- are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Clindamycin passes to the human fetus.
- are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed.

Other warnings you should know about:**Long term use of APO-CLINDAMYCIN**

If you have to take APO-CLINDAMYCIN for a long time, your doctor may arrange regular liver, kidney and blood tests. Do not miss these check-ups with your doctor. Long term use can also make you more likely to get other infections that do not respond to APO-CLINDAMYCIN treatment.

Taking APO-CLINDAMYCIN with primaquine

Patients with G-6-PD deficiency taking the combination of clindamycin and primaquine should have routine blood examinations during therapy with primaquine to monitor for potential blood cell changes.

Breastfeeding

If you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed while taking APO-CLINDAMYCIN, talk to your doctor. APO-CLINDAMYCIN will pass through your breast milk to your baby. Your doctor will decide if you should take this medicine while breastfeeding. If your doctor has told you that you can take APO-CLINDAMYCIN while breastfeeding, monitor your baby for possible side effects such as: diarrhea, mouth infection (thrush: white lesions in your baby's mouth), diaper rash or blood in their stool. If your baby shows any signs, talk to your doctor and to your baby's doctor.

REMEMBER: This medication is for YOU. Never give it to others. It may harm them even if their symptoms are the same as yours.

Tell your healthcare professional about all the medicines you take, including any drugs, vitamins, minerals, natural supplements or alternative medicines.

The following may interact with APO-CLINDAMYCIN:

- Erythromycin (an antibiotic)
- Rifampin (an antibiotic)
- Muscle relaxants used for operations
- Aminoglycosides (a class of antibiotics)
- Primaquine (antimalarial)
- St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*)

Tell your doctor if you are taking or being administered any other topical or oral medication, including erythromycin or neuromuscular blocking agents.

How to take APO-CLINDAMYCIN:

Take your medicine (or give the medicine to your child) as your doctor has told you. If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

The capsules should be taken with a full glass of water and no less than 30 minutes before lying down to avoid throat irritation. The capsules can be taken with or without food.

Usual dose:

Treatment of infection:

Adult dose:

150 mg to 450 mg by mouth every 6 hours depending on the severity of infection.

Child dose (over 1 month of age and able to swallow capsules):

2 mg to 5 mg per kg every 6 hours depending on the severity of the infection.

Keep taking this medicine for the full time of treatment, even if you (or your child) begin to feel better after a few days.

Prevention of infection (patients undergoing surgery):

Adult dose:

300 mg by mouth at 1 hour before procedure; then 150 mg at 6 hours after the first dose.

Child dose (over 1 month of age and able to swallow capsules):

10 mg per kg by mouth at 1 hour before procedure; then 5 mg / kg at 6 hours after the first dose.

If you stop taking APO-CLINDAMYCIN

If you stop taking the medicine too soon your infection may come back again or get worse.

Do not stop taking APO-CLINDAMYCIN unless your doctor tells you to.

If you have any further questions on how to take this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Overdose:

If you think you, or a person you are caring for, have taken too much APO-CLINDAMYCIN, contact a healthcare professional, hospital emergency department, or regional poison control centre immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

Missed Dose:

If you missed a dose of this medication, take it as soon as you remember. This will help to keep a constant amount of medication in your blood. But, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your next scheduled dose. Do not take two doses at the same time.

What are possible side effects from using APO-CLINDAMYCIN?

These are not all the possible side effects you may have when taking APO-CLINDAMYCIN. If you experience any side effects not listed here, tell your healthcare professional.

APO-CLINDAMYCIN can cause side effects such as:

- skin reddening, rash, itching, hives
- feeling sick, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain
- sore throat, throat sores
- low red blood cells (anemia) with symptoms such as bruising, bleeding
- low white blood cells (neutropenia) which can lead to more infections
- vaginal infection or vaginitis (inflamed vagina)

Contact your doctor immediately if the following happens:

- You have a severe allergic reaction with symptoms such as:
 - sudden wheeziness
 - difficulty in breathing
 - swelling of eyelids, face or lips
 - rash or itching (especially affecting the whole body)
- Blistering and peeling of large areas of skin
- Fever
- Cough
- Feeling unwell
- Swelling of the gums, tongue or lips
- You have liver problems with symptoms such as:
 - yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes (jaundice).

- You have *Clostridioides difficile colitis* (bowel inflammation) with symptoms such as:
 - severe, persistent watery or bloody diarrhea (watery or bloody) with or without
 - abdominal pain
 - nausea
 - fever
 - vomiting

This may happen months after the last dose of medication. If this occurs, stop taking the medication and contact your doctor right away.

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
VERY COMMON			
Liver problems with symptoms such a yellowing skin or eyes, abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting			√
COMMON			
Diarrhea		√	
Rash		√	
RARE			
Nausea		√	
Abdominal pain		√	
Vomiting		√	
Acute kidney failure (severe kidney problems): confusion; tiredness; swelling; urinating less or not at all; shortness of breath; chest pain, seizures, coma.			√
Skin reactions: itching Signs of a severe allergic reaction such as sudden wheeziness, difficulty in breathing, swelling of eyelids, face or lips, rash or itching (especially affecting the whole body)			√
NOT KNOWN			

Serious side effects and what to do about them			
Symptom / effect	Talk to your healthcare professional		Stop taking drug and get immediate medical help
	Only if severe	In all cases	
Clostridioides difficile colitis (bowel inflammation) with symptoms such as severe or persistent diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea and vomiting.			√

If you have a troublesome symptom or side effect that is not listed here or becomes bad enough to interfere with your daily activities, tell your healthcare professional.

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.

Storage:

Keep in a safe place out of the reach and sight of children.

Store at controlled room temperature (15°C to 30°C), away from heat and direct light.

Do not store in the fridge or freezer.

Do not store in the bathroom as moisture and heat can cause damage.

If you want more information about APO-CLINDAMYCIN:

- Talk to your healthcare professional
- Find the full product monograph that is prepared for healthcare professionals and includes this Patient Medication Information by visiting the Health Canada website: (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/drug-products/drug-product-database.html>); the manufacturer's website (<http://www.apotex.ca/products>), or by calling 1-800-667-4708.

This leaflet was prepared by Apotex Inc., Toronto, Ontario, M9L 1T9

Last Revised: February 20, 2025