

Subjects

INDICATIONS^{1,2}

CRIXAN (clarithromycin) is indicated for treatment of following infections caused by susceptible organisms:

Lower respiratory tract infections for example, acute and chronic bronchitis, acute bacterial exacerbation of chronic bronchitis and pneumonia.

Upper respiratory tract infections for example, sinusitis and pharyngitis.

Acute otitis media in children

Disseminated mycobacterial infections due to *Mycobacterium avium*, or *Mycobacterium intracellulare*

Note: Clarithromycin is appropriate for initial therapy in community acquired respiratory infections and has been shown to be active *in vitro* against common and atypical respiratory pathogens (see **Antimicrobial Activity**).

CRIXAN is indicated in skin and soft tissue infections of mild to moderate severity.

CRIXAN in the presence of acid suppression effected by omeprazole or lansoprazole is indicated for the eradication of *H. pylori* in patients with duodenal ulcers.

CRIXAN is also indicated for the prevention of disseminated *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) disease in patients with advanced HIV infection.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION^{1,2}

CRIXAN may be given with or without food.

Patients with respiratory tract/skin and soft tissue infections

Adults and children over the age of 12 years: The usual dose is 250 mg twice daily for 7 days although this may be increased to 500mg twice daily for up to 14 days in severe infections.

Children below 12 years: The usual recommended daily dosage is 15 mg/kg/day divided q12h for 10 days. Doses up to 500mg twice a day have been used in the treatment of severe infections. The usual duration of treatment is for 5 to 10 days depending on the pathogen involved and the severity of the condition.

Paediatric Dosage Guidelines Based on Body Weight

Weight (kg)	Dose (q12h)	Dosing Calculated on 7.5 mg/kg q12h	
		CRIXAN 125 mg/5ml	CRIXAN 250 mg/5 ml
9	62.5 mg	2.5 mL q12h	1.25 mL q12h
17	125 mg	5 mL q12h	2.5 mL q12h
25	187.5 mg	7.5 mL q12h	3.75 mL q12h
33	250 mg	10 mL q12h	5 mL q12h

H. pylori Eradication to Reduce the Risk of Duodenal Ulcer Recurrence

Triple therapy: clarithromycin/lansoprazole/amoxicillin

The recommended adult dose is 500 mg clarithromycin, 30 mg lansoprazole, and 1 gram amoxicillin, all given twice daily (q12h) for 10 or 14 days.

Triple therapy: clarithromycin/omeprazole/amoxicillin

The recommended adult dose is 500 mg clarithromycin, 20 mg omeprazole, and 1 gram amoxicillin, all given twice daily (q12h) for 10 days. In patients with an ulcer present at the time of initiation of therapy, an additional 18 days of omeprazole 20 mg once daily is recommended for ulcer healing and symptom relief.

Triple therapy: clarithromycin/lansoprazole/metronidazole

The recommended adult dose is 500mg clarithromycin, lansoprazole 30mg and metronidazole 400mg all given twice daily (q12h) for 7 days.

Dual therapy: clarithromycin/omeprazole

The recommended adult dose is 500 mg clarithromycin given three times daily (q8h) and 40 mg omeprazole given once daily (qAM) for 14 days. An additional 14 days of omeprazole 20 mg once daily is recommended for ulcer healing and symptom relief.

Dual therapy: clarithromycin/frantridine bismuth citrate

The recommended adult dose is 500 mg clarithromycin given twice daily (q12h) or three times daily (q8h) and 400 mg ranitidine bismuth citrate given twice daily (q12h) for 14 days. An additional 14 days of 400 mg twice daily is recommended for ulcer healing and symptom relief. Clarithromycin and ranitidine bismuth citrate combination therapy is not recommended in patients with creatinine clearance less than 25 mL/min.

Dosage adjustments:

Clarithromycin may be administered without dosage adjustment in the presence of hepatic impairment if there is normal renal function. However, in the presence of severe renal impairment (CrCl₂ < 30 mL/min), or without coexisting hepatic impairment, the dose should be halved or the dosing interval doubled.

Mycobacterial infections:

Prophylaxis: The recommended dose of clarithromycin for the prevention of disseminated *Mycobacterium avium* disease is 500 mg b.i.d. In children, the recommended dose is 7.5 mg/kg b.i.d. up to 500 mg b.i.d. No studies of clarithromycin for MAC prophylaxis have been performed in paediatric populations and the doses recommended for prophylaxis are derived from MAC treatment studies in children. Dosing recommendations for children are in the table above.

Treatment: Clarithromycin is recommended as the primary agent for the treatment of disseminated infection due to *Mycobacterium avium* complex. Clarithromycin should be used in combination with other antimycobacterial drugs that have shown *in vitro* activity against MAC or clinical benefit in MAC treatment. The recommended dose for mycobacterial infections in adults is 500 mg b.i.d. In children, the recommended dose is 7.5 mg/kg b.i.d. up to 500 mg b.i.d.

Clarithromycin therapy should continue for life if clinical and mycobacterial improvements are observed.

PRECAUTIONS^{1,2}

• General

Clarithromycin is principally excreted via the liver and kidney. Clarithromycin may be administered without dosage adjustment to patients with kidney impairment and normal

renal function. However, there have been reports of QT prolongation with clarithromycin; however, they have been observed with erythromycin products and/or with clarithromycin in post-marketing experience.

Concurrent use of erythromycin or clarithromycin and ergotamine or dihydroergotamine has been associated in some patients with acute ergot toxicity characterized by severe peripheral vasospasm and dysesthesia.

Erythromycin has been reported to decrease the clearance of triazolam and, thus, may increase the pharmacologic effect of triazolam. There have been post-marketing reports of drug interactions and CNS effects (e.g., somnolence and confusion) with the concomitant use of clarithromycin and triazolam.

There have been reports of an interaction between erythromycin and astemizole resulting in QT prolongation and torsades de pointes. Concomitant administration of erythromycin and astemizole is contraindicated. Because clarithromycin is also metabolized by cytochrome P450, concomitant administration of clarithromycin with astemizole is not recommended. As with other macrolides, clarithromycin has been reported to increase concentrations of HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (e.g., lovastatin and simvastatin), through inhibition of cytochrome P450 metabolism of these drugs. Rare reports of rhabdomyolysis have been reported in patients taking these drugs concomitantly.

The use of erythromycin and clarithromycin in patients concurrently taking drugs metabolized by the cytochrome P450 system may be associated with elevations in serum levels of these other drugs. There have been reports of interactions of erythromycin and/or clarithromycin with carbamazepine, cyclosporine, tacrolimus, hexobarbital, phenytoin, alfentanil, disopyramide, lovastatin, bromocriptine, valproic acid, terfenadine, ciprofloxacin, pimozide, rifabutin, and astemizole. Serum concentrations of drugs metabolized by the cytochrome P450 system should be monitored closely in patients concurrently receiving these drugs.

• Adverse Effects

Clarithromycin is generally well tolerated. Side effects include nausea, dyspepsia, diarrhoea, vomiting, abdominal pain and paraesthesia. Stomatitis, glossitis, oral monilia and tongue discoloration have been reported. Other side-effects include headache, arthralgia, myalgia and allergic reactions ranging from urticaria, mild skin eruptions and angioedema to anaphylaxis and rarely Stevens-Johnson syndrome / toxic epidermal necrolysis.

Reports of alteration of the sense of smell, usually in conjunction with taste perversion have also been received. There have been reports of tooth discoloration in patients treated with clarithromycin. Tooth discoloration is usually reversible with professional dental cleaning. There have been reports of transient central nervous system side-effects including dizziness, vertigo, anxiety, insomnia, bad dreams, fatigue, confusion, disorientation, hallucinations, psychosis and depersonalisation. There have been reports of hearing loss with clarithromycin which is usually reversible on withdrawal of therapy. Pseudomembranous colitis has been reported rarely with clarithromycin, and may range in severity from mild to life threatening. There have been rare reports of hypoglycaemia, some of which have occurred in patients on concomitant oral hypoglycaemic agents or insulin. Isolated cases of leukaemia and thrombocytopenia have been reported.

As with other macrolides, hepatic dysfunction (which is usually reversible) including altered liver function tests, hepatitis and cholestasis with or without jaundice, has been reported. Dysfunction may be severe and very rarely fatal hepatic failure has been reported.

Cases of increased serum creatinine, interstitial nephritis, renal failure, pancreatitis and convulsions have been reported rarely.

As with other macrolides, QT prolongation, ventricular tachycardia and Torsade de Pointes has been rarely reported with clarithromycin.

OVERDOSAGE¹

Reports indicate that the ingestion of large amounts of clarithromycin can be expected to produce gastro-intestinal symptoms. One patient who had a history of bipolar disorder ingested 8 grams of clarithromycin and showed altered mental status, paranoid behaviour, hypokalaemia and hypoxaemia. Adverse reactions accompanying overdosage should be treated by gastric lavage and supportive measures. As with other macrolides, clarithromycin serum levels are not expected to be appreciably affected by haemodialysis or peritoneal dialysis.

STORAGE

Crizan Tablets – Store below 25°C, protected from moisture
Crizan Suspension – Store below 25°C. Do not refrigerate or freeze the constituted suspension. Keep the container tightly closed. Discard the unused portion after 14 days.

KEEP ALL MEDICINES OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

SUPPLY

Crizan Tablets 250 mg – Blister strip of 4's; 10's; box of 4's, 3x4's, 10's
Crizan Tablets 500 mg – Blister strip of 4's; 10's; box of 4's, 3x4's, 10's
Crizan Suspension 125mg/5ml: Bottle of 50 ml, 60 ml, 70 ml, 100 ml & 140 ml
Crizan Suspension 250mg/5ml: Bottle of 50 ml, 60 ml, 70 ml, 100 ml & 140 ml

REFERENCES

1. Physicians' Desk Reference 2002, 56th Ed: 403-411.
2. ABPI Compendium of Data Sheets and Summaries of Product Characteristics, KLARICID, Abbott Laboratories Ltd., UK, October 2000.

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