

Acetazolamide (Diamox)

Indication(s): High Altitude Illness (AMS & HACE)

Contraindications: Hypersensitivity to sulfonamides.

Precautions: Patients with diabetes mellitus should be advised that blood or urine glucose levels may increase.

Drug interactions: Possible increased effect when combined with Tricyclic Antidepressants (TCA's – e.g. doxepin) or amphetamines (Monitor).

Adverse effects: (>10%) Malaise, diarrhea, anorexia, metallic taste, polyuria. (1-10%) Drowsiness, dizziness, depression. (< 1%) Tinnitus, numbness and tingling in extremities, convulsions, weakness, confusion, headache, rash, nausea, dry mouth.

Pharmacology: Acetazolamide is a potent carbonic anhydrase inhibitor, effective in the control of fluid secretion (e.g. some types of glaucoma), in the treatment of certain convulsive disorders (e.g. epilepsy) and in the promotion of diuresis in instances of abnormal fluid retention (e.g. cardiac edema).

Dosage and Administration: 250mg PO BID.