

## HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use MAXALT and MAXALT-MLT safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for MAXALT and MAXALT-MLT.

**MAXALT<sup>®</sup>** (rizatriptan benzoate) tablets, for oral use  
**MAXALT-MLT<sup>®</sup>** (rizatriptan benzoate) orally disintegrating tablets  
Initial U.S. Approval: 1998

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

MAXALT is a serotonin (5-HT) 1B/1D receptor agonist (triptan) indicated for the acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults and in pediatric patients 6 to 17 years of age (1)

#### Limitations of Use:

- Use only after clear diagnosis of migraine has been established (1)
- Not indicated for the prophylactic therapy of migraine (1)
- Not indicated for the treatment of cluster headache (1)

### DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- Adults: 5 or 10 mg single dose; separate repeat doses by at least two hours; maximum dose in a 24-hour period: 30 mg (2.1)
- Pediatric patients 6 to 17 years: 5 mg single dose in patients less than 40 kg (88 lb); 10 mg single dose in patients 40 kg (88 lb) or more (2.2)
- Adjust dose if co-administered with propranolol (2.4)

### DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- MAXALT Tablets: 5 and 10 mg (3)
- MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets: 5 and 10 mg (3)

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

- History of ischemic heart disease or coronary artery vasospasm (4)
- History of stroke or transient ischemic attack (4)
- Peripheral vascular disease (4)
- Ischemic bowel disease (4)
- Uncontrolled hypertension (4)
- Recent (within 24 hours) use of another 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonist (e.g., another triptan), or of an ergotamine-containing medication (4)

- Hemiplegic or basilar migraine (4)
- MAO-A inhibitor used in the past 2 weeks (4)
- Hypersensitivity to rizatriptan or any of the excipients (4)

### WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Myocardial ischemia, myocardial infarction, and Prinzmetal's angina: Perform cardiac evaluation in patients with multiple cardiovascular risk factors (5.1)
- Arrhythmias: Discontinue dosing if occurs (5.2)
- Chest/throat/neck/jaw pain, tightness, pressure, or heaviness: Generally not associated with myocardial ischemia; Evaluate patients at high risk (5.3)
- Cerebral hemorrhage, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and stroke: Discontinue dosing if occurs (5.4)
- Gastrointestinal ischemic events, peripheral vasospastic reactions: Discontinue dosing if occurs (5.5)
- Medication overuse headache: Detoxification may be necessary (5.6)
- Serotonin syndrome: Discontinue dosing if occurs (5.7)

### ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most common adverse reactions in adults were (incidence  $\geq$ 5% and greater than placebo): asthenia/fatigue, somnolence, pain/pressure sensation and dizziness (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of Merck & Co., Inc., at 1-877-888-4231 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or [www.fda.gov/medwatch](http://www.fda.gov/medwatch).

### USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- Pregnancy: Based on animal data, may cause fetal harm (8.1)
- Phenylketonurics: MAXALT-MLT contains phenylalanine (8.6)

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and FDA-approved patient labeling.

Revised: 10/2019

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## FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

### 1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

MAXALT<sup>®</sup> and MAXALT-MLT<sup>®</sup> are indicated for the acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults and in pediatric patients 6 to 17 years old.

#### Limitations of Use

- MAXALT should only be used where a clear diagnosis of migraine has been established. If a patient has no response for the first migraine attack treated with MAXALT, the diagnosis of migraine should be reconsidered before MAXALT is administered to treat any subsequent attacks.
- MAXALT is not indicated for use in the management of hemiplegic or basilar migraine [see *Contraindications (4)*].
- MAXALT is not indicated for the prevention of migraine attacks.
- Safety and effectiveness of MAXALT have not been established for cluster headache.

### 2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

#### 2.1 Dosing Information in Adults

The recommended starting dose of MAXALT is either 5 mg or 10 mg for the acute treatment of migraines in adults. The 10-mg dose may provide a greater effect than the 5-mg dose, but may have a greater risk of adverse reactions [see *Clinical Studies (14.1)*].

##### Redosing in Adults

Although the effectiveness of a second dose or subsequent doses has not been established in placebo-controlled trials, if the migraine headache returns, a second dose may be administered 2 hours after the first dose. The maximum daily dose should not exceed 30 mg in any 24-hour period. The safety of treating, on average, more than four headaches in a 30-day period has not been established.

#### 2.2 Dosing Information in Pediatric Patients (Age 6 to 17 Years)

Dosing in pediatric patients is based on the patient's body weight. The recommended dose of MAXALT is 5 mg in patients weighing less than 40 kg (88 lb), and 10 mg in patients weighing 40 kg (88 lb) or more.

The efficacy and safety of treatment with more than one dose of MAXALT within 24 hours in pediatric patients 6 to 17 years of age have not been established.

#### 2.3 Administration of MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets

For MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets, administration with liquid is not necessary. Orally disintegrating tablets are packaged in a blister within an outer aluminum pouch and patients should not remove the blister from the outer pouch until just prior to dosing. The blister pack should then be peeled open with dry hands and the orally disintegrating tablet placed on the tongue, where it will dissolve and be swallowed with the saliva.

#### 2.4 Dosage Adjustment for Patients on Propranolol

##### Adult Patients

In adult patients taking propranolol, only the 5-mg dose of MAXALT is recommended, up to a maximum of 3 doses in any 24-hour period (15 mg) [see *Drug Interactions (7.1)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

##### Pediatric Patients

For pediatric patients weighing 40 kg (88 lb) or more, taking propranolol, only a single 5-mg dose of MAXALT is recommended (maximum dose of 5 mg in a 24-hour period). MAXALT should not be prescribed to propranolol-treated pediatric patients who weigh less than 40 kg (88 lb) [see *Drug Interactions (7.1)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

### 3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

#### MAXALT Tablets

- 5 mg tablets are pale pink, capsule-shaped, compressed tablets coded MRK on one side and 266 on the other.
- 10 mg tablets are pale pink, capsule-shaped, compressed tablets coded MAXALT on one side and MRK 267 on the other.

#### MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets

- 5 mg orally disintegrating tablets are white to off-white, round lyophilized tablets debossed with a modified triangle on one side.
- 10 mg orally disintegrating tablets are white to off-white, round lyophilized tablets debossed with a modified square on one side.

### 4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

MAXALT is contraindicated in patients with:

- Ischemic coronary artery disease (angina pectoris, history of myocardial infarction, or documented silent ischemia), or other significant underlying cardiovascular disease [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
- Coronary artery vasospasm including Prinzmetal's angina [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].
- History of stroke or transient ischemic attack (TIA) [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.4)*].
- Peripheral vascular disease (PVD) [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*].
- Ischemic bowel disease [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.5)*].
- Uncontrolled hypertension [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.8)*].
- Recent use (i.e., within 24 hours) of another 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonist, ergotamine-containing medication, or ergot-type medication (such as dihydroergotamine or methysergide) [see *Drug Interactions (7.2 and 7.3)*].
- Hemiplegic or basilar migraine [see *Indications and Usage (1)*].
- Concurrent administration or recent discontinuation (i.e., within 2 weeks) of a MAO-A inhibitor [see *Drug Interactions (7.5) and Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].
- Hypersensitivity to rizatriptan or any of the excipients (angioedema and anaphylaxis seen) [see *Adverse Reactions (6.2)*].

### 5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

#### 5.1 Myocardial Ischemia, Myocardial Infarction, and Prinzmetal's Angina

MAXALT should not be given to patients with ischemic or vasospastic coronary artery disease. There have been rare reports of serious cardiac adverse reactions, including acute myocardial infarction, occurring within a few hours following administration of MAXALT. Some of these reactions occurred in patients without known coronary artery disease (CAD). 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists, including MAXALT may cause coronary artery vasospasm (Prinzmetal's Angina), even in patients without a history of CAD.

Triptan-naïve patients who have multiple cardiovascular risk factors (e.g., increased age, diabetes, hypertension, smoking, obesity, strong family history of CAD) should have a cardiovascular evaluation prior to receiving MAXALT. If there is evidence of CAD or coronary artery vasospasm, MAXALT should not be administered [see *Contraindications (4)*]. For patients who have a negative cardiovascular evaluation, consideration should be given to administration of the first MAXALT dose in a medically-supervised setting and performing an electrocardiogram (ECG) immediately following MAXALT administration. Periodic cardiovascular evaluation should be considered in intermittent long-term users of MAXALT who have cardiovascular risk factors.

#### 5.2 Arrhythmias

Life-threatening disturbances of cardiac rhythm, including ventricular tachycardia and ventricular fibrillation leading to death, have been reported within a few hours following the administration of 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists. Discontinue MAXALT if these disturbances occur.

### 5.3 Chest, Throat, Neck and/or Jaw Pain/Tightness/Pressure

As with other 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists, sensations of tightness, pain, pressure, and heaviness in the precordium, throat, neck and jaw commonly occur after treatment with MAXALT and are usually non-cardiac in origin. However, if a cardiac origin is suspected, patients should be evaluated. Patients shown to have CAD and those with Prinzmetal's variant angina should not receive 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists.

### 5.4 Cerebrovascular Events

Cerebral hemorrhage, subarachnoid hemorrhage, and stroke have occurred in patients treated with 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists, and some have resulted in fatalities. In a number of cases, it appears possible that the cerebrovascular events were primary, the 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonist having been administered in the incorrect belief that the symptoms experienced were a consequence of migraine, when they were not. Also, patients with migraine may be at increased risk of certain cerebrovascular events (e.g., stroke, hemorrhage, transient ischemic attack). Discontinue MAXALT if a cerebrovascular event occurs.

As with other acute migraine therapies, before treating headaches in patients not previously diagnosed as migraineurs, and in migraineurs who present with atypical symptoms, care should be taken to exclude other potentially serious neurological conditions. MAXALT should not be administered to patients with a history of stroke or transient ischemic attack [see *Contraindications (4)*].

### 5.5 Other Vasospasm Reactions

5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists, including MAXALT, may cause non-coronary vasospastic reactions, such as peripheral vascular ischemia, gastrointestinal vascular ischemia and infarction (presenting with abdominal pain and bloody diarrhea), splenic infarction, and Raynaud's syndrome. In patients who experience symptoms or signs suggestive of non-coronary vasospasm reaction following the use of any 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonist, the suspected vasospasm reaction should be ruled out before receiving additional MAXALT doses.

Reports of transient and permanent blindness and significant partial vision loss have been reported with the use of 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists. Since visual disorders may be part of a migraine attack, a causal relationship between these events and the use of 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists have not been clearly established.

### 5.6 Medication Overuse Headache

Overuse of acute migraine drugs (e.g., ergotamine, triptans, opioids, or a combination of drugs for 10 or more days per month) may lead to exacerbation of headache (medication overuse headache). Medication overuse headache may present as migraine-like daily headaches, or as a marked increase in frequency of migraine attacks. Detoxification of patients, including withdrawal of the overused drugs, and treatment of withdrawal symptoms (which often includes a transient worsening of headache) may be necessary.

### 5.7 Serotonin Syndrome

Serotonin syndrome may occur with triptans, including MAXALT particularly during co-administration with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs), tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs), and MAO inhibitors [see *Drug Interactions (7.5)*]. Serotonin syndrome symptoms may include mental status changes (e.g., agitation, hallucinations, coma), autonomic instability (e.g., tachycardia, labile blood pressure, hyperthermia), neuromuscular aberrations (e.g., hyperreflexia, incoordination) and/or gastrointestinal symptoms (e.g., nausea, vomiting, diarrhea). The onset of symptoms can occur within minutes to hours of receiving a new or a greater dose of a serotonergic medication. MAXALT treatment should be discontinued if serotonin syndrome is suspected [see *Drug Interactions (7.4)* and *Patient Counseling Information (17)*].

### 5.8 Increase in Blood Pressure

Significant elevation in blood pressure, including hypertensive crisis with acute impairment of organ systems, has been reported on rare occasions in patients with and without a history of hypertension receiving 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists, including MAXALT. In healthy young adult male and female patients who received maximal doses of MAXALT (10 mg every 2 hours for 3 doses), slight increases in blood pressure (approximately 2-3 mmHg) were observed. MAXALT is contraindicated in patients with uncontrolled hypertension [see *Contraindications (4)*].

## 6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following adverse reactions are discussed in more detail in other sections of the labeling:

- Myocardial Ischemia, Myocardial Infarction, and Prinzmetal's Angina [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].
- Arrhythmias [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.2)].
- Chest, Throat, Neck and/or Jaw Pain/Tightness/Pressure [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.3)].
- Cerebrovascular Events [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.4)].
- Other Vasospasm Reactions [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.5)].
- Medication Overuse Headache [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.6)].
- Serotonin Syndrome [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.7)].
- Increase in Blood Pressure [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.8)].

### 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical studies are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical studies of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical studies of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in practice.

#### Adults

##### Incidence in Controlled Clinical Trials

Adverse reactions to MAXALT were assessed in controlled clinical trials that included over 3700 adult patients who received single or multiple doses of MAXALT Tablets. The most common adverse reactions during treatment with MAXALT ( $\geq 5\%$  in either treatment group and greater than placebo) were asthenia/fatigue, somnolence, pain/pressure sensation and dizziness. These adverse reactions appeared to be dose related.

Table 1 lists the adverse reactions (incidence  $\geq 2\%$  and greater than placebo) after a single dose of MAXALT in adults.

**Table 1: Incidence ( $\geq 2\%$  and Greater than Placebo) of Adverse Reactions After a Single Dose of MAXALT Tablets or Placebo in Adults**

Adverse Reactions	% of Patients		
	MAXALT 5 mg (N=977)	MAXALT 10 mg (N=1167)	Placebo (N=627)
<i>Atypical Sensations</i>	4	5	4
Paresthesia	3	4	<2
<i>Pain and other Pressure Sensations</i>	6	9	3
Chest Pain:			
tightness/pressure and/or heaviness	<2	3	1
Neck/throat/jaw:			
pain/tightness/pressure	<2	2	1
Regional Pain:			
tightness/pressure and/or heaviness	<1	2	0
Pain, location unspecified	3	3	<2
<i>Digestive</i>	9	13	8
Dry Mouth	3	3	1
Nausea	4	6	4
<i>Neurological</i>	14	20	11
Dizziness	4	9	5
Headache	<2	2	<1
Somnolence	4	8	4
<i>Other</i>			
Asthenia/fatigue	4	7	2

The frequencies of adverse reactions in clinical trials did not increase when up to three doses were taken within 24 hours. Adverse reaction frequencies were also unchanged by concomitant use of drugs commonly taken for migraine prophylaxis (including propranolol), oral contraceptives, or analgesics. The incidences of adverse reactions were not affected by age or gender. There were insufficient data to assess the impact of race on the incidence of adverse reactions.

Other Events Observed in Association with the Administration of MAXALT in Adults

In the following section, the frequencies of less commonly reported adverse events are presented that were not reported in other sections of the labeling. Because the reports include events observed in open studies, the role of MAXALT in their causation cannot be reliably determined. Furthermore, variability associated with adverse event reporting, the terminology used to describe adverse events, limit the value of the quantitative frequency estimates provided. Event frequencies are calculated as the number of patients who used MAXALT and reported an event divided by the total number of patients exposed to MAXALT (N=3716). All reported events occurred at an incidence  $\geq 1\%$ , or are believed to be reasonably associated with the use of the drug. Events are further classified within body system categories and enumerated in order of decreasing frequency using the following definitions: frequent adverse events are those defined as those occurring in at least ( $>$ )1/100 patients; infrequent adverse experiences are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1000 patients; and rare adverse experiences are those occurring in fewer than 1/1000 patients.

*General:* Infrequent was facial edema. Rare were syncope and edema/swelling.

*Atypical Sensations:* Frequent were warm sensations.

*Cardiovascular:* Frequent was palpitation. Infrequent were tachycardia, cold extremities, and bradycardia.

*Digestive:* Frequent were diarrhea and vomiting. Infrequent were dyspepsia, tongue edema and abdominal distention.

*Musculoskeletal:* Infrequent were muscle weakness, stiffness, myalgia and muscle cramp/spasm.

*Neurological/Psychiatric:* Frequent were hypoesthesia, euphoria and tremor. Infrequent were vertigo, insomnia, confusion/disorientation, gait abnormality, memory impairment, and agitation.

*Respiratory:* Frequent was dyspnea. Infrequent was pharyngeal edema.

*Special Senses:* Infrequent were blurred vision and tinnitus. Rare was eye swelling.

*Skin and Skin Appendage:* Frequent was flushing. Infrequent were sweating, pruritus, rash, and urticaria. Rare was erythema, hot flashes.

The adverse reaction profile seen with MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets was similar to that seen with MAXALT Tablets.

**Pediatric Patients 6 to 17 Years of Age**

Incidence in Controlled Clinical Trials in Pediatric Patients

Adverse reactions to MAXALT-MLT were assessed in a controlled clinical trial in the acute treatment of migraines (Study 7) that included a total of 1382 pediatric patients 6-17 years of age, of which 977 (72%) administered at least one dose of study treatment (MAXALT-MLT and/or placebo) [see *Clinical Studies (14.2)*]. The incidence of adverse reactions reported for pediatric patients in the acute clinical trial was similar in patients who received MAXALT to those who received placebo. The adverse reaction pattern in pediatric patients is expected to be similar to that in adults.

Other Events Observed in Association with the Administration of MAXALT-MLT in Pediatric Patients

In the following section, the frequencies of less commonly reported adverse events are presented. Because the reports include events observed in open studies, the role of MAXALT-MLT in their causation cannot be reliably determined. Furthermore, variability associated with adverse event reporting, the terminology used to describe adverse events, limit the value of the quantitative frequency estimates provided.

Event frequencies are calculated as the number of pediatric patients 6 to 17 years of age who used MAXALT-MLT and reported an event divided by the total number of patients exposed to MAXALT-MLT (N=1068). All reported events occurred at an incidence  $\geq 1\%$ , or are believed to be reasonably associated with the use of the drug. Events are further classified within system organ class and enumerated in order of decreasing frequency using the following definitions: frequent adverse events are those occurring in

(>)1/100 pediatric patients; infrequent adverse experiences are those occurring in 1/100 to 1/1000 pediatric patients; and rare adverse experiences are those occurring in fewer than 1/1000 patients.

*General:* Frequent was fatigue.

*Ear and labyrinth disorders:* Infrequent was hypoacusis.

*Gastrointestinal disorders:* Frequent was abdominal discomfort.

*Nervous system disorders:* Infrequent were coordination abnormal, disturbance in attention, and presyncope.

*Psychiatric disorders:* Infrequent was hallucination.

## 6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following section enumerates potentially important adverse events that have occurred in clinical practice and which have been reported spontaneously to various surveillance systems. The events enumerated include all except those already listed in other sections of the labeling or those too general to be informative. Because the reports cite events reported spontaneously from worldwide postmarketing experience, frequency of events and the role of MAXALT in their causation cannot be reliably determined.

*Neurological/Psychiatric:* Seizure.

*General:* Allergic conditions including anaphylaxis/anaphylactoid reaction, angioedema, wheezing, and toxic epidermal necrolysis [see *Contraindications (4)*].

*Special Senses:* Dysgeusia.

## 7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

### 7.1 Propranolol

The dose of MAXALT should be adjusted in propranolol-treated patients, as propranolol has been shown to increase the plasma AUC of rizatriptan by 70% [see *Dosage and Administration (2.4)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

### 7.2 Ergot-Containing Drugs

Ergot-containing drugs have been reported to cause prolonged vasospastic reactions. Because these effects may be additive, use of ergotamine-containing or ergot-type medications (like dihydroergotamine or methysergide) and MAXALT within 24 hours is contraindicated [see *Contraindications (4)*].

### 7.3 Other 5-HT<sub>1</sub> Agonists

Because their vasospastic effects may be additive, co-administration of MAXALT and other 5-HT<sub>1</sub> agonists within 24 hours of each other is contraindicated [see *Contraindications (4)*].

### 7.4 SSRIs/SNRIs and Serotonin Syndrome

Cases of serotonin syndrome have been reported during co-administration of triptans and selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.7)*].

### 7.5 Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors

MAXALT is contraindicated in patients taking MAO-A inhibitors and non-selective MAO inhibitors. A specific MAO-A inhibitor increased the systemic exposure of rizatriptan and its metabolite [see *Contraindications (4)* and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

## 8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

### 8.1 Pregnancy

#### Risk Summary

Available human data on the use of MAXALT in pregnant women are not sufficient to draw conclusions about drug-associated risk for major birth defects and miscarriage.

In animal studies, developmental toxicity was observed following oral administration of rizatriptan during pregnancy (decreased fetal body weight in rats) or throughout pregnancy and lactation (increased mortality, decreased body weight, and neurobehavioral impairment in rat offspring) at maternal plasma exposures greater than that expected at therapeutic doses in humans [see *Animal Data*].

In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and of miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2% to 4% and 15% to 20%, respectively. The reported rate of major birth defects among deliveries to women with migraine range from 2.2% to 2.9% and the reported rate of miscarriage was 17%, which are similar to rates reported in women without migraine.

#### Clinical Considerations

##### *Disease-Associated Maternal and/or Embryo/Fetal Risk*

In women with migraine, there is an increased risk of adverse perinatal outcomes in the mother, including pre-eclampsia and gestational hypertension.

#### Data

##### *Human Data*

The Pregnancy Registry for MAXALT did not identify any pattern of congenital anomalies or other adverse birth outcomes over the period of 1998 to 2018. However, the lack of identification of any pattern should be viewed with caution, as the number of prospective reports with outcome information was low and did not provide sufficient power to detect an increased risk of individual birth defects associated with the use of MAXALT. Additionally, there was significant loss to follow-up in the prospective pregnancy reports, further complicating this assessment of an association between MAXALT and any pattern of congenital anomalies or other adverse birth outcomes.

In a study using data from the Swedish Medical Birth Register, live births to women who reported using triptans or ergots during pregnancy were compared with those of women who did not. Of the 157 births with first-trimester exposure to rizatriptan, 7 infants were born with malformations (relative risk 1.01 [95% CI: 0.40 to 2.08]). A study using linked data from the Medical Birth Registry of Norway to the Norwegian Prescription Database compared pregnancy outcomes in women who redeemed prescriptions for triptans during pregnancy, as well as a migraine disease comparison group who redeemed prescriptions for triptans before pregnancy only, compared with a population control group. Of the 310 women who redeemed prescriptions for rizatriptan during the first trimester, 10 had infants with major congenital malformations (OR 1.03 [95% CI: 0.55 to 1.93]), while for the 271 women who redeemed prescriptions for rizatriptan before, but not during, pregnancy, 12 had infants with major congenital malformations (OR 1.48 [95% CI: 0.83 to 2.64]), each compared with the population comparison group.

##### *Animal Data*

When rizatriptan (0, 2, 10, or 100 mg/kg/day) was administered orally to pregnant rats throughout organogenesis, a decrease in fetal body weight was observed at the highest doses tested. At the mid dose (10 mg/kg/day), which was a no-effect dose for adverse effects on embryofetal development, plasma exposure (AUC) was approximately 15 times that in humans at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 30 mg/day. When rizatriptan (0, 5, 10, or 50 mg/kg/day) was administered orally to pregnant rabbits throughout organogenesis, no adverse fetal effects were observed. Plasma exposure (AUC) at the highest dose tested was 115 times that in humans at the MRHD. Placental transfer of drug to the fetus was demonstrated in both species.

Oral administration of rizatriptan (0, 2, 10, or 100 mg/kg/day) to female rats prior to and during mating and continuing throughout gestation and lactation resulted in reduced body weight in offspring from birth and throughout lactation at all but the lowest dose tested (2 mg/kg/day). Plasma exposure (AUC) at the no-effect dose (2 mg/kg/day) for adverse effects on postnatal development was similar to that in humans at the MRHD.

Oral administration of rizatriptan (0, 5, 100, or 250 mg/kg/day) throughout organogenesis and lactation resulted in neonatal mortality, reduced body weight (which persisted into adulthood), and impaired neurobehavioral function in offspring at all but the lowest dose tested. Plasma exposure (AUC) at the no-effect dose for adverse effects on postnatal development (5 mg/kg/day) was approximately 8 times that in humans at the MRHD.

## **8.2 Lactation**

### Risk Summary

There are no data on the presence of rizatriptan or any active metabolites in human milk, or on the effects of rizatriptan on the breastfed infant, or on milk production.

Rizatriptan was excreted in rat milk, with levels in milk approximately 6 times those in maternal plasma.

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

#### Data

Following oral administration of rizatriptan to lactating rats at a dose of 100 mg/kg/day, drug concentrations of rizatriptan in milk samples exceeded maternal plasma drug concentrations by approximately 6-fold.

### **8.4 Pediatric Use**

Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients under 6 years of age have not been established.

The efficacy and safety of MAXALT in the acute treatment of migraine in patients aged 6 to 17 years was established in an adequate and well-controlled study [see *Clinical Studies (14.2)*].

The incidence of adverse reactions reported for pediatric patients in the acute clinical trial was similar in patients who received MAXALT to those who received placebo. The adverse reaction pattern in pediatric patients is expected to be similar to that in adults.

### **8.5 Geriatric Use**

Clinical studies of MAXALT did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently from younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between the elderly and younger patients.

Although the pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan were similar in elderly (aged  $\geq 65$  years) and in younger adults (n=17), in general, dose selection for an elderly patient should be cautious, starting at the low end of the dosing range. This reflects the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy.

Geriatric patients who have other cardiovascular risk factors (e.g., diabetes, hypertension, smoking, obesity, strong family history of coronary artery disease) should have a cardiovascular evaluation prior to receiving MAXALT [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.1)*].

### **8.6 Patients with Phenylketonuria**

Orally Disintegrating Tablets contain phenylalanine (a component of aspartame). The 5- and 10-mg orally disintegrating tablets contain 1.1 and 2.1 mg phenylalanine, respectively.

## **10 OVERDOSAGE**

No overdoses of MAXALT were reported during clinical trials in adults.

Some adult patients who received 40 mg of MAXALT either a single dose or as two doses with a 2-hour interdose interval had dizziness and somnolence.

In a clinical pharmacology study in which 12 adult subjects received MAXALT, at total cumulative doses of 80 mg (given within four hours), two of the subjects experienced syncope, dizziness, bradycardia including third degree AV block, vomiting, and/or incontinence.

In the long-term, open label study, involving 606 treated pediatric migraineurs 12 to 17 years of age (of which 432 were treated for at least 12 months), 151 patients (25%) took two 10-mg doses of MAXALT-MLT within a 24-hour period. Adverse reactions for 3 of these patients included abdominal discomfort, fatigue, and dyspnea.

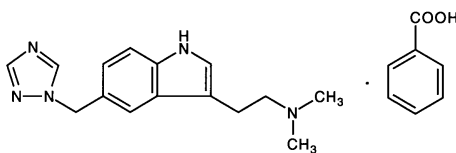
In addition, based on the pharmacology of MAXALT, hypertension or myocardial ischemia could occur after overdosage. Gastrointestinal decontamination, (i.e., gastric lavage followed by activated charcoal) should be considered in patients suspected of an overdose with MAXALT. Clinical and electrocardiographic monitoring should be continued for at least 12 hours, even if clinical symptoms are not observed.

The effects of hemo- or peritoneal dialysis on serum concentrations of rizatriptan are unknown.

## **11 DESCRIPTION**

MAXALT contains rizatriptan benzoate, a selective 5-hydroxytryptamine<sub>1B/1D</sub> (5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub>) receptor agonist.

Rizatriptan benzoate is described chemically as: *N,N*-dimethyl-5-(1*H*-1,2,4-triazol-1-ylmethyl)-1*H*-indole-3-ethanamine monobenzoate and its structural formula is:



Its empirical formula is  $C_{15}H_{19}N_5 \cdot C_7H_6O_2$ , representing a molecular weight of the free base of 269.4. Rizatriptan benzoate is a white to off-white, crystalline solid that is soluble in water at about 42 mg per mL (expressed as free base) at 25°C.

MAXALT Tablets and MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets are available for oral administration in strengths of 5 and 10 mg (corresponding to 7.265 mg or 14.53 mg of the benzoate salt, respectively). Each compressed tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch, ferric oxide (red), and magnesium stearate.

Each lyophilized orally disintegrating tablet contains the following inactive ingredients: gelatin, mannitol, glycine, aspartame, and peppermint flavor.

## 12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

### 12.1 Mechanism of Action

Rizatriptan binds with high affinity to human cloned 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptors. MAXALT presumably exerts its therapeutic effects in the treatment of migraine headache by binding to 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptors located on intracranial blood vessels and sensory nerves of the trigeminal system.

### 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

#### Absorption

Rizatriptan is completely absorbed following oral administration. The mean oral absolute bioavailability of the MAXALT Tablet is about 45%, and mean peak plasma concentrations ( $C_{max}$ ) are reached in approximately 1-1.5 hours ( $T_{max}$ ). The presence of a migraine headache did not appear to affect the absorption or pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan. Food has no significant effect on the bioavailability of rizatriptan but delays the time to reach peak concentration by an hour. In clinical trials, MAXALT was administered without regard to food.

The bioavailability and  $C_{max}$  of rizatriptan were similar following administration of MAXALT Tablets and MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets, but the rate of absorption is somewhat slower with MAXALT-MLT, with  $T_{max}$  delayed by up to 0.7 hour. AUC of rizatriptan is approximately 30% higher in females than in males. No accumulation occurred on multiple dosing.

#### Distribution

The mean volume of distribution is approximately 140 liters in male subjects and 110 liters in female subjects. Rizatriptan is minimally bound (14%) to plasma proteins.

#### Metabolism

The primary route of rizatriptan metabolism is via oxidative deamination by monoamine oxidase-A (MAO-A) to the indole acetic acid metabolite, which is not active at the 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor. *N*-monodesmethyl-rizatriptan, a metabolite with activity similar to that of parent compound at the 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor, is formed to a minor degree. Plasma concentrations of *N*-monodesmethyl-rizatriptan are approximately 14% of those of parent compound, and it is eliminated at a similar rate. Other minor metabolites, the *N*-oxide, the 6-hydroxy compound, and the sulfate conjugate of the 6-hydroxy metabolite are not active at the 5-HT<sub>1B/1D</sub> receptor.

#### Elimination

The total radioactivity of the administered dose recovered over 120 hours in urine and feces was 82% and 12%, respectively, following a single 10-mg oral administration of <sup>14</sup>C-rizatriptan. Following oral administration of <sup>14</sup>C-rizatriptan, rizatriptan accounted for about 17% of circulating plasma radioactivity. Approximately 14% of an oral dose is excreted in urine as unchanged rizatriptan while 51% is excreted as indole acetic acid metabolite, indicating substantial first pass metabolism.

The plasma half-life of rizatriptan in males and females averages 2-3 hours.

### Cytochrome P450 Isoforms

Rizatriptan is not an inhibitor of the activities of human liver cytochrome P450 isoforms 3A4/5, 1A2, 2C9, 2C19, or 2E1; rizatriptan is a competitive inhibitor ( $K_i=1400$  nM) of cytochrome P450 2D6, but only at high, clinically irrelevant concentrations.

### Special Populations

**Geriatric:** Rizatriptan pharmacokinetics in healthy elderly non-migraineur volunteers (age 65-77 years) were similar to those in younger non-migraineur volunteers (age 18-45 years).

**Pediatric:** The pharmacokinetics of rizatriptan was determined in pediatric migraineurs 6 to 17 years of age. Exposures following single dose administration of 5 mg MAXALT-MLT to pediatric patients weighing 20-39 kg (44-87 lb) or 10 mg MAXALT-MLT to pediatric patients weighing  $\geq 40$  kg (88 lb) were similar to those observed following single dose administration of 10 mg MAXALT-MLT to adults.

**Gender:** The mean  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  and  $C_{max}$  of rizatriptan (10 mg orally) were about 30% and 11% higher in females as compared to males, respectively, while  $T_{max}$  occurred at approximately the same time.

**Hepatic impairment:** Following oral administration in patients with hepatic impairment caused by mild to moderate alcoholic cirrhosis of the liver, plasma concentrations of rizatriptan were similar in patients with mild hepatic insufficiency compared to a control group of subjects with normal hepatic function; plasma concentrations of rizatriptan were approximately 30% greater in patients with moderate hepatic insufficiency.

**Renal impairment:** In patients with renal impairment (creatinine clearance 10-60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>), the  $AUC_{0-\infty}$  of rizatriptan was not significantly different from that in subjects with normal renal function. In hemodialysis patients, (creatinine clearance  $< 2$  mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>), however, the AUC for rizatriptan was approximately 44% greater than that in patients with normal renal function.

**Race:** Pharmacokinetic data revealed no significant differences between African American and Caucasian subjects.

### Drug Interactions

[See also Drug Interactions (7).]

**Monoamine oxidase inhibitors:** Rizatriptan is principally metabolized via monoamine oxidase, 'A' subtype (MAO-A). Plasma concentrations of rizatriptan may be increased by drugs that are selective MAO-A inhibitors (e.g., moclobemide) or nonselective MAO inhibitors [type A and B] (e.g., isocarboxazid, phenelzine, tranylcypromine, and pargyline). In a drug interaction study, when MAXALT 10 mg was administered to subjects (n=12) receiving concomitant therapy with the selective, reversible MAO-A inhibitor, moclobemide 150 mg t.i.d., there were mean increases in rizatriptan AUC and  $C_{max}$  of 119% and 41% respectively; and the AUC of the active N-monodesmethyl metabolite of rizatriptan was increased more than 400%. The interaction would be expected to be greater with irreversible MAO inhibitors. No pharmacokinetic interaction is anticipated in patients receiving selective MAO-B inhibitors [see *Contraindications (4) and Drug Interactions (7.5)*].

**Propranolol:** In a study of concurrent administration of propranolol 240 mg/day and a single dose of rizatriptan 10 mg in healthy adult subjects (n=11), mean plasma AUC for rizatriptan was increased by 70% during propranolol administration, and a four-fold increase was observed in one subject. The AUC of the active N-monodesmethyl metabolite of rizatriptan was not affected by propranolol [see *Dosage and Administration (2.4) and Drug Interactions (7.1)*].

**Nadolol/Metoprolol:** In a drug interactions study, effects of multiple doses of nadolol 80 mg or metoprolol 100 mg every 12 hours on the pharmacokinetics of a single dose of 10 mg rizatriptan were evaluated in healthy subjects (n=12). No pharmacokinetic interactions were observed.

**Paroxetine:** In a study of the interaction between the selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) paroxetine 20 mg/day for two weeks and a single dose of MAXALT 10 mg in healthy subjects (n=12), neither the plasma concentrations of rizatriptan nor its safety profile were affected by paroxetine [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.7), Drug Interactions (7.4), and Patient Counseling Information (17)*].

**Oral contraceptives:** In a study of concurrent administration of an oral contraceptive during 6 days of administration of MAXALT (10-30 mg/day) in healthy female volunteers (n=18), rizatriptan did not affect plasma concentrations of ethinyl estradiol or norethindrone.

## 13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

### 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

#### Carcinogenesis

Oral carcinogenicity studies of rizatriptan were conducted in mice (100 weeks) and rats (106 weeks) at doses of up to 125 mg/kg/day. There was no evidence of an increase in tumor incidence related to rizatriptan in either species. Plasma exposures (AUC) at the highest dose tested were approximately 150 (mice) and 240 times (rats) that in humans at the maximum recommended human dose (MRHD) of 30 mg/day.

#### Mutagenesis

Rizatriptan was neither mutagenic nor clastogenic in a battery of *in vitro* and *in vivo* genetic toxicity studies, including: the microbial mutagenesis (Ames) assay, *in vitro* mammalian cell mutagenesis and chromosomal aberration assays, and the *in vivo* chromosomal aberration assay in mouse.

#### Impairment of Fertility

Oral administration of rizatriptan (0, 2, 10, or 100 mg/kg/day) to female rats prior to and during mating and continuing throughout gestation and lactation resulted in no effect on fertility; however, altered estrous cyclicity and delays in time to mating were observed at the highest dose tested. Plasma exposure at the no-effect dose (10 mg/kg/day) for reproductive toxicity was approximately 15 times that in humans at the MRHD.

Oral administration of rizatriptan (0, 5, 35, or 250 mg/kg/day) to male rats prior to and during mating resulted in no impairment of fertility or reproductive performance. Plasma exposure (AUC) at the highest dose tested was approximately 550 times that in humans at the MRHD.

## 14 CLINICAL STUDIES

### 14.1 Adults

The efficacy of MAXALT Tablets was established in four multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled trials. Patients enrolled in these studies were primarily female (84%) and Caucasian (88%), with a mean age of 40 years (range of 18 to 71). Patients were instructed to treat a moderate to severe headache. Headache response, defined as a reduction of moderate or severe headache pain to no or mild headache pain, was assessed for up to 2 hours (Study 1) or up to 4 hours after dosing (Studies 2, 3 and 4). Associated symptoms of nausea, photophobia, and phonophobia and maintenance of response up to 24 hours post-dose were evaluated. A second dose of MAXALT Tablets was allowed 2 to 24 hours after dosing for treatment of recurrent headache in Studies 1 and 2. Additional analgesics and/or antiemetics were allowed 2 hours after initial treatment for rescue in all four studies.

In all studies, the percentage of patients achieving headache response 2 hours after treatment was significantly greater in patients who received either MAXALT 5 or 10 mg compared to those who received placebo. In a separate study, doses of 2.5 mg were not different from placebo. Doses greater than 10 mg were associated with an increased incidence of adverse effects. The results from the four controlled studies are summarized in Table 2.

**Table 2: Response Rates 2 Hours Following Treatment of Initial Headache in Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4**

Study	Placebo	MAXALT Tablets 5 mg	MAXALT Tablets 10 mg
1	35% (n=304)	62%* (n=458)	71%* <sup>†</sup> (n=456)
2 <sup>‡</sup>	37% (n=82)	—	77%* (n=320)
3	23% (n=80)	63%* (n=352)	—
4	40% (n=159)	60%* (n=164)	67%* (n=385)

\* p-value <0.05 in comparison with placebo.

<sup>†</sup> p-value <0.05 in comparison with 5 mg.

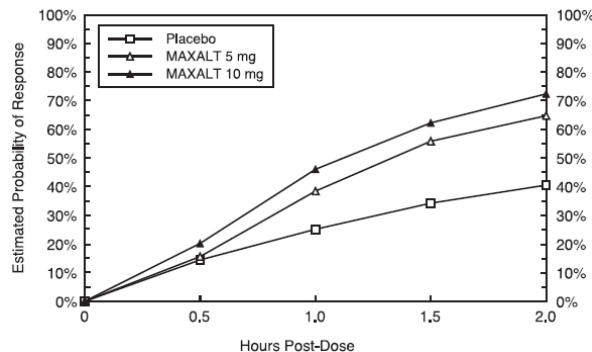
<sup>‡</sup> Results for initial headache only.

Comparisons of drug performance based upon results obtained in different clinical trials may not be reliable. Because studies are conducted at different times, with different samples of patients, by different investigators, employing different criteria and/or different interpretations of the same criteria, under

different conditions (dose, dosing regimen, etc.), quantitative estimates of treatment response and the timing of response may be expected to vary considerably from study to study.

The estimated probability of achieving an initial headache response within 2 hours following treatment in pooled Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4 is depicted in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: Estimated Probability of Achieving an Initial Headache Response by 2 Hours in Pooled Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4\***

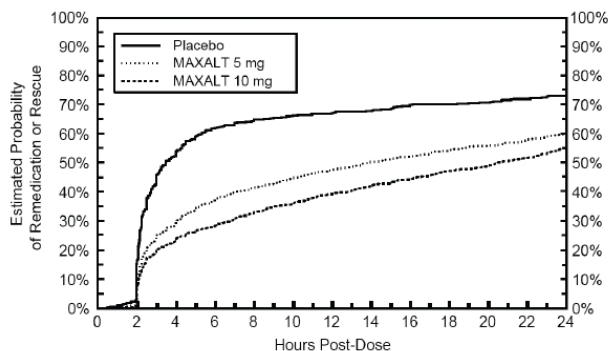


\* Figure 1 shows the Kaplan-Meier plot of the probability over time of obtaining headache response (no or mild pain) following treatment with MAXALT or placebo. The averages displayed are based on pooled data from 4 placebo-controlled, outpatient trials providing evidence of efficacy (Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4). Patients taking additional treatment or not achieving headache response prior to 2 hours were censored at 2 hours.

For patients with migraine-associated photophobia, phonophobia, and nausea at baseline, there was a decreased incidence of these symptoms following administration of MAXALT compared to placebo.

Two to 24 hours following the initial dose of study treatment, patients were allowed to use additional treatment for pain response in the form of a second dose of study treatment or other medication. The estimated probability of patients taking a second dose or other medication for migraine over the 24 hours following the initial dose of study treatment is summarized in Figure 2.

**Figure 2: Estimated Probability of Patients Taking a Second Dose of MAXALT Tablets or Other Medication for Migraines Over the 24 Hours Following the Initial Dose of Study Treatment in Pooled Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4\***



\* This Kaplan-Meier plot is based on data obtained in 4 placebo-controlled outpatient clinical trials (Studies 1, 2, 3, and 4). Patients not using additional treatments were censored at 24 hours. The plot includes both patients who had headache response at 2 hours and those who had no response to the initial dose. Remedication was not allowed within 2 hours post-dose.

Efficacy was unaffected by the presence of aura; by the gender, or age of the patient; or by concomitant use of common migraine prophylactic drugs (e.g., beta-blockers, calcium channel blockers, tricyclic antidepressants) or oral contraceptives. In two additional similar studies, efficacy was unaffected by relationship to menses. There were insufficient data to assess the impact of race on efficacy.

### MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets

The efficacy of MAXALT-MLT was established in two multicenter, randomized, placebo-controlled trials that were similar in design to the trials of MAXALT Tablets (Studies 5 and 6). Patients were instructed to treat a moderate to severe headache. Patients treated in these studies were primarily female (88%) and Caucasian (95%), with a mean age of 42 years (range 18-72).

In both studies, the percentage of patients achieving headache response 2 hours after treatment was significantly greater in patients who received either MAXALT-MLT 5 or 10 mg compared to those who received placebo. The results from Studies 5 and 6 are summarized in Table 3.

**Table 3: Response Rates 2 Hours Following Treatment of Initial Headache in Studies 5 and 6**

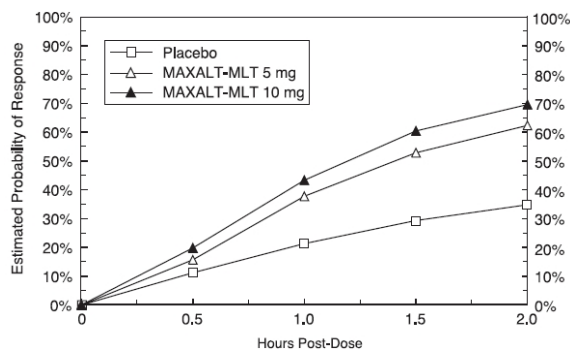
Study	Placebo	MAXALT-MLT 5 mg	MAXALT-MLT 10 mg
5	47% (n=98)	66%* (n=100)	66%* (n=113)
6	28% (n=180)	59%* (n=181)	74%*,† (n=186)

\* p-value <0.01 in comparison with placebo.

† p-value <0.01 in comparison with 5 mg.

The estimated probability of achieving an initial headache response by 2 hours following treatment with MAXALT-MLT in pooled Studies 5 and 6 is depicted in Figure 3.

**Figure 3: Estimated Probability of Achieving an Initial Headache Response with MAXALT-MLT by 2 Hours in Pooled Studies 5 and 6\***

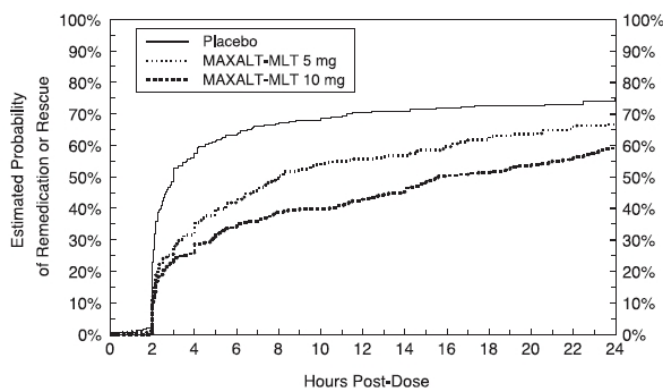


\* Figure 3 shows the Kaplan-Meier plot of the probability over time of obtaining headache response (no or mild pain) following treatment with MAXALT-MLT or placebo. The averages displayed are based on pooled data from 2 placebo-controlled, outpatient trials providing evidence of efficacy (Studies 5 and 6). Patients taking additional treatment or not achieving headache response prior to 2 hours were censored at 2 hours.

For patients with migraine-associated photophobia and phonophobia at baseline, there was a decreased incidence of these symptoms following administration of MAXALT-MLT as compared to placebo.

Two to 24 hours following the initial dose of study treatment, patients were allowed to use additional treatment for pain response in the form of a second dose of study treatment or other medication. The estimated probability of patients taking a second dose or other medication for migraine over the 24 hours following the initial dose of study treatment is summarized in Figure 4.

**Figure 4: Estimated Probability of Patients Taking a Second Dose of MAXALT-MLT or Other Medication for Migraines Over the 24 Hours Following the Initial Dose of Study Treatment in Pooled Studies 5 and 6\***



\*This Kaplan-Meier plot is based on data obtained in 2 placebo-controlled outpatient clinical trials (Studies 5 and 6). Patients not using additional treatments were censored at 24 hours. The plot includes both patients who had headache response at 2 hours and those who had no response to the initial dose. Remedication was not allowed within 2 hours post-dose.

#### 14.2 Pediatric Patients 6 to 17 Years of Age

The efficacy of MAXALT-MLT in pediatric patients 6 to 17 years was evaluated in a multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel group clinical trial (Study 7). Patients had to have at least a 6-month history of migraine attacks (with or without aura) usually lasting 3 hours or more (when untreated). The patient population was historically non-responsive to NSAIDs and acetaminophen therapy.

Patients were instructed to treat a single migraine attack with headache pain of moderate to severe intensity. The treatment phase of the study had two stages. Stage 1 was used to identify placebo non-responders, who then entered into Stage 2, in which patients were randomized to MAXALT-MLT or placebo. Using a weight-based dosing strategy, patients 20 kg to <40 kg (44 lb to <88 lb) received MAXALT-MLT 5 mg or placebo, and patients  $\geq 40$  kg (88 lb) received MAXALT-MLT 10 mg or placebo.

The mean age for the studied patient population was 13 years. Sixty-one percent of the patients were Caucasian, and fifty-six percent of the patients were female. The percentage of patients achieving the primary efficacy endpoint of no headache pain at 2 hours after treatment was significantly greater in patients who received MAXALT-MLT, compared with those who received placebo (33% vs. 24%). Study 7 results are summarized in Table 4.

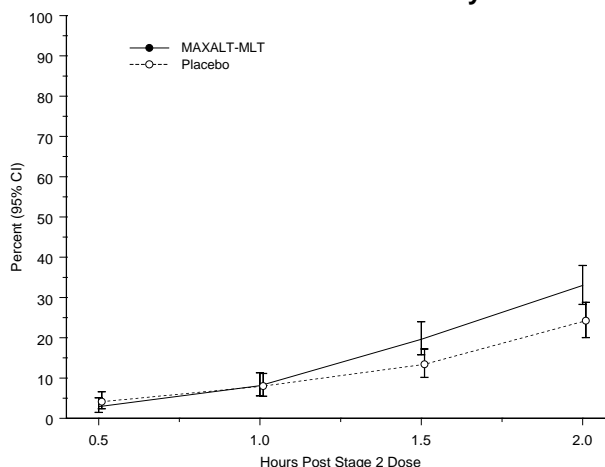
**Table 4: Response Rates 2 Hours Following Treatment of Initial Headache in Pediatric Patients 6 to 17 Years of Age in Study 7**

Endpoint	Placebo	MAXALT-MLT	p-Value
No headache pain at 2 hours post-dose	24% (n/m=94/388)	33% (n/m=126/382)	0.01

n = Number of evaluable patients with no headache pain at 2 hours post-dose.  
m = Number of evaluable patients in population.

The observed percentage of pediatric patients achieving no headache pain within 2 hours following initial treatment with MAXALT-MLT is shown in Figure 5.

**Figure 5: Observed Percentage of Patients Reporting No Headache Pain by 2 Hours Post-Dose in Study 7**



The prevalence of the exploratory endpoints of absence of migraine-associated symptoms (nausea, photophobia, and phonophobia) at 2 hours after taking the dose was not statistically significantly different between patients who received MAXALT-MLT and those who received placebo.

## 16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

No. 3732 — MAXALT Tablets, 5 mg, are pale pink, capsule-shaped, compressed tablets coded MRK on one side and 266 on the other:

**NDC 0006-0266-18**, carton of 18 tablets.

No. 3733 — MAXALT Tablets, 10 mg, are pale pink, capsule-shaped, compressed tablets coded MAXALT on one side and MRK 267 on the other:

**NDC 0006-0267-18**, carton of 18 tablets.

No. 3800 — MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets, 5 mg, are white to off-white, round lyophilized orally disintegrating tablets debossed with a modified triangle on one side, and measuring 10.0-11.5 mm (side-to-side) with a peppermint flavor. Each orally disintegrating tablet is individually packaged in a blister inside an aluminum pouch (sachet). They are supplied as follows:

**NDC 0006-3800-18**, 6 x unit of use carrying case of 3 orally disintegrating tablets (18 tablets total).

No. 3801 — MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets, 10 mg, are white to off-white, round lyophilized orally disintegrating tablets debossed with a modified square on one side, and measuring 12.0-13.8 mm (side-to-side) with a peppermint flavor. Each orally disintegrating tablet is individually packaged in a blister inside an aluminum pouch (sachet). They are supplied as follows:

**NDC 0006-3801-18**, 6 x unit of use carrying case of 3 orally disintegrating tablets (18 tablets total).

### Storage

Store MAXALT Tablets at room temperature, 15°C-30°C (59°F-86°F).

Store MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets at room temperature, 15°C-30°C (59°F-86°F).

## 17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

Advise the patient to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Patient Information).

### Risk of Myocardial Ischemia and/or Infarction, Prinzmetal's Angina, Other Vasospasm-Related Events, and Cerebrovascular Events

Inform patients that MAXALT may cause serious cardiovascular side effects such as myocardial infarction or stroke. Although serious cardiovascular events can occur without warning symptoms, patients should be alert for the signs and symptoms of chest pain, shortness of breath, weakness, slurring of speech, and should ask for medical advice when observing any indicative sign or symptoms. Patients should be apprised of the importance of this follow-up [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1, 5.2, 5.4, 5.5)].

#### Serotonin Syndrome

Patients should be cautioned about the risk of serotonin syndrome with the use of MAXALT or other triptans, particularly during combined use with selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs) [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.7)*, *Drug Interactions (7.4)*, and *Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)*].

#### Pregnancy

Inform patients that MAXALT should not be used during pregnancy unless the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.1)*].

#### Lactation

Advise patients to notify their healthcare provider if they are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.2)*].

#### Ability to Perform Complex Tasks

Since migraines or treatment with MAXALT may cause somnolence and dizziness, instruct patients to evaluate their ability to perform complex tasks during migraine attacks and after administration of MAXALT.

#### Medication Overuse Headache

Inform patients that use of acute migraine drugs for 10 or more days per month may lead to an exacerbation of headache, and encourage patients to record headache frequency and drug use (e.g., by keeping a headache diary) [see *Warnings and Precautions (5.6)*].

#### Handling of Orally Disintegrating Tablets Packages


Instruct patients not to remove the blister from the outer aluminum pouch until ready to use the orally disintegrating tablet inside [see *Dosage and Administration (2.3)*].

#### Patients with Phenylketonuria

Inform phenylketonuric patients that MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets contain phenylalanine (a component of aspartame). Each 5-mg orally disintegrating tablet contains 1.1 mg phenylalanine, and each 10-mg orally disintegrating tablet contains 2.1 mg phenylalanine [see *Use in Specific Populations (8.6)*].

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MAXALT Tablets and MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets are distributed by:

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of  
 **MERCK & CO., INC.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

For patent information: [www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html](http://www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html)

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Patient Information  
**MAXALT® (max-awlt) and MAXALT-MLT®**  
rizatriptan benzoate  
Tablets and Orally Disintegrating Tablets

Read this Patient Information before you start taking MAXALT® and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This information does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment.

Unless otherwise stated, the information in this Patient Information leaflet applies to both MAXALT Tablets and to MAXALT-MLT® Orally Disintegrating Tablets.

### **What is MAXALT?**

MAXALT is a prescription medicine that belongs to a class of medicines called Triptans. MAXALT is available as a traditional tablet (MAXALT) and as an orally disintegrating tablet (MAXALT-MLT).

MAXALT and MAXALT-MLT are used to treat migraine attacks with or without aura in adults and in children 6 to 17 years of age.

MAXALT is not to be used to prevent migraine attacks.

MAXALT is not for the treatment of hemiplegic or basilar migraines.

It is not known if MAXALT is safe and effective for the treatment of cluster headaches.

It is not known if taking more than 1 dose of MAXALT in 24 hours is safe and effective in children 6 to 17 years of age.

It is not known if MAXALT is safe and effective in children under 6 years of age.

### **Who should not take MAXALT?**

#### **Do not take MAXALT if you:**

- have or have had heart problems
- have or have had a stroke or a transient ischemic attack (TIA)
- have or have had blood vessel problems including ischemic bowel disease
- have uncontrolled high blood pressure
- have taken other Triptan medicines in the last 24 hours
- have taken ergot-containing medicines in the last 24 hours
- have hemiplegic or basilar migraines
- take monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor or have taken a MAO inhibitor within the last 2 weeks
- are allergic to rizatriptan benzoate or any of the ingredients in MAXALT. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in MAXALT.

Talk to your doctor before taking this medicine if you have any of the conditions listed above or if you are not sure if you take any of these medicines.

### **What should I tell my doctor before taking MAXALT?**

#### **Before you take MAXALT, tell your doctor if you:**

- have or have had heart problems, high blood pressure, chest pain, or shortness of breath
- have any risk factors for heart problems or blood vessel problems such as:

- high blood pressure
- high cholesterol
- smoking
- obesity
- diabetes
- family history of heart problems
- you are post menopausal
- you are a male over 40
- have phenylketonuria (PKU). MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets contain phenylalanine.
- have kidney or liver problems
- have any other medical condition
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. It is not known if MAXALT will harm your unborn baby. If you become pregnant while taking MAXALT, talk to your healthcare provider.
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if MAXALT passes into your breast milk. Talk to your doctor about the best way to feed your baby if you take MAXALT.

**Tell your doctor about all the medicines you take**, including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.

MAXALT and other medicines may affect each other causing side effects. MAXALT may affect the way other medicines work, and other medicines may affect how MAXALT works.

**Especially tell your doctor if you take:**

- propranolol containing medicines such as Inderal<sup>®</sup>, Inderal<sup>®</sup> LA, or Innopran<sup>®</sup> XL
- medicines used to treat mood disorders, including selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs) or serotonin norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors (SNRIs).

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for a list of these medicines, if you are not sure.

Know the medicines you take. Keep a list of them to show your doctor and pharmacist when you get a new medicine.

**How should I take MAXALT?**

- Take MAXALT exactly as your doctor tells you to take it.
- Your doctor will tell you how much MAXALT to take and when to take it.
- **To take MAXALT-MLT:**
  - Leave MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets in the package it comes in until you are ready to take it. When you are ready to take it:
    - Remove the blister from the foil pouch. Do not push the MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablet through the blister.
    - Peel open the blister pack with dry hands and place the MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablet on your tongue. The tablet will dissolve and be swallowed with your saliva. No liquid is needed to take the orally disintegrating tablet.
- If your headache comes back after your first MAXALT dose:
  - For adults: a second dose may be taken 2 hours after the first dose. Do not take more than 30 mg of MAXALT in a 24-hour period (for example, do not take more than 3 10-mg tablets in a 24-hour period).
  - For children 6 to 17 years of age: It is not known if taking more than 1 dose of MAXALT in 24 hours is safe and effective. Talk to your doctor about what to do if your headache does not go away or comes back.
- If you take too much MAXALT, call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away.

**What should I avoid while taking MAXALT?**

MAXALT may cause dizziness, weakness, or fainting. If you have these symptoms, do not drive a car, use machinery, or do anything that needs you to be alert.

### What are the possible side effects of MAXALT?

**MAXALT may cause serious side effects.** Call your doctor or go to the nearest hospital emergency room right away if you think you are having any of the serious side effects of MAXALT including:

- **heart attack.** Symptoms of a heart attack may include:
  - chest discomfort in the center of your chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back
  - chest discomfort that feels like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain
  - pain or discomfort in your arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach
  - shortness of breath with or without chest discomfort
  - breaking out in a cold sweat
  - nausea or vomiting
  - feeling lightheaded
- **stroke.** Symptoms of a stroke may include the following sudden symptoms:
  - numbness or weakness in your face, arm or leg, especially on one side of your body
  - confusion, problems speaking or understanding
  - problems seeing in 1 or both of your eyes
  - problems walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination
  - severe headache with no known cause
- **blood vessel problems.** Symptoms of blood vessel problems may include:
  - stomach pain
  - bloody diarrhea
  - vision problems
  - coldness and numbness of hands and feet
- **serotonin syndrome.** A condition called serotonin syndrome can happen when Triptan medicines such as MAXALT are taken with certain other medicines. Symptoms of serotonin syndrome may include:
  - agitation
  - hallucinations
  - coma
  - fast heartbeat
  - fast changes in your blood pressure
  - increased body temperature
  - muscle spasm
  - loss of coordination
  - nausea, vomiting or diarrhea
- **increased blood pressure.**

The most common side effects of MAXALT in adults include:

- feeling sleepy or tired
- pain or pressure in your chest or throat
- dizziness

Tell your doctor if you have any side effect that bothers you or that does not go away.

If you take MAXALT too often, this may result in you getting chronic headaches. In such cases, you should contact your doctor, as you may have to stop taking MAXALT.

These are not all the possible side effects of MAXALT. For more information, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

#### **How should I store MAXALT?**

- Store MAXALT at room temperature between 59°F to 86°F (15°C to 30°C).
- Safely throw away medicine that is out of date or no longer needed.

**Keep MAXALT and all medicines out of the reach of children.**

#### **General Information about the safe and effective use of MAXALT.**

Medicines are sometimes prescribed for purposes other than those listed in a Patient Information leaflet. Do not use MAXALT for a condition for which it was not prescribed. Do not give MAXALT to other people, even if they have the same symptoms that you have. It may harm them.

This Patient Information leaflet summarizes the most important information about MAXALT. If you would like more information, talk to your doctor. You can ask your pharmacist or doctor for information about MAXALT that is written for health professionals.

For more information, go to [www.maxalt.com](http://www.maxalt.com).

#### **What are the ingredients in MAXALT?**

##### **Active ingredient in MAXALT and MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets:**

rizatriptan benzoate.

**Inactive ingredients in MAXALT:** lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, pregelatinized starch, ferric oxide (red), and magnesium stearate.

**Inactive ingredients in MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets:** gelatin, mannitol, glycine, aspartame, and peppermint flavor.

MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets contain aspartame, a source of phenylalanine.

##### **Phenylketonurics:**


MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets 5-mg contain 1.1 mg of phenylalanine. MAXALT-MLT orally disintegrating tablets 10-mg contain 2.1 mg of phenylalanine.

This Patient Information has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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MAXALT Tablets and MAXALT-MLT Orally Disintegrating Tablets are distributed by:

Merck Sharp & Dohme Corp., a subsidiary of

 **MERCK & CO., INC.**, Whitehouse Station, NJ 08889, USA

For patent information: [www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html](http://www.merck.com/product/patent/home.html)

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