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TRIAMTERENE WITH HYDROCHLOROTHIAZIDE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Apo-Triazide, Dyazide, Maxzide, Novotriamzide

USES: This drug is a diuretic or "water pill". It reduces the amount of water and sodium retained by the body. It is used to lower blood pressure and to treat edema (fluid retention).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: Take with food or milk to minimize stomach upset.

Take this drug exactly as prescribed. Do not skip doses or increase the dose without your doctor's approval.

Because this drug may increase urination, avoid taking a dose late in the day.

SIDE EFFECTS: This drug may cause dizziness or blurred vision. Use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness.

Because this drug changes your fluid balance, you may feel dizzy if you change from a lying to a standing position too rapidly. Avoid this by sitting up a few minutes before rising. Also avoid drinking alcohol which will aggravate these effects.

This drug may cause nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, headache, dizziness and drowsiness the first few days as your body adjusts to the medication.

This medication increases sensitivity to the sun.

Inform your doctor if you develop muscle cramps, irregular heartbeat, tingling of the hands and feet, easy bleeding or bruising, breathing difficulties or difficulty urinating.

PRECAUTIONS: If thiazide is present in your medicine, thiazides can make you more prone to sunburn. Avoid prolonged sun exposure. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing.

This medication should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed. Thiazide diuretics appear in breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

Tell your doctor your complete medical history especially if you have diabetes, liver or kidney problems.

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to sulfa drugs. You may also be allergic to this medication.

If you are using this medicine for high blood pressure, avoid drugs that increase your heart rate or make you excited like decongestants because it may counter-act the blood pressure effect. Decongestants are commonly found in over the counter cough and cold products.

The use of alcohol can increase dizziness or lightheadedness. Ask your doctor about its use.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Inform your doctor about all the medicines you use especially if you take lithium, ACE inhibitors (Capoten-like medicine for blood pressure), or indomethacin (Indocin which is used for arthritis or gout) as your dose may need to be adjusted.

If your medicine contains a thiazide and you take colestipol or cholestyramine, take the diuretic 1 hour before or 4 hours after the cholesterol lowering medicine because of decreased adsorption.

NOTES: Unlike other diuretics, triamterene does not cause potassium loss from the body. Potassium supplements should be used only when directed by your doctor.

MISSED DOSE: If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

STORAGE: Store at room temperature away form moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.