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Constipation, which can easily be managed in most patients, is the most frequently reported side effect of verapamil.

Please see brief summary of Prescribing Information including CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS, and PRECAUTIONS on adjacent page.

References: 1. Carr AA, Bottini PB, Prisant LM, et al. Once-daily verapamil in the treatment of mild-to-moderate hypertension: a double-blind placebo-controlled dose-ranging study. *J Clin Pharmacol*. 1991;31:144-150. 2. Data on file for VERELAN 240 mg, Lederle Laboratories, Pearl River, NY.

Brief Summary

VERELAN®
Verapamil HCl
Sustained-Release Pellet-Filled Capsules

For complete Prescribing Information, consult package insert.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Food does not affect the extent or rate of the absorption of verapamil from the controlled release VERELAN capsule.

Atioventricular block can occur in patients without preexisting condition defects (see WARNINGS). Acceleration of ventricular rate and/or ventricular fibrillation has been reported in patients with atrial flutter or atrial fibrillation and a coexisting accessory AV pathway following administration of verapamil (see WARNINGS).

In patients with hepatic insufficiency, metabolism is delayed and elimination half-life prolonged up to 14 to 16 hours (see PRECAUTIONS), the volume of distribution is increased, and plasma clearance reduced to about 30% of normal.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Severe LV dysfunction (see WARNINGS), hypotension (systolic pressure <90 mmHg) or cardiogenic shock, sick sinus syndrome (if no pacemaker is present), second- or third-degree AV block (if no pacemaker is present), atrial flutter/fibrillation with an accessory bypass tract (eg, WPW or LGL syndromes), (see WARNINGS), hypersensitivity to verapamil.

WARNINGS

Verapamil should be avoided in patients with severe LV dysfunction (eg, ejection fraction <30%) or moderate-to-severe symptoms of cardiac failure and in patients with any degree of ventricular dysfunction if they are receiving a beta blocker. Control milder heart failure with optimum digitalization and/or diuretics before VERELAN is used. Verapamil may occasionally produce hypotension. Elevations of liver enzymes have been reported.

Several cases of hepatocellular injury have been demonstrated to be produced by verapamil. Periodic monitoring of liver function in patients on verapamil is prudent. Some patients with paroxysmal and/or chronic atrial flutter/fibrillation and an accessory AV pathway (eg, WPW or LGL syndromes) have developed an increased antegrade conduction across the accessory pathway bypassing the AV node, producing a very rapid ventricular response or ventricular fibrillation after receiving IV verapamil (or digitalis). Because of this risk, oral verapamil is contraindicated in such patients. AV block may occur (second- or third-degree, 0.8%). Development of marked first-degree block or progression to second- or third-degree block requires reduction in dosage or, rarely, discontinuation and institution of appropriate therapy. Sinus bradycardia, second-degree AV block, sinus arrest, pulmonary edema and/or severe hypotension were seen in some critically ill patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy who were treated with verapamil.

PRECAUTIONS

Verapamil should be given cautiously to patients with impaired hepatic function (in severe dysfunction use about 30% of the normal dose) or impaired renal function, and patients should be monitored for abnormal prolongation of the PR interval or other signs of overdose. Verapamil may decrease neuromuscular transmission in patients with Duchenne's muscular dystrophy and may prolong recovery from the neuromuscular blocking agent vecuronium. It may be necessary to decrease verapamil dosage in patients with attenuated neuromuscular transmission. Combined therapy with beta-adrenergic blockers and verapamil may result in additive negative effects on heart rate, atioventricular conduction and/or cardiac contractility; there have been reports of excessive bradycardia and AV block, including complete heart block. The risks of such combined therapy may outweigh the benefits. The combination should be used only with caution and close monitoring. Decreased metoprolol clearance may occur with combined use. Chronic verapamil treatment can

VERELAN® verapamil HCl

increase serum digoxin levels by 50% to 75% during the first week of therapy, which can result in digitalis toxicity. In patients with hepatic cirrhosis, verapamil may reduce total body clearance and extrarenal clearance of digoxin. The digoxin dose should be reduced when verapamil is given and the patient carefully monitored. Verapamil will usually have an additive effect in patients receiving blood pressure-lowering agents. Disopyramide should not be given within 48 hours before or 24 hours after verapamil administration. Concomitant use of flecainide and verapamil may have additive effects on myocardial contractility, AV conduction, and repolarization. Combined verapamil and quinidine therapy in patients with hypertrophic cardiomyopathy should be avoided, since significant hypotension may result. Verapamil has been given concomitantly with short- and long-acting nifedipine without any undesirable drug interactions. Interaction between cimetidine and chronically administered verapamil has not been studied. In healthy volunteers, clearance of verapamil was reduced or unchanged. Concomitant use of lithium and verapamil may result in a lowering of serum lithium levels or increased sensitivity to lithium. Patients receiving both drugs must be monitored carefully.

Verapamil may increase carbamazepine concentrations during combined use. Rifampin may reduce verapamil bioavailability. Phenobarbital may increase verapamil clearance. Verapamil may increase serum levels of cyclosporine. Concomitant use of inhalation anesthetics and calcium antagonists needs careful titration to avoid excessive cardiovascular depression. Verapamil may potentiate the activity of neuromuscular blocking agents (curare-like and depolarizing); dosage reduction may be required. Adequate animal carcinogenicity studies have not been performed. One study in rats did not suggest a tumorigenic potential, and verapamil was not mutagenic in the Ames test. Pregnancy Category C: There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. This drug should be used during pregnancy, labor, and delivery only if clearly needed. Verapamil is excreted in breast milk; therefore, nursing should be discontinued during verapamil use. Safety and efficacy of verapamil in children below the age of 18 years have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Reversible (upon discontinuation of verapamil) nonobstructive, paralytic ileus has been infrequently reported in association with the use of verapamil.

In clinical trials with 285 hypertensive patients on VERELAN for more than 1 week, the following adverse reactions were reported: constipation (7.4%); headache (5.3%); dizziness (4.2%); lethargy (3.2%); dyspepsia (2.5%); rash (1.4%); ankle edema (1.4%); sleep disturbance (1.4%); myalgia (1.1%). In clinical trials of other formulations of verapamil HCl (N = 4,954), the following reactions have occurred at rates greater than 1.0%: constipation (7.3%); dizziness (3.3%); nausea (2.7%); hypotension (2.5%); edema (1.9%); headache (2.2%); rash (1.2%); CHF/pulmonary edema (1.8%); fatigue (1.7%); bradycardia (HR <50/min) (1.4%); AV block-total 1° 2° 3° (1.2%); 2° and 3° (0.8%); flushing (0.6%); elevated liver enzymes (see WARNINGS).

The following reactions, reported in 1.0% or less of patients, occurred under conditions (open trials, marketing experience) where a causal relationship is uncertain. Cardiovascular: angina pectoris, atioventricular dissociation, chest pain, claudication, myocardial infarction, palpitations, purpura (vasculitis), syncope. Digestive System: diarrhea, dry mouth, gastrointestinal distress, gingival hyperplasia. Hemic and Lymphatic: ecchymosis or bruising. Nervous System: cerebrovascular accident, confusion, equilibrium disorders, incontinence, muscle cramps, paresthesia, psychotic symptoms, shakiness, somnolence. Respiratory: dyspnea. Skin: arthralgia and rash, exanthema, hair loss, hyperkeratosis, maculae, sweating, urticaria, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, erythema multiforme. Special Senses: blurred vision. Urogenital: gynecostasia, impotence, increased urination, spotty menstruation.

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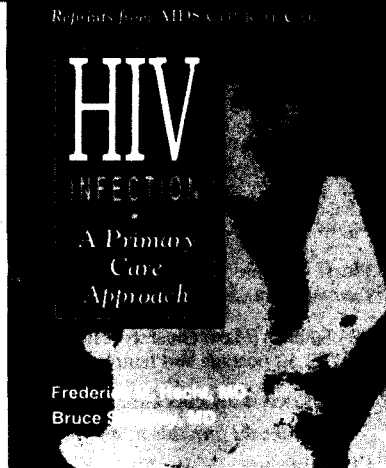
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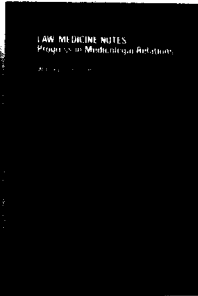
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Morrow JD, Margolies GR, Rowland J, Roberts LJ 2nd. Evidence that histamine is the causative toxin of scombroid-fish poisoning. *N Engl J Med* 1991; 324:716-20.

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Clinical Experience Network (CEN). A large-scale, office-based study evaluates the use of a new class of nonsedating antihistamines. A report from CEN. *J Am Board Fam Pract* 1990; 3:241-58.

Book

Rakel RE. Textbook of family practice. 4th ed. Philadelphia: WB Saunders, 1990.

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Haynes RC Jr. Agents affecting calcification: calcium, parathyroid hor-

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