FAMOTIDINE

Class: histamine H2 antagonist

Indications: Maintenance therapy and treatment of duodenal ulcer; treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), active benign gastric ulcer; pathological hypersecretory conditions. OTC labeling: Relief of heartburn, acid indigestion, and sour stomach.

Available dosage form in the hospital:
FAMOTIDINE 10MG TAB, FAMOTIDINE 20MG TAB, FAMOTIDINE 40MG TAB

Trade Names:

Dosage:
Adult:
-Duodenal ulcer: Oral: Acute therapy: 40 mg/day at bedtime (or 20 mg twice daily) for 4-8 weeks; maintenance therapy: 20 mg/day at bedtime.
-Gastric ulcer: Oral: Acute therapy: 40 mg/day at bedtime.
-GERD: Oral: 20 mg twice daily for 6 weeks.
-Hypersecretory conditions: Oral: Initial: 20 mg every 6 hours, may increase in increments up to 160 mg every 6 hours.
-Esophagitis and accompanying symptoms due to GERD: Oral: 20 mg or 40 mg twice daily for up to 12 weeks.
-Patients unable to take oral medication: I.V.: 20 mg every 12 hours.
-Peptic ulcer disease: Eradication of Helicobacter pylori (unlabeled use): Oral: 40 mg once daily; requires combination therapy with antibiotics
-Stress ulcer prophylaxis, ICU patients (unlabeled use): Oral, I.V., or nasogastric (NG) tube: 20 mg twice daily (ASHP, 1999; Baghaie, 1995); Note: Intended for patients with associated risk factors (eg, coagulopathy, mechanical ventilation for >48 hours, severe sepsis); discontinue use once risk factors have resolved. The Surviving Sepsis Campaign guidelines suggest the use of proton pump inhibitors rather than H2 antagonist therapy (Dellinger, 2013).
-Heartburn, indigestion, sour stomach: OTC labeling: Oral: 10-20 mg every 12 hours; dose may be taken 15-60 minutes before eating foods known to cause heartburn.

Renal Impairment:
-Clcr <50 mL/minute: Manufacturer recommendation: Administer 50% of dose or increase the dosing interval to every 36-48 hours (to limit potential CNS adverse effects).
-Stress ulcer prophylaxis (ASHP, 1999): Adults: Clcr <30 mL/minute: Oral, I.V., or nasogastric (NG) tube: 20 mg once daily.
Common side effect:
1% to 10%:
Central nervous system: Headache, dizziness.
Gastrointestinal: Diarrhea, constipation, necrotizing enterocolitis.

Pregnancy Risk Factor: B