

## FAMOTIDINE

**Class:** histamine H<sub>2</sub> 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 H<sub>2</sub> 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:

-Cl<sub>cr</sub> <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: Cl<sub>cr</sub> <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**