

FLUNARIZINE:

Class: Calcium Channel Blocker.

Indications: Prophylaxis of migraine (with and without aura).

Available dosage form in the hospital: 5MG CAP

Trade Names:

Dosage:

Migraine prophylaxis: Oral: 5-10 mg once daily (Pryse-Phillips, 1997); incidence of adverse effects may be decreased by allowing 2 consecutive medication-free days each week. If no significant improvement is seen after 3 months of therapy, discontinue use.

Renal Impairment:

There are no dosage adjustments provided in manufacturer's labeling. Drug accumulation does not appear to be likely as flunarizine primarily undergoes hepatic metabolism and minimal urinary excretion.

Hepatic Impairment:

There are no dosage adjustments provided in manufacturer's labeling. Flunarizine is hepatically metabolized; use with caution.

Common side effect:

Central nervous system: Anxiety, depression, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, insomnia, sedation, vertigo

Dermatologic: Rash

Endocrine & metabolic: Galactorrhea, menstrual irregularities, prolactin levels increased

Gastrointestinal: Appetite increased, epigastric pain, heartburn, nausea, vomiting, weight gain, xerostomia

Neuromuscular & skeletal: Extrapyramidal symptoms, muscle ache, weakness

Pregnancy Risk Factor: Teratogenic events have not been observed in animal reproduction studies