



FINAL RECOMMENDATION and REASONS for RECOMMENDATION

ALMOTRIPTAN MALATE tablet (Axert—Janssen-Ortho Inc.)

Description:

Almotriptan malate is a 5-hydroxytryptamine receptor agonist, indicated for the acute treatment of migraine with or without aura in adults.

Recommendation:

CEDAC recommended that almotriptan malate be listed in a similar manner as drug plans list other triptans currently approved in Canada.

Rationale for the recommendation:

1. In randomized controlled trials (RCTs) against placebo, almotriptan malate had a significant benefit in terms of migraine headache pain control in the first 24 hours of therapy. In a RCT versus sumatriptan (Imitrex), almotriptan malate had no significant efficacy difference.
2. In general, almotriptan's adverse effect profile appears similar to other triptans, although it may be associated with fewer adverse effects, including chest pain, than sumatriptan.
3. Almotriptan malate is similar in cost to zolmitriptan (Zomig) and rizatriptan (Maxalt). It is less costly than sumatriptan.

Other considerations:

Given the price differences among the various triptans and considering the similar clinical effectiveness, drug plans may wish to review the relative cost-effectiveness of triptans, when determining the listing status of each triptan.