



FINAL RECOMMENDATION and REASONS for RECOMMENDATION

BRIMONIDINE TARTRATE/TIMOLOL MALEATE OPHTHALMIC SOLUTION (Combigan®—Allergan)

Description:

Brimonidine tartrate/timolol maleate ophthalmic solution is a combination ophthalmologic product containing a selective alpha-2 adrenergic agonist and a non-selective beta adrenergic receptor blocking agent. It is indicated for the control of intraocular hypertension in patients with chronic open-angle glaucoma or ocular hypertension who are insufficiently responsive to intraocular pressure-reducing monotherapy and when the use of Combigan® is considered appropriate.

Recommendation:

CEDAC recommended that brimonidine tartrate/timolol maleate ophthalmic solution be recommended for listing for individuals who do not adequately respond to beta-blocking agents.

Rationale for the recommendation:

1. Brimonidine tartrate/timolol maleate ophthalmic solution has similar intraocular pressure-lowering efficacy as timolol and brimonidine taken at the same time, as separate products.
2. Brimonidine tartrate/timolol maleate ophthalmic solution produced a statistically significantly greater lowering of intraocular pressure than either timolol or brimonidine administered alone.
3. When dispensing fees are considered, the brimonidine tartrate/timolol maleate combination product is less expensive than timolol and brimonidine administered separately, but considerably more expensive than beta-blocking agents.

Other considerations:

The committee noted that all drug plans in Canada fund beta-blocker ophthalmic solutions, but there is considerable variation among jurisdictions in the funding of the other drugs for the management of intraocular hypertension. A cross-Canada “class” review of comparative cost-effectiveness of these agents may be useful.