

DATA SHEET

NAME OF MEDICINE

Span-K

PRESENTATION

Each tablet contains Potassium chloride 600mg (= potassium 8mmol, chloride 8 mmol).

ACTIONS

Sustained release potassium chloride supplement. The tablets consist of potassium chloride crystals partially coated with an inert, soluble wax, then pressed into a wax matrix. The whole is then sugar coated (not enteric). The tablet does not disintegrate. The potassium chloride gradually leaches through the wax. The sustained release of the therapeutically correct formula, with no enteric association, provides conditions of maximum gastric tolerance and effective absorption for the treatment of all types of potassium deficiency, whether hypochloaemic or hypokalaemic alkalosis. Span-K does not alter normal kidney function, can be used in all age groups; replaces the essential chloride anion and potassium, and so prevents hypochloaemic alkalosis.

INDICATIONS

Treatment of all types of potassium deficiencies, particularly hypochloaemic or hypokalaemic alkalosis, associated with prolonged or intensive diuretic therapy, eg. in hypertension, cardiac failure or massive oedema (potassium replacement is particularly important to patients receiving digitalis, as the clinical response to this drug is seriously affected by hypokalaemia), in renal disease associated with increase potassium excretion eg. nephrotic syndrome, vomiting and diarrhoea, ulcerative colitis, steatorrhoea, diabetes insipidus and uncontrolled diabetes mellitus, ileostomy or colostomy patients, cirrhosis, Cushing's syndrome and dietary insufficiency, during prolonged or intensive treatment with corticosteroids, ACTH or carbenxolone, hyperaldosteronism in megaloblastic anaemia, during the early stages of treatment. Here Span-K is indicated if a diet rich in potassium cannot be guaranteed.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

An average dose is 1 or 2 tablets three times daily, each tablet swallowed whole with a little water, preferably during meals. Where Span-K is given routinely with an average daily maintenance dose of an oral diuretic, 1 or 2 tablets may be sufficient.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Severe tissue destruction including burns, advanced renal failure, untreated Addison's disease, acute dehydration, hyperkalaemia, in the presence of obstruction in the digestive tract (eg. resulting from compression of the oesophagus due to dilation of the left atrium or from stenosis of the gut).

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

If the patient develops severe vomiting, severe abdominal pains, flatulence or gastrointestinal haemorrhage, the preparation must be withdrawn at once. To prevent the risk of hyperkalaemia, potassium supplements should not be administered with potassium sparing diuretic agents such as spironolactone, triamterene or amiloride. In cases of metabolic acidosis, hypokalaemia should not be treated with potassium chloride, but with a potassium salt containing an alkalinising anion (eg. potassium bicarbonate).

Caution is required in cases of chronic renal disease and hepatic cirrhosis because of the risk of hyperkalaemia.

DATA SHEET

PREGNANCY

It is not known whether this product can cause harm to the foetus or affect reproductive capacity when it is administered to a pregnant women. It should only be given to a pregnant women if clearly needed.

LACTATION

Many drugs are excreted in human milk and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from oral potassium supplements, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

Oral potassium preparations can provoke gastrointestinal disturbances (eg nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, diarrhoea). In rare cases Span-K may also cause these side effects. Should this occur, reduction in dosage or withdrawal of this drug may be necessary.

INTERACTIONS

No information available.

OVERDOSAGE

No information available.

PHARMACEUTICAL PRECAUTIONS

Store below . Protect from light.

MEDICINE CLASSIFICATION

Pharmacy Only Medicine.

PACKAGE QUANTITIES

A plastic bottle containing 200 or 500 tablets.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Nil

NAME AND ADDRESS

Distributed by:-
Pharmacy Retailing New Zealand Limited
Trading as Healthcare Logistics
58 Richard Pearse Drive
Airport Oaks
Auckland
New Zealand

DATE OF PREPARATION

2 June 2005