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Comparison Table: Triptans

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Drug	Almotriptan	Eletriptan	Frovatriptan	Naratriptan	Rizatriptan	Sumatriptan[1]	Zolmitriptan
Brand Name (Manufacturer)	*Axert* (no longer manufactured)	*Relpax* (Pfizer)	*Frova* (Endo)	*Amerge* (no longer manufactured)	*Maxalt, Maxalt MLT* (Organon)	*Imitrex* (GSK) *Onzetra Xsail* (Avanir) *Tosymra* (Upsher-Smith)[17] *Zembrace SymTouch* (Upsher-Smith)	*Zomig* (Amneal)
Generic Available	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes – for *Imitrex* products only	Yes
Route of Adminstration	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral	Oral; Nasal; SC	Oral; Nasal
Formulations	6.25, 12.5 mg tabs	20, 40 mg tabs	2.5 mg tabs	1, 2.5 mg tabs	5, 10 mg tabs, ODTs	*Imitrex* and generics – Oral: 25, 50, 100 mg tabs SC: 4, 6 mg/0.5 mL auto-injector pen and refill cartridge, vials[2] Nasal: 5, 20 mg/0.1 mL nasal spray *Onzetra Xsail*: 11 mg nasal powder caps *Tosymra:* 10-mg single-use nasal spray *Zembrace SymTouch*: 3 mg/0.5 mL SC auto-injector	Oral: 2.5, 5 mg tabs and 2.5, 5 mg ODTs[3] Nasal: 2.5, 5 mg/0.1 mL nasal spray
Onset of Action	30-60 min	30-60 min	~2 hrs	1-3 hrs	30-60 min	Tabs: 30-60 min SC: ~10 min Nasal: 10-15 min	Tabs: 30-60 min Nasal: 10-15 min
Elimination Half-life	3-4 hrs	~4 hrs	~26 hrs	~6 hrs	2-3 hrs	~2-2.5 hrs	2-3 hrs
Usual Adult Dosage	6.25 or 12.5 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs	20 or 40 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs	2.5 mg PO with fluids; can be repeated after 2 hrs	2.5 mg PO; can be repeated after 4 hrs	5 or 10 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs	Oral: 50 or 100 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs[4] SC: *Imitrex*, and generics[4]: 6 mg SC; can be repeated after 1 hr *Zembrace SymTouch*: 3 mg SC; can be repeated after 1 hr Nasal spray: *Imitrex*, and generics: 5, 10, or 20 mg intranasally; can be repeated after 2 hrs *Tosymra:* 10 mg intranasally, can be repeated after 1 hr Nasal powder: 22 mg intranasally; can be repeated after 2 hrs	2.5 or 5 mg PO or intranasally; can be repeated after 2 hrs
Max Daily Adult Dose	25 mg	80 mg	7.5 mg	5 mg	30 mg	Oral: 200 mg SC: 12 mg Nasal spray: *Imitrex*, and generics: 40 mg *Tosymra*: 30 mg Nasal powder: 44 mg	10 mg
Adult Dosage for Renal Impairment	Severe (CrCl 10-30 mL/min): 6.25 mg starting dose	No dosage adjustment needed	No dosage adjustment needed	Severe (CrCl <15 mL/min): contraindicated Mild-moderate: 1 mg starting dose (max 2.5 mg/day)	No dosage adjustment needed	No dosage adjustment needed	No dosage adjustment needed

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Comparison Table: Triptans (continued)

Drug	Almotriptan	Eletriptan	Frovatriptan	Naratriptan	Rizatriptan	Sumatriptan[1]	Zolmitriptan
Adult Dosage for Hepatic Impairment	6.25 mg starting dose (max 12.5 mg/day)	Severe[5]: not recommended	Severe[5]: caution recommended	Severe: contraindicated Mild-moderate: 1 mg starting dose (max 2.5 mg/day)	No dosage adjustment needed	Mild-moderate (oral): max single dose 50 mg Severe (oral, intranasal, and SC): contraindicated	Moderate-severe (oral): 1.25 mg (max 5 mg/day) Moderate-severe (intranasal): not recommended
Adult Dosage-Adjustment for Drug Interactions	With a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor[6]: 6.25 mg starting dose (max 12.5 mg/day); avoid strong CYP3A4 inhibitors in patients with renal or hepatic impairment	With a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor: avoid use within 72 hrs of treatment	No dosage adjustment needed	No dosage adjustment needed	With propranolol: only the 5 mg dose is recommended (max 15 mg/day)	No dosage adjustment needed	With cimetidine: 2.5 mg (max 5 mg/day)
Usual Pediatric Dosage	12-17 yrs: 6.25 or 12.5 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	6-17 yrs: 5 mg (<40 kg) or 10 mg (≥40 kg)	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Oral: not FDA-approved for pediatric use Nasal: (≥12 yrs): 2.5 or 5 mg intranasally; can be repeated after 2 hrs
Max Pediatric Dose	25 mg/day	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	The efficacy and safety of redosing within 24 hrs have not been established	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	10 mg/day
Pediatric Dosage for Renal Impairment	Severe (CrCl 10-30 mL/min): 6.25 mg starting dose (max 12.5 mg/day)	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	No dosage adjustment needed	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	No dosage adjustment needed
Pediatric Dosage for Hepatic Impairment	6.25 mg starting dose (max 12.5 mg/day)	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	No dosage adjustment needed	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Moderate-severe: not recommended
Pediatric Dosage Adjustment for Drug Interactions	With a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor: 6.25 mg starting dose (max 12.5 mg/day); avoid strong CYP3A4 inhibitors in patients with renal or hepatic impairment	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	With propranolol: avoid concurrent use (<40 kg); only a single 5 mg dose is recommended (≥40 kg)	Not FDA-approved for pediatric use	With cimetidine: 2.5 mg (max 5 mg/day)
Class Adverse Effects	Tingling, flushing, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, and heaviness or tightness in the chest (can occur with any triptan, but most frequently with SC sumatriptan); angina, myocardial infarction, cardiac arrhythmia, stroke, seizure, and death have occurred very rarely with triptans[7]; peripheral vascular ischemia, gastrointestinal vascular ischemia and infarction, and Raynaud phenomenon have also occurred						
Other Adverse Effects	Most common (≥1%): nausea, dry mouth, paresthesia	Most common (≥5%): asthenia, nausea, dizziness, somnolence	Most common (≥2%): dizziness, headache, paresthesia, dry mouth, dyspepsia, fatigue, hot or cold sensation, chest pain, skeletal pain, flushing	Most common (≥2%): paresthesia, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, throat or neck pain/pressure	Most common (≥5%): asthenia/fatigue, somnolence, pain or pressure sensation, dizziness	Most common (≥2%): paresthesia, warm/cold sensation, chest/neck/throat/jaw pain, tightness, or pressure, vertigo, fatigue SC: burning at injection site, adverse effects more likely with SC formulation Intranasal: abnormal taste, nasal discomfort, rhinorrhea, rhinitis	Most common (≥5%): neck/throat/jaw pain, tightness, or pressure, dizziness, paresthesia, asthenia, somnolence, warm/cold sensation, nausea, heaviness sensation, dry mouth Intranasal: abnormal taste
Class Drug Interactions	A triptan should generally not be used within 24 hours of another triptan or an ergot because vasoconstriction could be additive; cases of serotonin syndrome reported with SSRIs and SNRIs, but risk is likely low[8]						
Other Drug Interactions	CYP3A4 inhibitors[6] can increase serum concentrations; dose adjustment is recommended	Propranolol can increase serum concentrations CYP3A4 inhibitors[6] can increase serum concentrations; contraindicated for use within 72 hours of treatment with a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor	Propranolol can increase serum concentrations	None	MAO inhibitors can increase serum concentrations; contraindicated for use within 2 weeks after an MAO-A inhibitor Propranolol can increase serum concentrations; dosage adjustment is recommended	MAO inhibitors can increase serum concentrations; contraindicated for use within 2 weeks after an MAO-A inhibitor	MAO inhibitors can increase serum concentrations; contraindicated for use within 2 weeks after an MAO-A inhibitor Propranolol and cimetidine can increase serum concentrations; dosage adjustment recommended with cimetidine

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Comparison Table: Triptans (continued)

Drug	Almotriptan	Eletriptan	Frovatriptan	Naratriptan	Rizatriptan	Sumatriptan[1]	Zolmitriptan
Comments	Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in their efficacy and speed of onset[9,10]	Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in their efficacy and speed of onset[9,10]	Longer-acting: slower onset of action and lower initial response rate than other triptans, but better tolerated[11]	Longer-acting: slower onset of action and lower initial response rate than other triptans, but better tolerated[11]	Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in efficacy and speed of onset[9,10] ODTs may be taken without water	Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in efficacy and speed of onset[9,10] SC: faster-acting and more effective than other triptans, but more adverse effects Intranasal: faster-acting than oral, but may have unpleasant taste; efficacy partially dependent on GI absorption of swallowed portion of dose	Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in efficacy and speed of onset[9,10] Intranasal: faster-acting than oral; unpleasant taste can occur, but may be less common than with sumatriptan[12]; efficacy partially dependent on GI absorption of swallowed portion of dose ODTs may be taken without water
Cost[13]:	generic: $33.40	generic: $13.10 *Relpax*: 76.90	generic: $26.20 *Frova*: 129.70	generic: $6.10	generic: $2.10 (tabs) 1.90 (ODTs) *Maxalt*: 40.70 *Maxalt MLT*: 36.60	generic: $1.40 (tabs) 40.10 (vial)[14] 114.10 (auto-injector) 52.90 (nasal spray) *Imitrex*: 73.50 (tabs) 468.50 (auto-injector) 93.50 (nasal spray) *Onzetra Xsail*: 86.00 *Tosymra:* 106.30 *Zembrace SymTouch*: 188.40	generic: $5.70 (tabs) 6.50 (ODTs) 69.40 (nasal spray) *Zomig*: 129.40 *Zomig* nasal spray: 97.80

ODT = orally disintegrating tablet; SC = subcutaneous; MAO = monoamine oxidase

1. Also available in combination with naproxen (*Treximet* – Pernix). Use of the fixed-dose combination is more effective in relieving moderate or severe migraine pain than either of its components taken alone (S Law et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2016; 4:CD008541).
2. Vials are only available in 6 mg/0.5 mL.
3. ODTs are available generically only.
4. If migraine returns after initial treatment with sumatriptan injection (*Imitrex*, and generics), single doses of sumatriptan tablets can be taken at intervals ≥2 hours, up to a maximum of 100 mg/day.
5. Use of the drug in severe hepatic impairment has not been evaluated.
6. Inhibitors and inducers of CYP enzymes, P-glycoprotein, and other transporters. Med Lett Drugs Ther 2023 Feb 6 (epub). Available at secure.https://secure.medicalletter.org/TML-article-1669g. Accessed June 12, 2023.
7. G Roberto et al. Cephalalgia 2014; 34:5.
8. PE Rolan. CNS Drugs 2012; 26:949.
9. Short-acting triptans: sumatriptan, almotriptan, eletriptan, rizatriptan, and zolmitriptan.
10. MM Johnston and AM Rapoport. Drugs 2010; 70:1505.
11. V Tullo et al. Neruol Sci 2010; 31:S51.
12. Med Lett Drugs Ther 2004: 46;7.
13. Approximate WAC for one dose at the lowest usual adult dosage. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer's published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. May 5, 2023. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2018. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.
14. Cost for one 6 mg/0.5 mL vial.