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IN BRIEF

Low-Dose Chlorthalidone (*HemiClor*) for Hypertension

The FDA has approved a 12.5-mg tablet formulation of the thiazide-like diuretic chlorthalidone (*HemiClor* – Ingenus) for treatment of hypertension. Chlorthalidone has been available for years in 15-, 25-, and 50-mg tablets (*Thalitone*, and generics) and in fixed-dose combinations with azilsartan medoxomil (*Edarbyclor*) and atenolol (*Tenoretic*, and generics).^{1,2}

CHLORTHALIDONE – Chlorthalidone is more potent than the thiazide diuretic hydrochlorothiazide (HCTZ) and it has a longer half-life. Chlorthalidone and HCTZ appear to be similarly effective in improving outcomes in patients with hypertension,³⁻⁵ but chlorthalidone is more likely to cause hypokalemia. Current guidelines recommend chlorthalidone at a dose of 12.5-25 mg once daily for treatment of hypertension.⁶

A CLINICAL STUDY – FDA approval of the 12.5-mg formulation was based on data from an 8-week double-blind trial in 1714 adults with hypertension who were randomized to receive one of six fixed-dose combinations of azilsartan medoxomil and chlorthalidone or the individual components alone. Monotherapy with chlorthalidone 12.5 mg was similar in efficacy to the 25-mg dose with fewer adverse effects.⁷

COST – The wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) of a 30-day supply of *HemiClor* is \$30; cutting a 25-mg tablet of generic chlorthalidone in half costs much less (\$3 for 15 25-mg tablets) but may be difficult for some patients.⁸

CONCLUSION – The new low-dose formulation of chlorthalidone (*HemiClor*) offers a convenient way to administer a 12.5-mg dose without having to split a higher-strength tablet. ■

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8. Approximate WAC. 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*. June 5, 2025. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2025. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.

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