



Clemastine

Updated: January 16, 2017.

OVERVIEW

Introduction

Clemastine is a first generation antihistamine that is used for symptoms of allergic rhinitis and the common cold. Clemastine has not been linked to instances of clinically apparent acute liver injury.

Background

Clemastine (kle mas' teen) is a first generation antihistamine that is used for alleviation of symptoms of allergic rhinitis, the common cold and allergic urticaria, including sneezing, cough, runny nose, watery eyes and itching. Clemastine belongs to the ethanolamine class of antihistamines (with diphenhydramine and dimenhydrinate) and was first approved for use in the United States in 1977. Clemastine is available in multiple generic forms as tablets and syrup, many of which are available without prescription. Common brand names include Tavist Allergy and Dayhist Allergy. The recommended adult oral dose ranges from 1 to 2 mg one to three times daily. Common side effects include sedation, impairment of motor function, confusion, dizziness, blurred vision, dry mouth and throat, palpitations, tachycardia, abdominal distress, constipation and headache. Antihistamines can worsen urinary retention and glaucoma.

Hepatotoxicity

Despite widespread use, the first generation antihistamines such as clemastine have rarely been linked to liver test abnormalities or to clinically apparent liver injury. The reason for their safety may relate to low daily dose and limited duration of use.

Likelihood score: E (unlikely to be a cause of clinically apparent liver injury).

References on the safety and potential hepatotoxicity of antihistamines are given together after the Overview section on Antihistamines.

Drug Class: [Antihistamines](#)

PRODUCT INFORMATION

REPRESENTATIVE TRADE NAMES

Clemastine – Generic, Dayhist Allergy®, Tavist Allergy®

Box continues on next page...

Box continued from previous page.

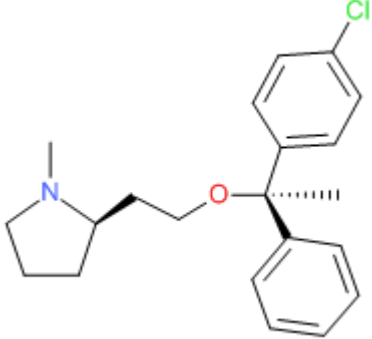
DRUG CLASS

Antihistamines

COMPLETE LABELING

Product labeling at DailyMed, National Library of Medicine, NIH

CHEMICAL FORMULA AND STRUCTURE

DRUG	CAS REGISTRY NUMBER	MOLECULAR FORMULA	STRUCTURE
Clemastine	15686-51-8	C ₂₁ -H ₂₆ -Cl-N-O	 The chemical structure of Clemastine is shown. It consists of a 1-methylpyrrolidine ring connected via a propyl chain to an oxygen atom. This oxygen atom is part of an ether linkage to a chiral carbon atom. This carbon atom is also bonded to a phenyl ring and a 4-chlorophenyl ring. The chlorine atom is highlighted in green.