

2D Data Matrix to be printed with serial number on each leaflet. The number should not be repeated

Note: Position of the pharma code and product name will change as per the folding machine feasibility



HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

These highlights do not include all the information needed to use MONTELUKAST SODIUM TABLETS safely and effectively. See full prescribing information for MONTELUKAST SODIUM TABLETS.

MONTELUKAST SODIUM tablets, for oral use

Initial U.S. Approval: 1998

WARNING: SERIOUS NEUROPSYCHIATRIC EVENTS

See full prescribing information for complete boxed warning.

- Serious neuropsychiatric events have been reported in patients taking montelukast sodium (5.1).
- Discuss benefits and risks of montelukast sodium with patients and caregivers (5.1).
- Monitor for neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients taking montelukast sodium (5.1).
- Discontinue montelukast sodium immediately if neuropsychiatric symptoms occur (5.1).
- Because the benefits of montelukast sodium may not outweigh the potential risk of neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with allergic rhinitis, reserve use for patients who have an inadequate response or intolerance to alternative therapies (1.3, 5.1).

RECENT MAJOR CHANGES

Boxed Warning	04/2020
Indications and Usage (1.3, 1.4)	02/2021
Dosage and Administration (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4)	02/2021
Warnings and Precautions (5.1)	02/2021

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Montelukast sodium tablets are a leukotriene receptor antagonist indicated for:

- Prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma in patients 15 years of age and older (1.1).
- Acute prevention of exercise-induced bronchoconstriction (EIB) in patients 15 years of age and older (1.2).
- Relief of symptoms of allergic rhinitis (AR): seasonal allergic rhinitis (SAR) in patients 15 years of age and older, and perennial allergic rhinitis (PAR) in patients 15 years of age and older. Reserve use for patients who have an inadequate response or intolerance to alternative therapies (1.3).

Limitations of Use:

- Not indicated to treat an acute asthma attack (5.2).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Administration (by indications):

- Asthma: Once daily in the evening for patients 15 years and older (2.1).

- Acute prevention of EIB: One tablet at least 2 hours before exercise for patients 15 years of age and older (2.2).
- Seasonal allergic rhinitis: Once daily for patients 15 years and older (2.3).
- Perennial allergic rhinitis: Once daily for patients 15 years and older (2.3).

Dosage (by age):

- 15 years and older: one 10 mg tablet (2).

Patients with both asthma and allergic rhinitis should take only one dose daily in the evening (2.4).

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Tablets: 10 mg (3)

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Hypersensitivity to any component of montelukast sodium tablets (4).

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Do not prescribe montelukast sodium to treat an acute asthma attack (5.2).
- Advise patients to have appropriate rescue medication available (5.2).
- Inhaled corticosteroid may be reduced gradually. Do not abruptly substitute montelukast sodium for inhaled or oral corticosteroids (5.3).
- Patients with known aspirin sensitivity should continue to avoid aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents while taking montelukast sodium (5.4).
- Systemic eosinophilia, sometimes presenting with clinical features of vasculitis consistent with Churg-Strauss syndrome, has been reported. These events have been sometimes associated with the reduction of oral corticosteroid therapy (5.5 and 6.2).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Most common adverse reactions (incidence $\geq 5\%$ and greater than placebo listed in descending order of frequency): upper respiratory infection, fever, headache, pharyngitis, cough, abdominal pain, diarrhea, otitis media, influenza, rhinorrhea, sinusitis, otitis (6.1).

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Hetero Labs Limited at 1-866-495-1995 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION and Medication Guide.

Revised: 03/2021

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION: CONTENTS*

WARNING: SERIOUS NEUROPSYCHIATRIC EVENTS

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

- 1.1 Asthma
- 1.2 Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)
- 1.3 Allergic Rhinitis
- 1.4 Limitations of Use

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

- 2.1 Asthma
- 2.2 Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)
- 2.3 Allergic Rhinitis
- 2.4 Asthma and Allergic Rhinitis

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- 5.1 Neuropsychiatric Events
- 5.2 Acute Asthma
- 5.3 Concomitant Corticosteroid Use
- 5.4 Aspirin Sensitivity
- 5.5 Eosinophilic Conditions

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

- 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience
- 6.2 Postmarketing Experience

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

- 8.1 Pregnancy
- 8.2 Lactation
- 8.4 Pediatric Use
- 8.5 Geriatric Use
- 8.6 Hepatic Impairment
- 8.7 Renal Impairment

10 OVERDOSAGE

11 DESCRIPTION

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

- 12.1 Mechanism of Action
- 12.2 Pharmacodynamics
- 12.3 Pharmacokinetics

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

- 13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

- 14.1 Asthma
- 14.2 Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)
- 14.3 Allergic Rhinitis (Seasonal and Perennial)

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

*Sections or subsections omitted from the full prescribing information are not listed.

FULL PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

WARNING: SERIOUS NEUROPSYCHIATRIC EVENTS

Serious neuropsychiatric (NP) events have been reported with the use of montelukast sodium. The types of events reported were highly variable, and included, but were not limited to, agitation, aggression, depression, sleep disturbances, suicidal thoughts and behavior (including suicide). The mechanisms underlying NP events associated with montelukast sodium use are currently not well understood [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].

Because of the risk of NP events, the benefits of montelukast sodium may not outweigh the risks in some patients, particularly when the symptoms of disease may be mild and inadequately treated with alternative therapies. Reserve use of montelukast sodium for patients with allergic rhinitis who have an inadequate response or intolerance to alternative therapies [see Indications and Usage (1.3)]. In patients with asthma or exercise-induced bronchoconstriction, consider the benefits and risks before prescribing montelukast sodium.

Discuss the benefits and risks of montelukast sodium with patients and caregivers when prescribing montelukast sodium. Advise patients and/or caregivers to be alert for changes in behavior or new NP symptoms when taking montelukast sodium. If changes in behavior are observed, or if new NP symptoms or suicidal thoughts and/or behavior occur, advise patients to discontinue montelukast sodium and contact a healthcare provider immediately [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)].

1 INDICATIONS AND USAGE

1.1 Asthma

Montelukast sodium tablets are indicated for the prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents 15 years of age and older.

1.2 Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)

Montelukast sodium tablets are indicated for prevention of exercise-induced bronchoconstriction (EIB) in patients 15 years of age and older.

1.3 Allergic Rhinitis

Montelukast sodium tablets are indicated for the relief of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis in patients 15 years of age and older and perennial allergic rhinitis in patients 15 years of age and older. Because the benefits of montelukast sodium tablets may not outweigh the risk of neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients with allergic rhinitis [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)], reserve use for patients who have an inadequate response or intolerance to alternative therapies.

1.4 Limitations of Use

Montelukast sodium tablets are not indicated for the treatment of an acute asthma attack.

2 DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

2.1 Asthma

For asthma, administer montelukast sodium tablets orally once daily in the evening, with or without food. There has been no clinical trials in patients with asthma to evaluate the relative efficacy of morning versus evening dosing.

The following doses are recommended:

Table 1: Recommended Dosage in Asthma

Age	Dose
Adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older	one 10 mg tablet

Patients who miss a dose should take the next dose at their regular time and should not take 2 doses at the same time.

2.2 Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)

For prevention of EIB, administer a single dose of montelukast sodium tablets orally at least 2 hours, before exercise.

The following doses are recommended:

Table 2: Recommended Dosage in Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)

Age	Dose
Adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older	one 10 mg tablet

An additional dose of montelukast sodium tablets should not be taken within 24 hours of a previous dose. Patients already taking montelukast sodium tablets daily for another indication (including chronic asthma) should not take an additional dose to prevent EIB. All patients should have available for rescue a short-acting β -agonist.

Daily administration of montelukast sodium tablets for the chronic treatment of asthma has not been established to prevent acute episodes of EIB.

2.3 Allergic Rhinitis

For allergic rhinitis, administer montelukast sodium tablets orally once daily without regard to time of food ingestion. Time of administration in patients with allergic rhinitis can be individualized to suit patient needs.

The following doses for the treatment of symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis are recommended:

Table 3: Recommended Dosage in Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis

Age	Dose
Adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older	one 10 mg tablet

The following doses for the treatment of symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis are recommended:

Table 4: Recommended Dosage in Perennial Allergic Rhinitis

Age	Dose
Adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older	one 10 mg tablet

Patients who miss a dose should take the next dose at their regular time and should not take 2 doses at the same time.

2.4 Asthma and Allergic Rhinitis

For patients with both asthma and allergic rhinitis, administer only one montelukast sodium tablets dose orally once daily in the evening.

Patients who miss a dose should take the next dose at their regular time and should not take 2 doses at the same time.

3 DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

- Montelukast sodium film-coated tablets, USP 10 mg are beige, rounded square-shaped, film-coated tablets debossed with '1' on one side and '114' on the other side.

4 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Montelukast sodium tablets are contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to any of its components.

5 WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

5.1 Neuropsychiatric Events

Serious neuropsychiatric (NP) events have been reported with use of montelukast sodium. These postmarketing reports have been highly variable and included, but were not limited to, agitation, aggressive behavior or hostility, anxiety, depression, disorientation, disturbance in attention, dream abnormalities, dysphasia (stuttering), hallucinations, insomnia, irritability, memory impairment, obsessive-compulsive symptoms, restlessness, somnambulism, suicidal thoughts and behavior (including suicide), tic, and tremor. NP events have been reported in adult, adolescent, and pediatric patients with and without a previous history of psychiatric disorder. NP events have been reported mostly during montelukast sodium treatment, but some were reported after montelukast sodium discontinuation. Animal studies showed that montelukast distributes into the brain in rats [see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)]; however, the mechanisms underlying montelukast sodium-associated NP events are currently not well understood. Based upon the available data, it is difficult to identify risk factors for or quantify the risk of NP events with montelukast sodium use.

Because of the risk of NP events, the benefits of montelukast sodium may not outweigh the risks in some patients, particularly when the symptoms of disease may be mild and inadequately treated with alternative therapies. Reserve use of montelukast sodium for patients with allergic rhinitis who have an inadequate response or intolerance to alternative therapies [see Indications and Usage (1.3)]. In patients with asthma or exercise-induced bronchoconstriction, consider the benefits and risks before prescribing montelukast sodium.

Discuss the benefits and risks of montelukast sodium use with patients and caregivers when prescribing montelukast sodium. Advise patients and/or caregivers to be alert for changes in behavior or for new NP symptoms when taking montelukast sodium. If changes in behavior are observed, or if new NP symptoms or suicidal thoughts and/or behavior occur, advise patients to discontinue montelukast sodium and contact a healthcare provider immediately. In many cases, symptoms resolved after stopping montelukast sodium therapy, however, in some cases symptoms persisted after discontinuation of montelukast sodium. Therefore, continue to monitor and provide supportive care until symptoms resolve. Re-evaluate the benefits and risks of restarting treatment with montelukast sodium if such events occur.

5.2 Acute Asthma

Montelukast sodium is not indicated for use in the reversal of bronchospasm in acute asthma attacks, including status asthmaticus. Patients should be advised to have appropriate rescue medication available. Therapy with montelukast sodium can be continued during acute exacerbations of asthma. Patients who have exacerbations of asthma after exercise should have available for rescue a short-acting inhaled β -agonist.

5.3 Concomitant Corticosteroid Use

While the dose of inhaled corticosteroid may be reduced gradually under medical supervision, montelukast sodium should not be abruptly substituted for inhaled or oral corticosteroids.

5.4 Aspirin Sensitivity

Patients with known aspirin sensitivity should continue avoidance of aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents while taking montelukast sodium. Although montelukast sodium is effective in improving airway function in asthmatics with documented aspirin sensitivity, it has not been shown to truncate bronchoconstrictor response to aspirin and other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in aspirin-sensitive asthmatic patients [see Clinical Studies (14.1)].

5.5 Eosinophilic Conditions

Patients with asthma on therapy with montelukast sodium may present with systemic eosinophilia, sometimes presenting with clinical features of vasculitis consistent with Churg-Strauss syndrome, a condition which is often treated with systemic corticosteroid therapy. These events have been sometimes associated with the reduction of oral corticosteroid therapy. Physicians should be alert to eosinophilia, vasculitic rash, worsening pulmonary symptoms, cardiac complications, and/or neuropathy presenting in their patients. A causal association between montelukast sodium and these underlying conditions has not been established [see Adverse Reactions (6.2)].

6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

The following clinically significant adverse reactions are described elsewhere in the labeling:

- Neuropsychiatric Events [see Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]

6.1 Clinical Trials Experience

Because clinical trials are conducted under widely varying conditions, adverse reaction rates observed in the clinical trials of a drug cannot be directly compared to rates in the clinical trials of another drug and may not reflect the rates observed in clinical practice. In the following description of clinical trials experience, adverse reactions are listed regardless of causality assessment.

The most common adverse reactions (incidence $\geq 5\%$ and greater than placebo; listed in descending order of frequency) in controlled clinical trials were: upper respiratory infection, fever, headache, pharyngitis, cough, abdominal pain, diarrhea, otitis media, influenza, rhinorrhea, sinusitis, otitis.

Adults and Adolescents 15 Years of Age and Older with Asthma

Montelukast sodium has been evaluated for safety in approximately 2950 adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older in clinical trials. In placebo-controlled clinical trials, the following adverse reactions reported with montelukast sodium occurred in greater than or equal to 1% of patients and at an incidence greater than that in patients treated with placebo:

Table 5: Adverse Reactions Occurring in $\geq 1\%$ of Patients with an Incidence Greater than that in Patients Treated with Placebo

	Montelukast sodium 10 mg/day (%) (n=1955)	Placebo (%) (n=1180)
Body As A Whole		
Pain, abdominal	2.9	2.5
Asthenia/fatigue	1.8	1.2
Fever	1.5	0.9
Trauma	1.0	0.8
Digestive System Disorders		
Dyspepsia	2.1	1.1
Pain, dental	1.7	1.0
Gastroenteritis, infectious	1.5	0.5
Nervous System/Psychiatric		
Headache	18.4	18.1
Dizziness	1.9	1.4
Respiratory System Disorders		
Influenza	4.2	3.9
Cough	2.7	2.4
Congestion, nasal	1.6	1.3
Skin/Skin Appendages Disorder		
Rash	1.6	1.2
Laboratory Adverse Reactions*		
ALT increased	2.1	2.0
AST increased	1.6	1.2
Pyuria	1.0	0.9

* Number of patients tested (montelukast sodium and placebo, respectively): ALT and AST, 1935, 1170; pyuria, 1924, 1159.

The frequency of less common adverse reactions was comparable between montelukast sodium and placebo. The safety profile of montelukast sodium, when administered as a single dose for prevention of EIB in adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older, was consistent with the safety profile previously described for montelukast sodium.

Cumulatively, 569 patients were treated with montelukast sodium for at least 6 months, 480 for one year, and 49 for two years in clinical trials. With prolonged treatment, the adverse reaction profile did not significantly change.

Adults and Adolescents 15 Years of Age and Older with Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis

Montelukast sodium has been evaluated for safety in 2199 adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older in clinical trials. Montelukast sodium administered once daily in the morning or in the evening had a safety profile similar to that of placebo. In placebo-controlled clinical trials, the following reaction was reported with montelukast sodium with a frequency $\geq 1\%$ and at an incidence greater than placebo: upper respiratory infection, 1.9% of patients receiving montelukast sodium vs. 1.5% of patients receiving placebo. In a 4-week, placebo-controlled clinical study, the safety profile was consistent with that observed in 2-week studies. The incidence of somnolence was similar to that of placebo in all studies.

Adults and Adolescents 15 Years of Age and Older with Perennial Allergic Rhinitis

Montelukast sodium has been evaluated for safety in 3357 adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older with perennial allergic rhinitis of whom 1632 received montelukast sodium in two, 6-week, clinical studies. Montelukast sodium administered once daily had a safety profile consistent with that observed in patients with seasonal allergic rhinitis and similar to that of placebo. In these two studies, the following reactions were reported with montelukast sodium with a frequency $\geq 1\%$ and at an incidence greater than placebo: sinusitis, upper respiratory infection, sinus headache, cough, epistaxis, and increased ALT. The incidence of somnolence was similar to that of placebo in all studies.

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

The following adverse reactions have been identified during post-approval use of montelukast sodium. Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of uncertain size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure.

Blood and lymphatic system disorders

increased bleeding tendency, thrombocytopenia

Immune system disorders

hypersensitivity reactions including anaphylaxis, hepatic eosinophilic infiltration

Psychiatric disorders

including, but not limited to, agitation, aggressive behavior or hostility, anxiety, depression, disorientation, disturbance in attention, dream abnormalities, dysphasia (stuttering), hallucinations, insomnia, irritability, memory impairment, obsessive-compulsive symptoms, restlessness, somnambulism, suicidal thinking and behavior (including suicide), tic, and tremor [see Boxed Warning, Warnings and Precautions (5.1)]

Nervous system disorders

drowsiness, paraesthesia/hypoesthesia, seizures

Cardiac disorders

palpitations

Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders

epistaxis, pulmonary eosinophilia

Gastrointestinal disorders

diarrhea, dyspepsia, nausea, pancreatitis, vomiting

Hepatobiliary disorders

Cases of cholestatic hepatitis, hepatocellular liver-injury, and mixed-pattern liver injury have been reported in patients treated with montelukast sodium. Most of these occurred in combination with other confounding factors, such as use of other medications, or when montelukast sodium was administered to patients who had underlying potential for liver disease such as alcohol use or other forms of hepatitis.

Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders

angioedema, bruising, erythema multiforme, erythema nodosum, pruritus, Stevens-Johnson syndrome/toxic epidermal necrolysis, urticaria

Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders

arthralgia, myalgia including muscle cramps

Renal and urinary disorders

enuresis in children

General disorders and administration site conditions

edema

Patients with asthma on therapy with montelukast sodium may present with systemic eosinophilia, sometimes presenting with clinical features of vasculitis consistent with Churg-Strauss syndrome, a condition which is often treated with systemic corticosteroid therapy. These reactions have been sometimes associated with the reduction of oral corticosteroid therapy. Physicians should be alert to eosinophilia, vasculitic rash, worsening pulmonary symptoms, cardiac complications, and/or neuropathy presenting in their patients [see Warnings and Precautions (5.5)].

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

No dose adjustment is needed when montelukast sodium is co-administered with theophylline, prednisone, prednisolone, oral contraceptives, fexofenadine, digoxin, warfarin, gemfibrozil, itraconazole, thyroid hormones, sedative hypnotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, benzodiazepines, decongestants, and Cytochrome P450 (CYP) enzyme inducers [see Clinical Pharmacology (12.3)].

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Risk Summary

Available data from published prospective and retrospective cohort studies over decades with montelukast use in pregnant women have not established a drug-associated risk of major birth defects [see Data]. In animal reproduction studies, no adverse developmental effects were observed with oral administration of montelukast to pregnant rats and rabbits during organogenesis at doses approximately 100 and 110 times, respectively, the maximum recommended human daily oral dose (MRHDOD) based on AUCs [see Data].

The estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage for the indicated population is unknown. All pregnancies have a background risk of birth defect, loss, or other adverse outcomes. In the U.S. general population, the estimated background risk of major birth defects and miscarriage in clinically recognized pregnancies is 2 to 4% and 15 to 20%, respectively.

Clinical Considerations

Disease-associated maternal and/or embryo/fetal risk

Poorly or moderately controlled asthma in pregnancy increases the maternal risk of perinatal adverse outcomes such as pre-eclampsia and infant prematurity, low birth weight, and small for gestational age.

Data

Human Data

Published data from prospective and retrospective cohort studies have not identified an association with montelukast sodium use during pregnancy and major birth defects. Available studies have methodologic limitations, including small sample size, in some cases retrospective data collection, and inconsistent comparator groups.

Animal Data

In embryo-fetal development studies, montelukast administered to pregnant rats and rabbits during organogenesis (gestation days 6 to 17 in rats and 6 to 18 in rabbits) did not cause any adverse developmental effects at maternal oral doses up to 400 and 300 mg/kg/day in rats and rabbits, respectively (approximately 100 and 110 times the AUC in humans at the MRHDOD).

8.2 Lactation



Metabolism

Montelukast is extensively metabolized. In studies with therapeutic doses, plasma concentrations of metabolites of montelukast are undetectable at steady state in adults and pediatric patients.

In vitro studies using human liver microsomes indicate that CYP3A4, 2C8, and 2C9 are involved in the metabolism of montelukast. At clinically relevant concentrations, 2C8 appears to play a major role in the metabolism of montelukast.

Specific Populations

Patients with Hepatic Impairment

Patients with mild-to-moderate hepatic insufficiency and clinical evidence of cirrhosis had evidence of decreased metabolism of montelukast resulting in 41% (90% CI=7%, 85%) higher mean montelukast AUC following a single 10 mg dose. The elimination of montelukast was slightly prolonged compared with that in healthy subjects (mean half-life, 7.4 hours). No dosage adjustment is required in patients with mild-to-moderate hepatic insufficiency. The pharmacokinetics of montelukast sodium in patients with more severe hepatic impairment or with hepatitis have not been evaluated.

Patients with Renal Impairment

Since montelukast and its metabolites are not excreted in the urine, the pharmacokinetics of montelukast were not evaluated in patients with renal insufficiency. No dosage adjustment is recommended in these patients.

Male and Female Patients

The pharmacokinetics of montelukast are similar in males and females.

Racial Groups

Pharmacokinetic differences due to race have not been studied.

Adolescents and Pediatric Patients

Pharmacokinetic studies evaluated the systemic exposure of the 10 mg film-coated tablets in young adults and adolescents ≥ 15 years of age.

The plasma concentration profile of montelukast following administration of the 10 mg film-coated tablet is similar in adolescents ≥ 15 years of age and young adults. The 10 mg film-coated tablet is recommended for use in patients ≥ 15 years of age.

Drug Interaction Studies

Theophylline, Prednisone, and Prednisolone

Montelukast sodium has been administered with other therapies routinely used in the prophylaxis and chronic treatment of asthma with no apparent increase in adverse reactions. In drug-interaction studies, the recommended clinical dose of montelukast did not have clinically important effects on the pharmacokinetics of the following drugs: theophylline, prednisone, and prednisolone.

Montelukast at a dose of 10 mg once daily dosed to pharmacokinetic steady state, did not cause clinically significant changes in the kinetics of a single intravenous dose of theophylline (predominantly a cytochrome P450 (CYP) 1A2 substrate). Montelukast at doses of ≥ 100 mg daily dosed to pharmacokinetic steady state, did not cause any clinically significant change in plasma profiles of prednisone or prednisolone following administration of either oral prednisone or intravenous prednisolone.

Oral Contraceptives, Fexofenadine, Diploxin, and Warfarin

In drug interaction studies, the recommended clinical dose of montelukast did not have clinically important effects on the pharmacokinetics of the following drugs: oral contraceptives (norethindrone 1 mg/ethinyl estradiol 35 mcg), diploxin, and warfarin. Montelukast at doses of ≥ 100 mg daily dosed to pharmacokinetic steady state did not significantly alter the plasma concentrations of either component of an oral contraceptive containing norethindrone 1 mg/ethinyl estradiol 35 mcg. Montelukast at a dose of 10 mg once daily dosed to pharmacokinetic steady state did not change the plasma concentration profile of fexofenadine, did not change the pharmacokinetic profile or urinary excretion of immunoreactive diploxin, did not change the pharmacokinetic profile of warfarin (primarily a substrate of CYP2C9, 3A4 and 1A2) or influence the effect of a single 30-mg oral dose of warfarin on prothrombin time or the International Normalized Ratio (INR).

Thyroid Hormones, Sedative Hypnotics, Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Agents, Benzodiazepines, and Decongestants

Although additional specific interaction studies were not performed, montelukast sodium was used concomitantly with a wide range of commonly prescribed drugs in clinical studies without evidence of clinical adverse interactions. These medications included thyroid hormones, sedative hypnotics, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, benzodiazepines, and decongestants.

Cytochrome P450 (CYP) Enzyme Inducers

Phenobarbital, which induces hepatic metabolism, decreased the area under the plasma concentration curve (AUC) of montelukast approximately 40% following a single 10 mg dose of montelukast. No dosage adjustment for montelukast sodium is recommended. It is reasonable to employ appropriate clinical monitoring when potent CYP enzyme inducers, such as phenobarbital or rifampin, are co-administered with montelukast sodium.

Effect of Montelukast on Cytochrome P450 (CYP) Enzymes

Montelukast is a potent inhibitor of CYP2C8 *in vitro*. However, data from a clinical drug-drug interaction study involving montelukast and rosiglitazone (a probe substrate representative of drugs primarily metabolized by CYP2C8) in 12 healthy individuals demonstrated that the pharmacokinetics of rosiglitazone were not altered when the drugs are co-administered, indicating that montelukast does not inhibit CYP2C8 *in vivo*. Therefore, montelukast is not anticipated to alter the metabolism of drugs metabolized by this enzyme (e.g., paclitaxel, rosiglitazone, and repaglinide). Based on further *in vitro* results in human liver microsomes, therapeutic plasma concentrations of montelukast do not inhibit CYP 3A4, 2C9, 1A2, 2A6, 2C19, or 2D6.

Cytochrome P450 (CYP) Enzyme Inhibitors

In vitro studies have shown that montelukast is a substrate of CYP 2C8, 2C9, and 3A4. Co-administration of montelukast with itraconazole, a strong CYP 3A4 inhibitor, resulted in no significant increase in the systemic exposure of montelukast. Data from a clinical drug interaction study involving montelukast and gemfibrozil (an inhibitor of both CYP 2C8 and 2C9) demonstrated that gemfibrozil, at a therapeutic dose, increased the systemic exposure of montelukast by 4.4-fold. Co-administration of itraconazole, gemfibrozil, and montelukast did not further increase the systemic exposure of montelukast. Based on available clinical experience, no dosage adjustment of montelukast is required upon co-administration with gemfibrozil [see *Overdosage* (10)].

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

No evidence of tumorigenicity was seen in carcinogenicity studies of either 2 years in Sprague-Dawley rats or 92 weeks in mice at oral gavage doses up to 200 mg/kg/day or 100 mg/kg/day, respectively. The estimated exposure in rats was approximately 120 and 75 times the AUC for adults and children, respectively, at the maximum recommended daily oral dose. The estimated exposure in mice was approximately 45 and 25 times the AUC for adults and children, respectively, at the maximum recommended daily oral dose.

Montelukast demonstrated no evidence of mutagenic or clastogenic activity in the following assays: the microbial mutagenesis assay, the V-79 mammalian cell mutagenesis assay, the alkaline elution assay in rat hepatocytes, the chromosomal aberration assay in Chinese hamster ovary cells, and in the *in vivo* mouse bone marrow chromosomal aberration assay.

In fertility studies in female rats, montelukast produced reductions in fertility and fecundity indices at an oral dose of 200 mg/kg (estimated exposure was approximately 70 times the AUC for adults at the maximum recommended daily oral dose). No effects on female fertility or fecundity were observed at an oral dose of 100 mg/kg (estimated exposure was approximately 20 times the AUC for adults at the maximum recommended daily oral dose). Montelukast had no effects on fertility in male rats at oral doses up to 800 mg/kg (estimated exposure was approximately 160 times the AUC for adults at the maximum recommended daily oral dose).

14 CLINICAL STUDIES

14.1 Asthma

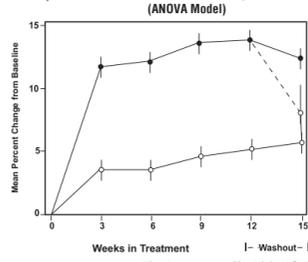
Adults and Adolescents 15 Years of Age and Older with Asthma

Clinical trials in adults and adolescents 15 years of age and older demonstrated there is no additional clinical benefit to montelukast doses above 10 mg once daily.

The efficacy of montelukast sodium for the chronic treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents 15 years of age and older was demonstrated in two (U.S. and Multinational) similarly designed, randomized, 12-week, double-blind, placebo-controlled trials in 1578 patients (795 treated with montelukast sodium, 530 treated with placebo, and 251 treated with active control). The median age was 33 years (range 15 to 85); 56.8% were females and 43.2% were males. The ethnic/racial distribution in these studies was 71.6% Caucasian, 17.7% Hispanic, 7.2% other origins and 3.5% Black. Patients had mild or moderate asthma and were non-smokers who required approximately 5 puffs of inhaled β -agonist per day on an "as-needed" basis. The patients had a mean baseline percent of predicted forced expiratory volume in 1 second (FEV₁) of 66% (approximate range, 40 to 90%). The co-primary endpoints in these trials were FEV₁ and daytime asthma symptoms. In both studies after 12 weeks, a random subset of patients receiving montelukast sodium was switched to placebo for an additional 3 weeks of double-blind treatment to evaluate for possible rebound effects.

The results of the U.S. trial on the primary endpoint, morning FEV₁, expressed as mean percent change from baseline averaged over the 12-week treatment period, are shown in FIGURE 2. Compared with placebo, treatment with one montelukast sodium 10 mg tablet daily in the evening resulted in a statistically significant increase in FEV₁, percent change from baseline (13.0%-change in the group treated with montelukast sodium vs. 4.2%-change in the placebo group, p<0.001); the change from baseline in FEV₁ for montelukast sodium was 0.32 liters compared with 0.10 liters for placebo, corresponding to a between-group difference of 0.22 liters (p<0.001, 95% CI 0.17 liters, 0.27 liters). The results of the Multinational trial on FEV₁ were similar.

Figure 2: FEV₁ Mean Percent Change from Baseline (U.S. Trial: Montelukast sodium N=406; Placebo N=270) (ANOVA Model)



The effect of montelukast sodium on other primary and secondary endpoints, represented by the Multinational study is shown in TABLE 6. Results on these endpoints were similar in the US study.

Table 6: Effect of Montelukast Sodium on Primary and Secondary Endpoints in a Multinational Placebo-controlled Trial (ANOVA Model)

Endpoint	Montelukast sodium			Placebo		
	N	Baseline	Mean Change from Baseline	N	Baseline	Mean Change from Baseline
Daytime Asthma Symptoms (0 to 6 scale)	372	2.35	-0.49*	245	2.40	-0.26
β -agonist (puffs per day)	371	5.35	-1.65*	241	5.78	-0.42
AM PEFR (L/min)	372	339.57	25.03*	244	335.24	1.83
PM PEFR (L/min)	372	355.23	20.13*	244	354.02	-0.49
Nocturnal Awakenings (#/week)	285	5.46	-2.03*	195	5.57	-0.78

* p<0.001, compared with placebo

Both studies evaluated the effect of montelukast sodium on secondary outcomes, including asthma attack (utilization of health-care resources such as an unscheduled visit to a doctor's office, emergency room, hospital, or treatment with oral, intravenous, or intramuscular corticosteroid), and use of oral corticosteroids for asthma rescue. In the Multinational study, significantly fewer patients (15.6% of patients) on montelukast sodium experienced asthma attacks compared with patients on placebo (27.3%, p<0.001). In the US study, 7.8% of patients on montelukast sodium and 10.3% of patients on placebo experienced asthma attacks, but the difference between the two treatment groups was not significant (p=0.334). In the Multinational study, significantly fewer patients (14.8% of patients) on montelukast sodium were prescribed oral corticosteroids for asthma rescue compared with patients on placebo (25.7%, p<0.001). In the US study, 6.9% of patients on montelukast sodium and 9.9% of patients on placebo were prescribed oral corticosteroids for asthma rescue, but the difference between the two treatment groups was not significant (p=0.196).

Onset of Action and Maintenance of Effects

In each placebo-controlled trial in adults, the treatment effect of montelukast sodium, measured by daily diary card parameters, including symptom scores, "as-needed" β -agonist use, and PEFR measurements, was achieved after the first dose and was maintained throughout the dosing interval (24 hours). No significant change in treatment effect was observed during continuous once-daily evening administration in non-placebo-controlled extension trials for up to one year. Withdrawal of montelukast sodium in asthmatic patients after 12 weeks of continuous use did not cause rebound worsening of asthma.

Effects in Patients on Concomitant Inhaled Corticosteroids

Separate trials in adults evaluated the ability of montelukast sodium to add to the clinical effect of inhaled corticosteroids and to allow inhaled corticosteroid tapering when used concomitantly.

One randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group trial (n=226) enrolled adults with stable asthma with a mean FEV₁ of approximately 84% of predicted who were previously maintained on various inhaled corticosteroids (delivered by metered-dose aerosol or dry powder inhalers). The median age was 41.5 years (range 16 to 70); 52.2% were females and 47.8% were males. The ethnic/racial distribution in this study was 92.0% Caucasian, 3.5% Black, 2.2% Hispanic, and 2.2% Asian. The types of inhaled corticosteroids and their mean baseline requirements included beclomethasone dipropionate (mean dose, 1203 mcg/day), triamcinolone acetonide (mean dose, 2004 mcg/day), fluticasone (mean dose, 1971 mcg/day), fluticasone propionate (mean dose, 1083 mcg/day), or budesonide (mean dose, 1192 mcg/day). Some of these inhaled corticosteroids were non-U.S.-approved formulations, and doses expressed may not be ex-actuator. The pre-study inhaled corticosteroid requirements were reduced by approximately 37% during a 5- to 7-week placebo run-in period designed to titrate patients toward their lowest effective inhaled corticosteroid dose. Treatment with montelukast sodium resulted in a further 47% reduction in mean inhaled corticosteroid dose compared with a mean reduction of 30% in the placebo group over the 12-week active treatment period (p<0.05). It is not known whether the results of this study can be generalized to patients with asthma who require higher doses of inhaled corticosteroids or systemic corticosteroids.

In another randomized, placebo-controlled, parallel-group trial (n=642) in a similar population of adult patients previously maintained, but not adequately controlled, on inhaled corticosteroids (beclomethasone 336 mcg/day), the addition of montelukast sodium to beclomethasone resulted in statistically significant improvements in FEV₁ compared with those patients who were continued on beclomethasone alone or those patients who were withdrawn from beclomethasone and treated with montelukast or placebo alone over the last 10 weeks of the 16-week, blinded treatment period. Patients who were randomized to treatment arms containing beclomethasone had statistically significantly better asthma control than those patients randomized to montelukast sodium alone or placebo alone as indicated by FEV₁, daytime asthma symptoms, PEFR, nocturnal awakenings due to asthma, and "as-needed" β -agonist requirements.

In adult patients with asthma with documented aspirin sensitivity, nearly all of whom were receiving concomitant inhaled and/or oral corticosteroids, a 4-week, randomized, parallel-group trial (n=80) demonstrated that montelukast sodium, compared with placebo, resulted in significant improvement in parameters of asthma control. The magnitude of effect of montelukast sodium in aspirin-sensitive patients was similar to the effect observed in the general population of asthma patients studied. The effect of montelukast sodium on the bronchoconstrictor response to aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs in aspirin-sensitive asthmatic patients has not been evaluated [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.4)].

14.2 Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (EIB)

Exercise-Induced Bronchoconstriction (Adults and Adolescents 15 years of age and older)

The efficacy of montelukast sodium, 10 mg, when given as a single dose 2 hours before exercise for the prevention of EIB was investigated in three (U.S. and Multinational), randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled crossover studies that included a total of 160 adult and adolescent patients 15 years of age and older with EIB. Exercise challenge testing was conducted at 2 hours, 8.5 or 12 hours, and 24 hours following administration of a single dose of study drug (montelukast sodium 10 mg or placebo). The primary endpoint was the mean maximum percent fall in FEV₁ following the 2 hours post-dose exercise challenge in all three studies (Study A, Study B, and Study C). In Study A, a single dose of montelukast sodium 10 mg demonstrated a statistically significant protective benefit against EIB when taken 2 hours prior to exercise. Some patients were protected from EIB at 8.5 and 24 hours after administration; however, some patients were not. The results for the mean maximum percent fall at each timepoint in Study A are shown in TABLE 7 and are representative of the results from the other two studies.

Table 7: Mean Maximum Percent Fall in FEV₁ Following Exercise Challenge in Study A (N=47) ANOVA Model

Time of exercise challenge following medication administration	Mean Maximum percent fall in FEV ₁ *		Treatment difference % for Montelukast sodium versus Placebo (95% CI)*
	Montelukast sodium	Placebo	
2 hours	13	22	-9 (-12, -5)
8.5 hours	12	17	-5 (-9, -2)
24 hours	10	14	-4 (-7, -1)

*Least squares-mean

Daily administration of montelukast sodium for the chronic treatment of asthma has not been established to prevent acute episodes of EIB.

In a 12-week, randomized, double-blind, parallel group study of 110 adult and adolescent asthmatics 15 years of age and older, with a mean baseline FEV₁ percent of predicted of 83% and with documented exercise-induced exacerbation of asthma, treatment with montelukast sodium, 10 mg, once daily in the evening, resulted in a statistically significant reduction in mean maximum percent fall in FEV₁ and mean time to recovery to within 5% of the pre-exercise FEV₁. Exercise challenge was conducted at the end of the dosing interval (i.e., 20 to 24 hours after the preceding dose). This effect was maintained throughout the 12-week treatment period indicating that tolerance did not occur. Montelukast sodium did not, however, prevent clinically significant deterioration in maximal percent fall in FEV₁ after exercise (i.e., $\geq 20\%$ decrease from pre-exercise baseline) in 52% of patients studied. In a separate crossover study in adults, a similar effect was observed after two once-daily 10 mg doses of montelukast sodium.

14.3 Allergic Rhinitis (Seasonal and Perennial)

Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis

The efficacy of montelukast sodium tablets for the treatment of seasonal allergic rhinitis was investigated in 5 similarly designed, randomized, double-blind, parallel-group, placebo- and active-controlled (loratadine) trials conducted in North America. The 5 trials enrolled a total of 6029 patients, of whom 1799 were treated with montelukast sodium tablets. Patients were 15 to 82 years of age with a history of seasonal allergic rhinitis, a positive skin test to at least one relevant seasonal allergen, and active symptoms of seasonal allergic rhinitis at study entry.

The period of randomized treatment was 2 weeks in 4 trials and 4 weeks in one trial. The primary outcome variable was mean change from baseline in daytime nasal symptoms score (the average of individual scores of nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, nasal itching, sneezing) as assessed by patients on a 0 to 3 categorical scale.

Four of the five trials showed a significant reduction in daytime nasal symptoms scores with montelukast sodium 10 mg tablets compared with placebo. The results of one trial are shown below. The median age in this trial was 35.0 years (range 15 to 81); 65.4% were females and 34.6% were males. The ethnic/racial distribution in this study was 83.1% Caucasian, 6.4% other origins, 5.8% Black, and 4.8% Hispanic. The mean changes from baseline in daytime nasal symptoms score in the treatment groups that received montelukast sodium tablets, loratadine, and placebo are shown in TABLE 9. The remaining three trials that demonstrated efficacy showed similar results. Efficacy was demonstrated for seasonal allergic rhinitis when montelukast was administered in the morning or the evening.

Table 9: Effects of Montelukast Sodium on Daytime Nasal Symptoms Score* in a Placebo- and Active-controlled Trial in Patients with Seasonal Allergic Rhinitis (ANCOVA Model)

Treatment Group (N)	Baseline Mean Score	Mean Change from Baseline	Difference Between Treatment and Placebo (95% CI) Least-Squares Mean
Montelukast Sodium 10 mg (344)	2.09	-0.39	-0.13 [†] (-0.21, -0.06)
Placebo (351)	2.10	-0.26	N.A.
Active Control [‡] (Loratadine 10 mg) (599)	2.06	-0.46	-0.24 [†] (-0.31, -0.17)

* Average of individual scores of nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, nasal itching, sneezing as assessed by patients on a 0 to 3 categorical scale.

[†] Statistically different from placebo (p<0.001).

[‡] The study was not designed for statistical comparison between montelukast sodium and the active control (loratadine).

Perennial Allergic Rhinitis

The efficacy of montelukast sodium tablets for the treatment of perennial allergic rhinitis was investigated in 2 randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled studies conducted in North America and Europe. The two studies enrolled a total of 3357 patients, of whom 1632 received montelukast sodium 10 mg tablets. Patients 15 to 82 years of age with perennial allergic rhinitis as confirmed by history and a positive skin test to at least one relevant perennial allergen (dust mites, animal dander, and/or mold spores), who had active symptoms at the time of study entry, were enrolled.

In the study in which efficacy was demonstrated, the median age was 35 years (range 15 to 81); 64.1% were females and 35.9% were males. The ethnic/racial distribution in this study was 83.2% Caucasian, 8.1% Black, 5.4% Hispanic, 2.3% Asian, and 1.0% other origins. Montelukast sodium 10 mg tablets once daily was shown to significantly reduce symptoms of perennial allergic rhinitis over a 6-week treatment period (TABLE 10); in this study the primary outcome variable was mean change from baseline in daytime nasal symptoms score (the average of individual scores of nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, and sneezing).

Table 10: Effects of Montelukast Sodium on Daytime Nasal Symptoms Score* in a Placebo-controlled Trial in Patients with Perennial Allergic Rhinitis (ANCOVA Model)

Treatment Group (N)	Baseline Mean Score	Mean Change from Baseline	Difference Between Treatment and Placebo (95% CI) Least-Squares Mean
Montelukast Sodium 10 mg (1000)	2.09	-0.42	-0.08 [†] (-0.12, -0.04)
Placebo (980)	2.10	-0.35	N.A.

* Average of individual scores of nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, sneezing as assessed by patients on a 0 to 3 categorical scale.

[†] Statistically different from placebo (p<0.001).

The other 6-week study evaluated montelukast sodium 10 mg (n=626), placebo (n=609), and an active-control (cetirizine 10 mg; n=120). The primary analysis compared the mean change from baseline in daytime nasal symptoms score for montelukast sodium vs. placebo over the first 4 weeks of treatment; the study was not designed for statistical comparison between montelukast sodium and the active-control. The primary outcome variable included nasal itching in addition to nasal congestion, rhinorrhea, and sneezing. The estimated difference between montelukast sodium and placebo was -0.04 with a 95% CI of (-0.09, 0.01). The estimated difference between the active-control and placebo was -0.10 with a 95% CI of (-0.19, -0.01).

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

Montelukast sodium tablets, USP 10 mg are beige, rounded square-shaped, film-coated tablets debossed with '1' on one side and '114' on the other side. They are supplied as follows:

Bottles of 30 Tablets	NDC 31722-726-30
Bottles of 90 Tablets	NDC 31722-726-90
Bottles of 100 Tablets	NDC 31722-726-01
Bottles of 1000 Tablets	NDC 31722-726-10
Blister Card of 10 Unit-Dose Tablets	NDC 31722-726-31
Blister Pack of 100 (10x10) Unit-Dose Tablets	NDC 31722-726-32

Storage

Store at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature]. Protect from moisture and light. Store in original container. When product container is subdivided, repack into a well-closed, light-resistance container.

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

For the tablets, advise the patient and/or caregiver to read the FDA-approved patient labeling (Medication Guide).

- Advise patients about the potential risk for serious neuropsychiatric symptoms and behavioral changes with montelukast sodium use [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].
- Discuss the benefits and risks of montelukast sodium with patients when prescribing or continuing treatment with montelukast sodium [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].
- Advise patients to monitor for changes in behavior or neuropsychiatric symptoms in patients taking montelukast sodium [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].
- Instruct patients to discontinue montelukast sodium and contact a healthcare provider immediately if changes in behavior or thinking that are not typical for the patient occur, or if the patient develops suicidal

ideation or suicidal behavior [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.1)].

- Advise patients to take montelukast sodium daily as prescribed, even when they are asymptomatic, as well as during periods of worsening asthma, and to contact their physicians if their asthma is not well controlled.
- Advise patients that oral montelukast sodium is not for the treatment of acute asthma attacks. They should have appropriate short-acting inhaled β -agonist medication available to treat asthma exacerbations. Patients who have exacerbations of asthma after exercise should be instructed to have available for rescue a short-acting inhaled β -agonist. Daily administration of montelukast sodium for the chronic treatment of asthma has not been established to prevent acute episodes of EIB [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.2)].
- Advise patients to seek medical attention if short-acting inhaled bronchodilators are needed more often than usual, or if more than the maximum number of inhalations of short-acting bronchodilator treatment prescribed for a 24-hour period are needed.
- Instruct patients to continue other anti-asthma medications as prescribed unless instructed by a physician.
- Instruct patients with known aspirin sensitivity to continue avoidance of aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents while taking montelukast sodium [see *Warnings and Precautions* (5.4)].



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MEDICATION GUIDE Montelukast Sodium Tablets, USP (mon" te loo" kasi soe" dee um)	
What is the most important information I should know about montelukast sodium tablets? Serious mental health problems have happened in people taking montelukast sodium tablets or even after treatment has stopped. This can happen in people with or without a history of mental health problems. Stop taking montelukast sodium tablets and tell your healthcare provider right away if you or your child have any unusual changes in behavior or thinking, including any of these symptoms:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">agitation, including aggressive behavior or hostilityattention problemsbad or vivid dreamsdepressiondisorientation (confusion)feeling anxiousirritability	<ul style="list-style-type: none">hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not really there)memory problemsobsessive-compulsive symptomsrestlessnesssleep walkingstuttering
<ul style="list-style-type: none">suicidal thoughts and actions (including suicide)tremortrouble sleepinguncontrolled muscle movements	
What are montelukast sodium tablets? Montelukast sodium tablets are a prescription medicine that blocks substances in the body called leukotrienes. This may help to improve symptoms of asthma and inflammation of the lining of the nose (allergic rhinitis). Montelukast sodium tablets do not contain a steroid. Montelukast sodium tablets are used to: 1. Prevent asthma attacks and for the long-term treatment of asthma in adults and adolescents ages 15 years and older. 2. Prevent exercise-induced asthma in people 15 years of age and older. 3. Help control the symptoms of allergic rhinitis such as sneezing, stuffy nose, runny nose, and itching of the nose. Montelukast sodium tablets are used to treat the following in people who have already taken other medicines that did not work well enough or in people who could not tolerate other medicines: <ul style="list-style-type: none">outdoor allergies that happen part of the year (seasonal allergic rhinitis) in adults and adolescents ages 15 years and older, andindoor allergies that happen all year (perennial allergic rhinitis) in adults and adolescents ages 15 years and older.	
Do not take montelukast sodium tablets if you are allergic to any of its ingredients. See the end of this Medication Guide for a complete list of the ingredients in montelukast sodium tablets.	
Before taking montelukast sodium tablets, tell your healthcare provider about all your medical conditions, including if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none">are allergic to aspirin.have or have had mental health problems.are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, montelukast sodium tablets may not be right for you.are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. It is not known if montelukast sodium passes into your breast milk. Talk to your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby while taking montelukast sodium tablets.	
Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take, including prescription and over the counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Some medicines may affect how montelukast sodium tablets work, or montelukast sodium tablets may affect how your other medicines work.	
How should I take montelukast sodium tablets? For anyone who takes montelukast sodium tablets: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Take montelukast sodium tablets exactly as prescribed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will tell you how much montelukast sodium tablets to take, and when to take it.Stop taking montelukast sodium tablets and tell your healthcare provider right away if you or your child have any unusual changes in behavior or thinking.You can take montelukast sodium tablets with food or without food.If you or your child misses a dose of montelukast sodium tablets, just take the next dose at your regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.If you take too much montelukast sodium, call your healthcare provider right away.	
For adults and adolescents 15 years of age and older with asthma: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Take montelukast sodium tablets 1 time each day, in the evening. Continue to take montelukast	