

HIGHLIGHTS OF PRESCRIBING INFORMATION

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

GIAZO® (balsalazide disodium) Tablets, for oral use
Initial U.S. Approval: 2000

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

GIAZO is a locally acting aminosalicilate indicated for the treatment of mildly to moderately active ulcerative colitis in male patients 18 years of age and older. (1)

Limitations of Use

- Effectiveness in female patients was not demonstrated in clinical trials. (1)
- Safety and effectiveness of GIAZO beyond 8 weeks have not been established. (1)

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Three 1.1 g GIAZO tablets 2 times a day (6.6 g/day) with or without food for up to 8 weeks. (2)

DOSAGE FORMS AND STRENGTHS

Tablets: 1.1 g (3)

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CONTRAINDICATIONS

Patients with hypersensitivity to salicylates or to any of the components of GIAZO tablets or balsalazide metabolites. (4)

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

- Exacerbation of the symptoms of ulcerative colitis was reported. Observe patients closely for worsening of these symptoms while on treatment. (5.1)
- Renal impairment may occur. Assess renal function at the beginning of treatment and periodically during treatment. (5.2)
- Use with caution with pre-existing liver disease. (5.3)

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Most common adverse reactions (incidence \geq 2%) in male UC patients are anemia, diarrhea, pharyngolaryngeal pain, and urinary tract infection. (6.1)

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Valeant Pharmaceuticals North America LLC at 1-800-321-4576 or FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch.

See 17 for PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION.

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6 ADVERSE REACTIONS

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 practice.

The data described below reflect exposure of GIAZO in 565 ulcerative colitis patients with mildly to moderately active disease. GIAZO was evaluated in one placebo-controlled trial (168 treated with GIAZO), one active-controlled trial (210 treated with GIAZO); and a subset of these patients also participated in an uncontrolled, open-label, extension study (additional 187 treated with GIAZO). The population studied had a mean age of 43.1 (range: 18-80) years; approximately 94% of patients were < 65 years old, 49% were male, and 84% were white.

In the placebo-controlled trial, the most common adverse reactions with GIAZO in male patients were headache, nasopharyngitis, anemia, diarrhea, fatigue, pharyngolaryngeal pain, and urinary tract infection. 10% of patients in the GIAZO group and 13% of patients in the placebo group discontinued treatment due to an adverse reaction. The majority of adverse reactions were mild to moderate in severity. The most common serious adverse reactions in both the placebo and GIAZO groups were gastrointestinal disorders, which were mainly associated with symptoms of ulcerative colitis.

Adverse reactions occurring in at least 2% of male patients and at a rate numerically higher than placebo in the placebo-controlled trial are listed in Table 1.

Table 1: Adverse Reactions Experienced by at Least 2% of GIAZO– Treated Male Patients and at a Rate Numerically Greater than Placebo in a Placebo-Controlled Trial

Adverse Reaction	GIAZO 6.6 g/day N=82	PLACEBO N=37
Anemia	3.7%	0%
Diarrhea	3.7%	0%
Pharyngolaryngeal Pain	3.7%	0%
Urinary Tract Infection	3.7%	0%
Arthralgia	2.4%	0%
Insomnia	2.4%	0%
Musculoskeletal Pain	2.4%	0%

Data collected from all three trials (placebo-controlled, active-controlled, and open-label) showed that female patients reported adverse reactions more frequently than did male patients (76% and 66%, respectively).

The following adverse reactions, presented by body system, were reported by less than 1% of GIAZO-treated ulcerative colitis patients in controlled trials.

Cardiovascular and Vascular: increased blood pressure, increased heart rate

Dermatological: erythema nodosum, rash

Respiratory, Thoracic and Mediastinal Disorders: dyspnea
Gastrointestinal Disorders: abdominal pain, constipation, defecation urgency, diarrhea, dry mouth, hard feces, flatulence, gastroesophageal reflux disease, vomiting
Hepatobiliary Disorders: increased aspartate aminotransferase
Infections and Infestations: gastroenteritis, upper respiratory infection
Musculoskeletal and Connective Tissue Disorders: arthralgia, back pain, myalgia
Nervous System Disorders: dizziness, lethargy
General Disorders and Administrative Site Disorders: face edema, fatigue, malaise, pain, pyrexia, swelling

6.2 Postmarketing Experience

Because these reactions are reported voluntarily from a population of unknown size, it is not always possible to reliably estimate their frequency or establish a causal relationship to drug exposure. These adverse reactions have been chosen for inclusion due to a combination of seriousness, frequency of reporting, or potential causal connection to products which contain or are metabolized to mesalamine, including balsalazide.

Cardiovascular and Vascular: myocarditis, pericarditis, vasculitis

Respiratory: alveolitis, pleural effusion, pneumonia (with and without eosinophilia)

Gastrointestinal: pancreatitis

Renal: interstitial nephritis, renal failure.

Hepatobiliary Disorders: elevated liver enzymes (AST, ALT, GGT, LDH, alkaline phosphatase), elevated bilirubin, jaundice, cholestatic jaundice, cirrhosis, hepatocellular damage including liver necrosis and liver failure, Kawasaki-like syndrome including hepatic dysfunction. Some of these cases were fatal.

Dermatological: alopecia, pruritus

7 DRUG INTERACTIONS

Based on *in vitro* studies, balsalazide and its metabolites [5-aminosalicylic acid (5-ASA), N-acetyl-5-aminosalicylic acid (N-Ac-5-ASA), 4-aminobenzoyl-β-alanine (4-ABA), and N-acetyl-4-aminobenzoyl-β-alanine (N-Ac-4-ABA)] are not expected to inhibit the metabolism of other drugs that are substrates of CYP1A2, CYP2C9, CYP2C19, CYP2D6, or CYP3A4/5.

8 USE IN SPECIFIC POPULATIONS

8.1 Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category B. Reproduction studies were performed in rats and rabbits at oral doses up to 2 g/kg/day, 2.5 and 4.9 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area for the rat and rabbit, respectively, and revealed no evidence of impaired fertility or harm to the fetus due to balsalazide disodium. There are, however, no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, this drug should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Mesalamine, a metabolite of GIAZO, is known to cross the placental barrier.

8.3 Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether balsalazide disodium or its metabolites are excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when GIAZO is administered to a nursing woman.

8.4 Pediatric Use

Safety and effectiveness of GIAZO in pediatric patients have not been established.

8.5 Geriatric Use

Reports from uncontrolled clinical studies and postmarketing reporting systems suggested a higher incidence of blood dyscrasias, i.e., neutropenia and pancytopenia, in patients who were 65 years or older who were taking mesalamine-containing products. GIAZO is converted into mesalamine in the colon. Caution should be taken to closely monitor blood cell counts during therapy.

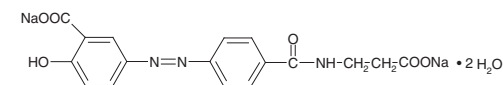
Clinical trials of GIAZO did not include sufficient numbers of subjects aged 65 and over to determine whether they respond differently than younger subjects. Other reported clinical experience has not identified differences in responses between elderly and younger patients. In general, the greater frequency of decreased hepatic, renal, or cardiac function, and of concomitant disease or other drug therapy in elderly patients should be considered when prescribing GIAZO.

10 OVERDOSAGE

No case of overdose has been reported with GIAZO. GIAZO is an aminosalicilate, and symptoms of salicylate toxicity include: hematemesis, tachypnea, hyperpnea, tinnitus, deafness, lethargy, seizures, confusion, or dyspnea. Severe intoxication may lead to electrolyte and blood pH imbalance and potentially to other organ (e.g., renal and liver) involvement. There is no specific antidote for balsalazide overdose. Proper medical care should be sought immediately with appropriate supportive care, including the possible use of emesis, cathartics, and activated charcoal to prevent further absorption.

11 DESCRIPTION

Each GIAZO tablet contains 1.1 g of balsalazide disodium, an orally available prodrug that is enzymatically cleaved to produce mesalamine (5-aminosalicylic acid, 5-ASA), an anti-inflammatory drug. Balsalazide disodium has the chemical name (E)-5-[[[4-[(2-carboxyethyl) amino]carbonyl] phenyl]azo]-2-hydroxybenzoic acid, disodium salt, dihydrate. Its structural formula is:



Molecular Weight: 437.32

Molecular Formula: C₁₇H₁₃N₃O₈Na₂•2H₂O

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Giazo

Balsalazide disodium is a stable, odorless, orange to yellow, microcrystalline powder. It is insoluble in acid, but soluble at a pH of at least 4.5. It is freely soluble in water and isotonic saline, sparingly soluble in methanol and ethanol, and practically insoluble in all other organic solvents.

Inactive Ingredients: Each tablet contains hypromellose, magnesium stearate, and Opadry II Yellow. The sodium content of each tablet is approximately 126 mg.

12 CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

12.1 Mechanism of Action

Balsalazide is a prodrug of mesalamine (5-aminosalicylic acid, 5-ASA). The mechanism of action of 5-ASA is unknown, but appears to be local to the colonic mucosa rather than systemic. Mucosal production of arachidonic acid metabolites, both through the cyclooxygenase pathways, i.e., prostanooids, and through the lipoxygenase pathways, i.e., leukotrienes and hydroxyeicosatetraenoic acids, is increased in patients with ulcerative colitis, and it is possible that 5-ASA diminishes inflammation by blocking production of arachidonic acid metabolites in the colon.

12.3 Pharmacokinetics

Following oral administration, balsalazide is cleaved by azoreductases produced by anaerobic bacteria found in the gut, to release equimolar quantities of 5-ASA, the active moiety, and 4-aminobenzoyl-β-alanine (4-ABA), a carrier moiety. Both of these moieties are N-acetylated to form N-Ac-5-ASA and N-Ac-4-ABA, respectively.

Absorption

After single-dose administration of 3.3 g GIAZO in 18 healthy subjects, the median time of peak plasma concentration (T_{max}) was 0.5 hr for balsalazide, while the median T_{max} was 12 hr for both 5-ASA and N-Ac-5-ASA (Table 2). Pharmacokinetic parameters exhibited high variability, with %CV ranging from 31% to 67% for AUC and from 27% to 68% for C_{max} .

Pharmacokinetics were also estimated in healthy volunteers after repeated doses of 3.3 g GIAZO tablets every 12 hours for 7 days. After multiple doses, steady-state was achieved after about 3 days for balsalazide and all metabolites. The AUC and C_{max} were the highest for N-Ac-5-ASA, followed by 5-ASA and balsalazide. There was minimal accumulation of balsalazide, as suggested by a 1.2-fold increase in AUC; however, a relatively larger increase in the systemic exposure to metabolites was observed at steady-state. The accumulation ratios based on AUC for the metabolites were 6.1 for 5-ASA, 3.6 for N-Ac-5-ASA, 4.8 for 4-ABA, and 3.6 for N-Ac-4-ABA.

Table 2: Pharmacokinetic Parameters for Balsalazide and Metabolites (5-ASA and N-Ac-5-ASA) Following Single- and Repeated-Doses (Q12) of 3.3 g Balsalazide Disodium as GIAZO (N=18)

Parameter	Single Dose		Repeated Dose	
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD
C_{max} (mcg/mL)				
Balsalazide	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.2
5-ASA	0.5	0.3	1.5	0.6
N-Ac-5-ASA	1.2	0.4	2.2	0.6
T_{max}^a (hours)				
Balsalazide	0.5	(0.5-2)	0.5	(0.5-2)
5-ASA	12	(8-16)	12	(1.5-16)
N-Ac-5-ASA	12	(8-16)	10	(1-16)
AUC_{tau} (mcg•h/mL)				
Balsalazide	1.3	0.7	1.6	0.9
5-ASA	2.2	1.6	13.4	6.3
N-Ac-5-ASA	5.9	2.9	21	6.4
AUC_{0-∞} (mcg•h/mL)				
Balsalazide	1.4	0.8	NA	NA
5-ASA	8.5	3.9	NA	NA
N-Ac-5-ASA	33.5	14.1	NA	NA
$T_{1/2}$^b (hour)				
Balsalazide	1.9	0.7	8.4	12.4
5-ASA	9.5 ^b	10.1	9.0	8.6
N-Ac-5-ASA	10.4 ^b	17.6	7.2	6.8

a Expressed as median and range.

b N=17

Food effect

After administration of single dose of 3.3 g (3 × 1.1 g tablets) of GIAZO with a high-fat meal in healthy volunteers, the AUC of balsalazide was unaffected compared to fasted administration, but the presence of food reduced both peak concentrations and AUC of the metabolites 5-ASA and N-Ac-5-ASA. A high fat meal increased the median T_{max} for balsalazide from 0.5 to 2 hours; for 5-ASA from 12 to 24 hours; and for N-Ac-5-ASA from 12 to 24 hours. Under fed conditions, the mean C_{max} was reduced by 44% for balsalazide, 65% for 5-ASA, and 48% for N-Ac-5-ASA. No significant changes were observed for AUC_{0-∞} for balsalazide; however, AUC_{0-∞} was reduced for 5-ASA by 46% and for N-Ac-5-ASA by 17%.

Distribution

The binding of balsalazide to human plasma proteins was ≥ 99%; 5-ASA and N-Ac-5-ASA were 43% and 78% bound, respectively, to plasma proteins.

Metabolism and Excretion

Following oral administration, balsalazide is cleaved by bacterial azoreduction to release equimolar quantities of 5-ASA, the active moiety, and 4-ABA, a carrier moiety. Mesalamine (5-ASA) and 4-ABA are further acetylated to N-Ac-5-ASA and N-Ac-4-ABA, respectively in the intestinal mucosa and liver. The terminal half-life was 1.9 h for balsalazide, 9.5 h for 5-ASA, and 10.5 h for N-Ac-5-ASA.

At steady-state following administration of repeated doses of 3.3 g GIAZO every 12 hours in healthy volunteers, the combined % of dose excreted in urine for balsalazide and its metabolites over 12 hours was 23%. The mean % of dose excreted in urine over 12 hours was 0.16% for balsalazide, 4.6% for 5-ASA, 15.6% for N-Ac-5-ASA, 0.40% for 4-ABA, and 1.8% for N-Ac-4-ABA.

13 NONCLINICAL TOXICOLOGY

13.1 Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

In a 24-month rat (Sprague Dawley) carcinogenicity study, oral (dietary) balsalazide disodium at doses up to 2 g/kg/day was not tumorigenic. For a 50 kg person of average height this dose represents 2.5 times the recommended human dose on a body surface area basis. Balsalazide disodium was not genotoxic in the following *in vitro* or *in vivo* tests: Ames test, human lymphocyte chromosomal aberration test, and mouse lymphoma cell (L5178Y/TK+/-) forward mutation test, or mouse micronucleus test. However, it was genotoxic in the *in vitro* Chinese hamster lung cell (CH V79/HGPRT) forward mutation test.

The compound 4-aminobenzoyl-β-alanine, a metabolite of balsalazide disodium, was not genotoxic in the Ames test and the mouse lymphoma cell (L5178Y/TK+/-) forward mutation test but was positive in the human lymphocyte chromosomal aberration test. N-acetyl-4-aminobenzoyl-β-alanine, a conjugated metabolite of balsalazide disodium, was not genotoxic in Ames test, the mouse lymphoma cell (L5178Y/TK+/-) forward mutation test, or the human lymphocyte chromosomal aberration test. Balsalazide disodium at oral doses up to 2 g/kg/day, 2.5 times the recommended human dose based on body surface area, was found to have no effect on fertility and reproductive performance in rats.

14 CLINICAL TRIALS

14.1 Ulcerative Colitis

A double-blind, placebo-controlled, multi-center trial was conducted in 250 adult patients with mildly to moderately active ulcerative colitis. The trial population was primarily white (84%), had a mean age of 44 years (7% age 65 years or older), and 49% were men. Disease activity was assessed using a modified Mayo Disease Activity Index¹ (MMDAI), which was a sum of four subscores (bowel frequency, rectal bleeding, endoscopic appearance, and physician's global assessment), each ranging from 0 to 3, with higher scores indicating worse disease. The median baseline MMDAI score was 8 and the median baseline rectal bleeding subscore was 2. Patients were randomized 2:1 to receive 8 weeks of treatment with either GIAZO 3.3 g twice daily or placebo.

The primary efficacy endpoint was the proportion of patients that achieved clinical improvement and improvement in the rectal bleeding subscale of the MMDAI at the end of 8 weeks of treatment. Clinical Improvement was defined as having both a ≥ 3 point improvement from baseline in the MMDAI score and a ≥ 1 point improvement from baseline in the rectal bleeding subscore. Two key secondary efficacy endpoints were the proportion of patients with Clinical Remission and Mucosal Healing at the end of 8 weeks of treatment. Clinical Remission was defined as a score of 0 for rectal bleeding and a combined score of ≤ 2 for bowel frequency and physician's assessment using the MMDAI subscale; the endoscopic subscore was not considered in this definition. Mucosal Healing was defined as an endoscopy/sigmoidoscopy score of 0 or 1, where a score of 1 could include signs of erythema or decreased vascular pattern; by definition, the presence of friability indicated a score of 2 or 3.

After 8 weeks of treatment, the proportion of patients who met the definition of Clinical Improvement was greater for the GIAZO-treated group compared to the placebo group (Table 3).

Table 3: Proportion of Patients with Clinical Improvement* at Week 8 for the Total Population and by Gender Subgroups

	GIAZO	Placebo	p-value
Total Population	55%	40%	0.0237
Males	57%	20%	
Females	54%	58%	

* Clinical Improvement: ≥ 3 improvement in MMDAI score and ≥ 1 point improvement in rectal bleeding.

These differences were statistically significant in the overall population; however, these effects were entirely driven by the results in the male subpopulation. With adjustment for multiplicity, statistically significant differences were also seen in the male patients for Clinical Remission (35% with GIAZO vs. 13% for placebo) and for Mucosal Healing (52% with GIAZO vs. 20% for placebo). Effectiveness of GIAZO was not demonstrated in the female subpopulation in the clinical trial.

15 REFERENCES

- Schroeder KW, Tremaine WJ, Ilstrup DM. Coated oral 5-aminosalicylic acid therapy for mild to moderately active ulcerative colitis: a randomized study. *N Engl J Med.* 1987;317:1625-9.

16 HOW SUPPLIED/STORAGE AND HANDLING

How Supplied

GIAZO is available as oval, yellow, film-coated tablets containing 1.1 g balsalazide disodium, with BZT debossed on one side of the tablet.

Bottles of 180 Tablets NDC 65649-102-02

Storage

Store at 20° to 25°C (68° to 77°F); excursions permitted between 15° and 30°C (59° and 86°F) [see USP Controlled Room Temperature].

17 PATIENT COUNSELING INFORMATION

- Instruct patients not to take GIAZO if they have a hypersensitivity to salicylates (e.g., aspirin).
- Instruct patients to take GIAZO with or without food.
- Advise patients who need to control sodium intake that the recommended dosing of GIAZO (6.6 g/day) provides about 756 mg of sodium per day.
- Instruct patients to contact their health care provider if they experience a worsening of their ulcerative colitis symptoms, because it could be due to a reaction to GIAZO.
- Instruct patients to make sure they let their health care provider know:
 - If they have or are later diagnosed with renal dysfunction. Damage to the kidney has been observed in some people given medications similar to GIAZO.
 - If they have or are later diagnosed with liver disease. Worsening liver disease has been observed in some people given medications similar to GIAZO.

Manufactured for:

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