**Brinzolamide ophthalmic suspension**  
(brin-ZOH-lah-myd)

**CLASSIFICATION(S):** Antiglaucoma drug  
**PREGNANCY CATEGORY: C**  
**Rx:** Azopt.

**USES**  
(1) Treat elevated IOP in ocular hypertension or open-angle glaucoma in adults and children over 2 years of age.  
(2) Prevent postoperative increase in IOP in clients undergoing argon laser trabeculoplasty.

**ACTION/KINETICS**

**Action**  
Inhibits carbonic hydrase in the ciliary processes of the eye, thus decreasing aqueous humor production and reducing intraocular pressure (IOP).

**Pharmacokinetics**  
Is absorbed into the systemic circulation following ocular use. It can then distribute to RBCs. Eliminated unchanged mainly through the urine.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**  
Use in severe renal impairment (C\textsubscript{CR} less than 30 mL/min). Concomitant use with oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.

**SPECIAL CONCERNS**  
- Is a sulfonamide; thus, similar side effects can occur.  
- Use with caution in hepatic impairment.  
- Safety and efficacy not determined in children.

**SIDE EFFECTS**

**Most Common**  
- Blurred vision; bitter, sour, or unusual taste.

**Ophthalmic:** Blurred vision following dosing, blepharitis, dry eye, foreign body sensation, hyperemia, ocular discharge, ocular discomfort, ocular keratitis, ocular pain, ocular pruritus, rhinitis, conjunctivitis, diplopia, eye fatigue, keratoconjunctivitis, keratopathy, lid margin crusting or sticky sensation, tearing, hypertonia.  
**GI:** Bitter, sour, or unusual taste; nausea, diarrhea, dry mouth, dyspepsia.  
**CNS:** Headache, dizziness, somnolence (especially in children).  
**Miscellaneous:** Dermatitis, allergic reactions, alopecia, chest pain, dyspnea, kidney pain, pharyngitis, urticaria.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS**  
Possible additive effects with oral carbonic anhydrase inhibitors.

**HOW SUPPLIED**  
Ophthalmic Suspension: 1%.

**DOSAGE—**

**OPHTHALMIC SUSPENSION**  
**Increased IOP:**  
1 gtt in the affected eye(s) three times per day.

**NURSING CONSIDERATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATION/STORAGE**  
1. Shake well before use.  
2. May be used with other topical ophthalmic products to lower IOP. If more than one topical drug is used, give drugs at least 10 min apart.  

**ASSESSMENT**  
1. List ophthalmic findings; ensure ocular routine screenings and document pressures.  
2. Note other agents trialed/outcome; assess for sulfonamide sensitivity.  
3. Obtain renal and LFTs; do not use with severe impairment.

**CLIENT/FAMILY TEACHING**  
1. Used to lower eye pressures. Shake well, wash hands, before/after and administer as directed. If other agents prescribed, wait at least 10 min before using next agent.  
2. Tilt head back, look up and pull lower eyelid down. Instill drops as prescribed. Close eye for 1 to 2 min and apply gentle pressure to bridge of nose for 3 to 5 min; do not rub eye. Do not permit tip of container to touch the eye or surrounding structures; contamination may occur.  
3. Use care operating machinery/car; may temporarily blur vision after dosing.  
4. Report any S&S of infection, eye trauma, or surgery. May experience blurred vision and taste abnormalities (bitter, sour, or unusual taste); report if persistent.
5. Benzalkonium chloride, the preservative in the product, may be absorbed by soft contact lenses. Remove lenses during administration; wait 15 min to reinsert.

6. Keep all F/U to assess response, pressures, and for adverse SE.

OUTCOMES/EVALUATE
\[ \text{iOp} \]

IOPreinsert.