

CALCIGARD

(Nifedipine capsules U.S.P., 5 mg & 10 mg)

Calcigard (nifedipine), a dihydropyridine derivative is a specific and potent calcium channel blocker.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY :

Calcigard antagonises calcium influx through the slow channel of the cell membrane in cardiac and smooth muscle of blood vessels. The main action of Calcigard is to relax arterial smooth muscle both in the coronary and peripheral circulation. In angina pectoris, Calcigard capsules relax peripheral arteries and reduce the afterload of the left ventricle. Additionally Calcigard dilates submaximally both normal and atherosclerotic coronary arteries, thus protecting the heart against coronary artery spasm and improving perfusion to the ischaemic myocardium.

Calcigard causes a reduction in blood pressure such that the percentage lowering of blood pressure is directly related to its initial height. In normotensive individuals Calcigard has little or no effect on blood pressure.

Nifedipine is rapidly and fully absorbed after oral administration. Peak plasma levels occur in approximately 30 minutes. It is highly bound to serum proteins. Nifedipine is extensively converted to inactive metabolites and approximately 80% nifedipine and metabolites are eliminated via the kidney. The half-life of nifedipine in plasma is approximately two hours.

INDICATIONS :

Calcigard is indicated for the treatment of hypertensive crises and in the treatment of angina pectoris (especially resistant to the nitrates).

CONTRAINDICATIONS :

Calcigard is contraindicated in patients with known hypersensitivity to this drug and in patients with poor cardiac reserve and low systolic BP (less than 90 mm Hg)

PRECAUTIONS :

Ischaemic pain has been reported in a small proportion of patients within 30 minutes of the introduction of Calcigard therapy. Patients experiencing this effect should discontinue Calcigard.

USE IN PREGNANCY, LACTATION AND CHILDREN :

Calcigard should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus. No data are available regarding the use of Calcigard in the lactating women who are breast feeding their infants. Safety of nifedipine in children is not studied.

ADVERSE REACTIONS :

Calcigard is well tolerated. Minor side effects like transient headache, flushing and lethargy have been observed, which invariably disappear with continued treatment. Gravitational oedema associated with increased capillary filtration has been reported. Rare cases of hypersensitivity type jaundice have been reported.

DRUG INTERACTIONS :

The antihypertensive effect of Calcigard can be potentiated by simultaneous administration with cimetidine. When used in combination with nifedipine, serum quinidine levels have been shown to be suppressed regardless of dosage of quinidine.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION :

The recommended dose is one 10 mg capsule three times daily taken with a little fluid during or after food, with subsequent titration of dosage according to response. The dosage may be adjusted within the range 5 mg three times daily to 20 mg three times daily.

If an immediate anti-anginal and anti-hypertensive effect is required, the capsule should be bitten open and the liquid contents swallowed.

Calcigard 5 mg capsules permit titration of initial dosage in the elderly and those patients on concomitant medication. The recommended dosage is one Calcigard 5 mg capsule three times daily.

OVERDOSAGE :

Standard measures such as atropine and noradrenaline may be used for resultant bradycardia and hypotension. Intravenous calcium gluconate may be of benefit if combined with metaraminol.

PRESENTATION :

Calcigard is available as Calcigard 5 mg and Calcigard 10 mg soft gelatin capsules in strips of 10.



Manufactured by :
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