

Sound Alike Look Alike Medications

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WATER

Atenolol belongs to a group of drugs called Beta-blockers affect the heart and circulation. Atenolol is used to treat **angina** (chest pain). Lowering high blood pressure helps to prevent heart disease.

Most doses start at **25mg to 50mg** once daily. **Maximum** licensed daily dose is **100mg**.

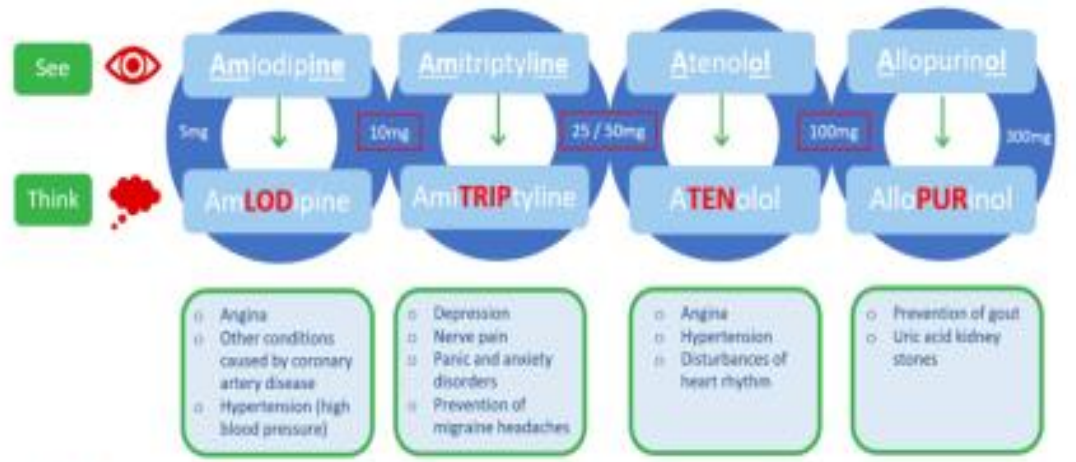
Side effects include: dizziness, lowered blood pressure (hypotension), cold hands and feet, leg pain.

Take extra care when taking similar names, especially Atenolol. Consider minimising selection error risks through physical separation, visual warnings, shelf edgers, PMR prompts.

If atenolol is supplied in error to a patient, there is a risk of **loss of consciousness**, with increased risk of a fall or injury – in frail or elderly patients this could be fatal.

Information originally published by Boots UK, 2018.

LASA (Look-Alike, Sound-Alike) A-listers



Dispensing errors involving these drugs may cause serious harm to patients. Always triple check the **product name** and **strength**. Consider minimising selection error risks through: physical separation, visual warnings, shelf edgers, PMR prompts.



prEDNISoloNE

Reduces inflammation in asthma & rheumatism

Dispensing prednisolone is vary depending on the condition (between 5mg and 60mg daily). Dispensing labels have **clear directions** and **counselling** & additional material 'Steroid Card' for regular treatments.

Check the strength & formulation

Include bronchospasm or even death. Serious, important side effects.

Information originally published by Boots UK, 2018.





- Sound Alike Look Alike (SALAD) medications involve medications that are visually similar in physical appearance or packaging and names of medications that have spelling similarities and/or similar phonetics.
- As more medicines and new brands are being marketed in addition to the thousands already available, many of these medication names may look or sound alike. Confusing medication names and similar product packaging may lead to potentially harmful medication errors.



• Common Risk Factors associated with SALAD medications includes :

- Illegible handwriting
- Lack of knowledge around drug names
- Newly available products
- Similar packaging or labelling
- Similar strengths, dosage forms, frequency of administration



Ways to minimise errors with SALAD medication.

Ensure	Ensure correct entry of the prescription.
Confirm	Confirm that the prescription is correct and complete.
Be	Be careful with zeros and abbreviations.
Reduce	Reduce distraction when possible.
Take	Take the time to store drugs properly.
Check	Thoroughly check all prescriptions.





Examples of SALAD medication

Clobazam /
Clonazepam.

Atenolol /
Amlodipine.

Propranolol /
Prednisolone.

Risperidone /
Ropinirole.

Sulfadiazine /
Sulfasalazine.

Amlodipine /
Nimodipine.



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- Tall Man Lettering.
- Tall Man lettering is a method of applying uppercase lettering to sections of look-alike, soundalike drug names .
- What is an example of tall man lettering?
- For example, in tall man lettering, "**prednisone**" and "**prednisolone**" should be written "predni**S**ONE" and "predni**S**OLONE", respectively.

ISMP List of Additional Drug Name Pairs with Tall Man Letters	
ALPRAZolam – LORazepam	metyro SINE – metyra PONE
amLODIPine – aMILoride	mi FEPRIS tone – mi SOPRO Stol
ARIPiprazole – RABEprazole	mito XANTRONE – mito MY cin
aza CITID ine – aza THIO prine	morphine – HYDRO morphine
ce FAZ olin – cef TRIA Xone – cef TAZ idime – cefo TET an – cef OXIT in	Nex DUM – Nex AVAR
Cele BREX – Cele XA	ni MOD ipine – ni FE dipine – ni CAR dipine
chlorpro MAZINE – chlordiaze POXIDE	Novo LOG – Novo LIN
CIS platin – CARBO platin	OX carbazepine – car BAM azepine
clonaze PAM – clo NID ine – clo ZAP ine – clo BAZ am	oxy CODONE – Oxy CONTIN – oxy MOR phone – HYDRO morphine
clonaze PAM – LORazepam	
clo NID ine – Klono PIN	penicillAMINE – penicillin
DACTIN omycin – DAPTO mycin	PENT obarbital – PHEN obarbital
diaze PAM – diltia ZEM	PONAT inib – PAZOP anib
DOC etaxel – PACL itaxel	PRAL atrexate – PEME trexed
e PHED rine – EPINE PHrine	Pri LOSEC – PRO zac
eri BUL in – epi RUB icin	QU Etiapine – OLAN Zapine
fenta NYL – SUF entanil	qui NINE – qui NID ine
FLU oxetine – DUL oxetine – PAR oxetine	romi PLO stim – romi DEP sin
fluvox AMINE – flu PHENAZ ine – flavox ATE	raNIT dine – riMANT Adine
guan FACINE – guai FEN esin	rif AMP in – rif AXI Min
hydro CHLORO thiazide – hydr OX Yzine – hydr ALAZINE	risperi DONE – r OPINIR ole – Risper DAL
Huma LOG – Humu LIN	ri TUX imab – in FLIX imab
HYDROXY progesterone – medroxy PROGESTER one	Sand IMMUNE – Sando STATIN
HYDRO codone – oxy CODONE	SERO quel – SINE quan
ida RU CIZUmab – ID AR ubicin – DOXO ubicin	Solu- CORTEF – SOLU -Medrol – DEPO -Medrol
INV anz – AVIN za	SOR Afenib – SUNI tinib
ISO tretinoin – tretinoin	sulf ADIAZINE – sulfa SALAZ ine
La MICT al – Lam SIL	SUM Atriptan – SAX agliptin – SIT agliptin
lami VUD ine – lamo TRIG ine	SUM Atriptan – ZOLM itriptan
LEVO leucovorin – leucovorin	ti ZAN idine – tia GAB ine
lev OCAR Nitine – lev ETIR acetam – levoFLOX acin	tra ZO Done – tra MAD ol
metro NIDAZOLE – met FORMIN	TREN tal – TEG retol
meth IM Azole – met OL azone – methazol AMIDE	val ACY clovir – val GAN ciclovir
	Zy PREXA – Zyr TEC

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• Administration

- For problematic look-alike and/or sound-alike drug names, include the generic name, current brand name, and indication on medication administration records.
- *Before* administration, verify that the medication's indication, dose, dosage form, and route of administration align with the patient's condition or diagnosis.
- Review the medication's purpose with the patient or caregiver *before* administration. For example, if you are a nurse administering medications, ask, "Do you have any questions before I give your child's antiseizure medication, tia**GAB**ine?" This could help a parent identify an error if their child takes ti**ZAN**idine to manage spasticity (from a neurological disorder) at home



Developing strategies to involve patients and their caregivers in reducing risks.



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Providing patients and their caregivers with written medication information, including medication indication, generic and brand names, and potential medication side effects.

Developing strategies to accommodate patients with sight impairment, language differences, and limited knowledge of health care.

Instruct patients to alert caregivers whenever a medicine appears to vary in any way from what is usually taken or administered.

• Staff Education

- During induction and also on a regular basis, educate staff about the risks of confusing problematic, error-prone, look-alike and/or sound-alike medication names and abbreviations;
- how to access the organizational list of problematic look-alike and/or sound-alike medication names;
- and the required risk-reduction strategies to implement.

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Provide education about the purpose of tall man lettering, as this safeguard is more successful for those who are aware of its purpose.

Encourage reporting of errors and hazards with look-alike and/or sound-alike medication names, and use the information to enhance error-reduction strategies





- Patient Education.
- Educate patients taking a medication with a problematic look-alike and/or sound-alike name about the risk of mix-ups and how to avoid them. If the patient is educated about common errors, they might detect a dispensing error by reading the label when picking up their medication.
- Encourage patients to question medications that look different than expected, and to persist until satisfactory resolution of their concern. This line of questioning might detect an error with a look-alike and/or sound-alike medication.





Evaluation.

Establish process and outcome measures and collect data regularly to assess the effectiveness of safeguards intended to reduce errors and patient harm associated with medication names that look and/or sound alike. Provide feedback to staff about data being monitored, analysis of that data, performance improvement initiatives in response to the data, and planned actions.





Please find attached a list of SALAD medications

- [list of SALAD medication](#)

