Meridia is an anorexiant. It blocks the neuronal uptake of norepinephrine, serotonin, and (to a lesser extent) dopamine

Pre-Authorization Criteria

Meridia is used in the management of obesity, including weight loss and maintenance of weight loss and should be used in conjunction with a reduced-calorie diet.

VCHCP authorizes use of Meridia in obese patients with a body mass index ≥30 kg/m² or ≥27 kg/m² in the presence of other risk factors such as hypertension, diabetes, and/or dyslipidemia.

GENERAL INFORMATION- This drug has been withdrawn from the US and Canadian markets due to problems with safety (increased risk of heart attack and stroke)

MONITORING PARAMETERS — Do initial blood pressure and heart rate evaluation and then monitor regularly during therapy. If patient has sustained increases in either blood pressure or pulse rate, consider discontinuing or reducing the dose of the drug.

CONTRAINDICATIONS — Hypersensitivity to sibutramine or any component of the formulation; during or within 2 weeks of MAO inhibitors (eg, phenelzine, selegiline) or concomitant centrally-acting appetite suppressants; anorexia nervosa; bulimia nervosa; uncontrolled or poorly-controlled hypertension; congestive heart failure; coronary heart disease; conduction disorders (arrhythmias); stroke; concurrent use of serotonergic agents

DRUG INTERACTIONS — Substrate of CYP3A4 (major) with multiple drug interactions known. (For additional information: Launch Lexi-Interact™ Drug Interactions Program).

PREGNANCY RISK FACTOR — C

LACTATION — Excretion in breast milk unknown/not recommended

DIETARY CONSIDERATIONS — Sibutramine, as an appetite suppressant, is the most effective when combined with a low calorie diet and behavior modification counseling.
PATIENT EDUCATION — Maintain proper medical follow-up and inform prescriber of any potential concomitant medications including over-the-counter products you are taking, especially weight loss products, antidepressants, antimigraine drugs, decongestants, lithium, tryptophan, antitussives, or ergot derivatives

REFERENCES


Select Drug Information from Lexi-Comp Online™
Copyright (1978 to present) Lexi-Comp, Inc.

©2005 UpToDate®
Copyright(c) 2010 First DataBank, Inc.