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IN BRIEF

Esomeprazole Strontium

The FDA has approved the proton pump inhibitor (PPI) esomeprazole strontium for use in adults for the same indications as esomeprazole magnesium (*Nexium*): treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), prevention of NSAID-induced gastric ulcers, eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*, and treatment of pathological hypersecretory conditions. It was first marketed in December 2013 as a branded drug (*Esomeprazole Strontium*) and a month later as a generic drug.

Table 1. Oral Proton Pump Inhibitors

Drug	Usual Dosage ^{1,2}	Cost ³
Dexlansoprazole – <i>Dexilant</i> (Takeda)	30-60 mg once/d	\$183.90
Esomeprazole magnesium – <i>Nexium</i> (AstraZeneca)	20-40 mg once/d	236.70
<i>Nexium 24HR</i> (OTC)		16.40 ⁴
Esomeprazole strontium – generic ⁵	24.65-49.3 mg once/d ⁶	60.00 ⁷
<i>Esomeprazole Strontium</i> (Amneal) ⁵		200.80 ⁷
Lansoprazole – generic	15-30 mg once/d	93.70
<i>Prevacid</i> (Takeda)		276.30
<i>Prevacid 24HR</i> (OTC)		17.80 ⁴
Omeprazole ⁸ – generic	20-40 mg once/d	17.90
<i>Prilosec</i> (AstraZeneca)		204.40
<i>Prilosec OTC</i>		17.80 ⁴
Pantoprazole – generic	40 mg once/d	7.00
<i>Protonix</i> (Pfizer)		229.80
Rabeprazole – generic	20 mg once/d	59.00
<i>Aciphex</i> , <i>Aciphex Sprinkle</i> (Eisai)		349.90

OTC = Over the counter

1. The lower end of the range is generally used for initial treatment of GERD. Higher doses and bid dosing may be needed for patients with peptic ulcers, hypersecretory states like Zollinger-Ellison Syndrome, or for treatment of *H. pylori* infection.
2. PPIs are generally taken 30-60 minutes before the first meal of the day. Taking one before the evening meal may be more effective for nocturnal acid control.
3. Approximate wholesale acquisition cost (WAC) for 30 days' treatment with the lowest usual dosage. Source: AnalySource® Monthly (Selected from FDB MedKnowledge™) July 5, 2014. Reprinted with permission by FDB, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2014. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy. Actual retail prices may be higher.
4. Cost of 28 tablets or capsules.
5. Branded and generic formulations are marketed by Amneal under the same name.
6. Equivalent to 20-40 mg of esomeprazole.
7. Cost of 49.3-mg capsules. The 24.65-mg capsules are not yet available.
8. Also available in combination with sodium bicarbonate (*Zegerid* and *Zegerid OTC*).

Strontium is incorporated into bone. It is not recommended for use in children or during pregnancy because of the absence of safety data in those popu-

lations. Use of esomeprazole strontium is not recommended for patients with severe renal impairment.

Esomeprazole strontium is the seventh PPI to become available as a single agent in the US. No new clinical trials were required for its approval, which was based on earlier clinical trials with esomeprazole magnesium. All of the PPIs appear to be equally effective.¹ ■

1. Drugs for peptic ulcer disease and GERD. *Treat Guidel Med Lett* 2014; 12:25.

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