### Comparison Table: Triptans

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Brand Name (Manufacturer)</th>
<th>Route of Administration</th>
<th>Formulations</th>
<th>Onset of Action</th>
<th>Elimination Half-life</th>
<th>Usual Adult Dosage</th>
<th>Max Adult Dose</th>
<th>Adult Dosage for Renal Impairment</th>
<th>Adult Dosage for Hepatic Impairment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Almotriptan</td>
<td>Axert (Janssen)</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>6.25, 12.5 mg tabs</td>
<td>30-60 min</td>
<td>3-4 hrs</td>
<td>6.25 or 12.5 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>25 mg/d</td>
<td>Severe (CrCl 10-30 mL/min): 6.25 mg starting dose</td>
<td>6.25 mg starting dose (max 12.5 mg/d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eletriptan</td>
<td>Relpax (Pfizer)</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>20, 40 mg tabs</td>
<td>30-60 min</td>
<td>~4 hrs</td>
<td>20 or 40 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>80 mg/d</td>
<td>No dosage adjustment needed</td>
<td>Severe: not recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frovatriptan</td>
<td>Frova (Endo)</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>2.5 mg tabs</td>
<td>~2 hrs</td>
<td>~25 hrs</td>
<td>2.5 mg PO with fluids; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>7.5 mg/d</td>
<td>No dosage adjustment needed</td>
<td>Severe: not recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naratriptan</td>
<td>Amerge (GSK)</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>1, 2.5 mg tabs</td>
<td>1-3 hrs</td>
<td>~6 hrs</td>
<td>2.5 mg PO; can be repeated after 4 hrs</td>
<td>5 mg/d</td>
<td>Severe (CrCl &lt;15 mL/min): contraindicated Mild–moderate: 1 mg starting dose (max 2.5 mg/d)</td>
<td>Severe: contraindicated Mild–moderate: 1 mg starting dose (max 2.5 mg/d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rizatriptan</td>
<td>Maxalt, Maxalt MLT (Merck)</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>5, 10 mg tabs and 5, 10 mg ODTs</td>
<td>30-60 min</td>
<td>2-3 hrs</td>
<td>5 or 10 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>30 mg/d</td>
<td>No dosage adjustment needed</td>
<td>No dosage adjustment needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sumatriptan</td>
<td>Imitrex (GSK), Onzetra Xsail (Avanir), Sumavel DosePro (Endo)</td>
<td>Oral; Nasal; SC</td>
<td>50 or 100 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>Tabs: 30-60 min SC: ~10 min Nasal: 10-15 min</td>
<td>~2 hrs</td>
<td>Oral: 50 or 100 mg PO; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>Oral: 200 mg/d SC: 12 mg/d Nasal spray: 40 mg/d Nasal powder: 44 mg/d</td>
<td>Severe: contraindicated Mild–moderate (oral): max single dose 50 mg Severe (oral, intranasal, and SC): contraindicated</td>
<td>Moderate–severe (oral): 1.25 mg (max 5 mg/d) Moderate–severe (intranasal): not recommended</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zolmitriptan</td>
<td>Zomig, Zomig ZMT (Impax)</td>
<td>Oral</td>
<td>Imitrex and generics – Oral: 25, 50, 100 mg tabs SC: 4, 6 mg/0.5 mL auto-injector pen and refill cartridge, vials Nasal: 5, 20 mg/0.1 mL nasal spray Onzetra Xsail: 11 mg nasal powder caps Sumavel DosePro: 6 mg/0.5 mL SC needle-free delivery system Zembrace SymTouch: 3 mg/0.5 mL SC auto-injector</td>
<td>Oral: 2.5, 5 mg tabs and 2.5, 5 mg ODTs Nasal: 2.5, 5 mg/0.1 mL nasal spray</td>
<td>2-3 hrs</td>
<td>2.5 or 5 mg PO or intranasally; can be repeated after 2 hrs</td>
<td>10 mg/d</td>
<td>No dosage adjustment needed</td>
<td>No dosage adjustment needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Generic Available**
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes
- Yes – for Imitrex products only
- Yes – for oral tabs and ODTs only

**Continued on next page**

e27
### Class Adverse Effects

- **Tingling, flushing, dizziness, drowsiness, fatigue, and heaviness, tightness, or pressure in the chest (can occur with any triptan, but most frequently with SC sumatriptan); angina, myocardial infarction, cardiac arrhythmia, stroke, seizure, and death have occurred rarely with triptans; peripheral vascular ischemia, gastrointestinal vascular ischemia and infarction, and Raynaud phenomenon have also occurred**

### Other Adverse Effects

- **Most common (<1%):** nausea, dry mouth, paresthesia
- **Most common (<5%):** asthenia, nausea, dizziness, somnolence
- **Most common (>2%):** dizziness, headache, paresthesia, dry mouth, dyspepsia, fatigue, hot or cold sensation, chest pain, skeletal pain, flushing
- **Most common (>2%):** paresthesia, nausea, dizziness, drowsiness, throat or neck pain/pressure
- **Most common (>5%):** asthenia, fatigue, somnolence, pain or pressure sensation, dizziness
- **Most common (>2%):** paresthesia, warm/cold sensation, chest/neck/throat/jaw pain, tightness, or pressure, vertigo, fatigue
- **SC: burning at injection site, adverse effects more likely with SC formulation**

### Class Drug Interactions

- **A triptan should generally not be used within 24 hours of another triptan or an ergot because vasoconstriction could be additive; cases of serotonin syndrome reported with SSRIs and SNRIs, but risk is likely low**

### Other Drug Interactions

- **CYP3A4 inhibitors can increase serum concentrations; dosage adjustment is recommended**
- **Propranolol can increase serum concentrations; avoid use within 72 hours of treatment with a strong CYP3A4 inhibitor**
- **Propranolol can increase serum concentrations**
- **MAOIs can increase serum concentrations; the drugs should not be used within 2 weeks of each other**
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### Comments

- **Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in their efficacy and speed of onset**
- **Longer-acting: slower onset of action and lower initial response rate than other triptans, but better tolerated**
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- **Short-acting: all short-acting oral triptans are similar in efficacy and speed of onset**
- **Intranasal: faster-acting than oral, but may have unpleasant taste; efficacy partially dependent on GI absorption of swallowed portion of dose**
- **ODTs may be taken without water**

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**Continued on next page**
# Comparison Table: Triptans (continued)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>Almotriptan</th>
<th>Eletriptan</th>
<th>Frovatriptan</th>
<th>Naratriptan</th>
<th>Rizatriptan</th>
<th>Sumatriptan</th>
<th>Zolmitriptan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cost¹²</td>
<td>generic: $33.40</td>
<td>$20.10</td>
<td>$53.80</td>
<td>$9.80</td>
<td>$2.80 (tabs)</td>
<td>$2.30 (tabs)</td>
<td>$20.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Axert: 42.70</td>
<td>Relpax: 62.30</td>
<td>Frova: 80.90</td>
<td>Amerge: 56.60</td>
<td>Maxalt: 36.60</td>
<td>42.20 (vial)¹⁴</td>
<td>21.20 (ODTs)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Maxalt MLT: 36.60</td>
<td>174.40 (auto-injector)¹⁴</td>
<td>Zomig: 97.50</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>54.80 (nasal spray)</td>
<td>Zomig ZMT: 97.50</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Imitrex: 63.40 (tabs)</td>
<td>Zomig nasal spray: 67.00</td>
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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>184.90 (vial)¹⁴</td>
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<td>396.40 (auto-injector)¹⁴</td>
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<td>79.10 (nasal spray)</td>
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<td>Onzetra Xsai: 86.00</td>
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<td>Zembrace SymTouch: 157.20</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ODT = orally disintegrating tablet; SC = subcutaneous; MAOIs = monoamine oxidase inhibitors

1. Also available in combination with naproxen (Treximet – Pernix). Use of the fixed-dose combination is more effective in relieving moderate or severe migraine pain than either of its components taken alone (S Law et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2016; 4:CD008541).
2. Vials are only available in 6 mg/0.5 mL.
3. If migraine returns after initial treatment with sumatriptan injection (imitrex, and generics), single doses of sumatriptan tablets can be taken at intervals ≥ 2 hours, up to a maximum of 100 mg/day.
4. Sumavel DosePro may be given at least 1 hour following a dose of another sumatriptan product.
5. Use of the drug in severe hepatic impairment has not been evaluated.
13. Approximate WAC for one dose at the lowest usual adult dosage. WAC = wholesaler acquisition cost or manufacturer’s published price to wholesalers; WAC represents a published catalogue or list price and may not represent an actual transactional price. Source: AnalySource® Monthly. March 5, 2018. Reprinted with permission by First Databank, Inc. All rights reserved. ©2018. www.fdbhealth.com/policies/drug-pricing-policy.
14. Cost for one 6 mg/0.5 mL vial.
15. Cost for two 6 mg/0.5 mL prefilled single-dose auto-injectors.
16. Cost for one auto-injector pen and two 6 mg/0.5 mL prefilled single-dose syringe cartridges.
17. In February 2018, Sumavel DosePro was discontinued by the manufacturer.