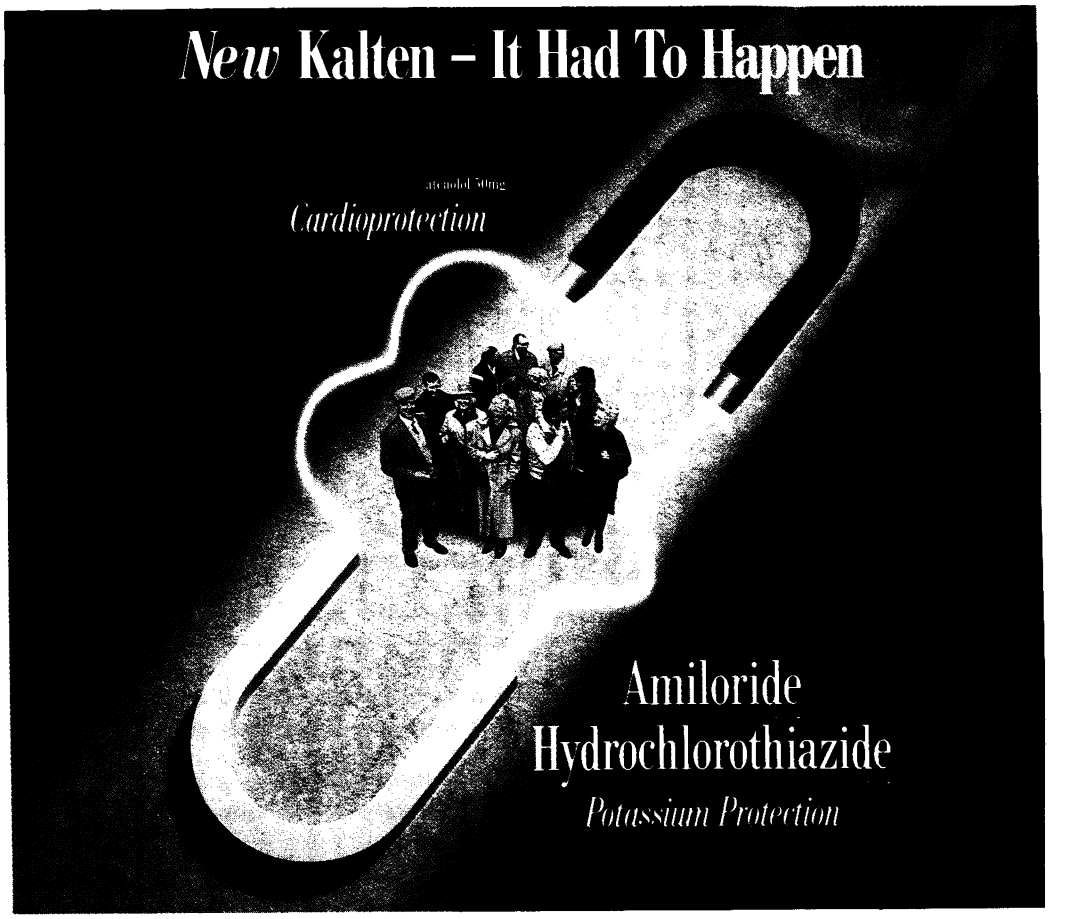
New Kalten – It Had To Happen



In Hypertension

One Daily Low Dose

When faced with the need for extra control

Prescribing Notes for 'Kalten' and 'Tenormin' LS

DOSAGE

Hypertension 'Kalten' - 50mg atenolol + 25mg hydrochlorothiazide + 2.5mg amiloride hydrochloride (as amiloride hydrochloride BP 2.84mg) orally one capsule daily, recommended where monotherapy with beta blocker or diuretic proves inadequate.

'Tenormin' LS - 50mg atenolol orally once a day; some patients may respond adequately to 'Tenormin' low strength (LS).

Children - 'Kalten' and 'Tenormin' LS are not recommended for use in children.

Elderly Patients - Dosage requirements for 'Tenormin' LS may be lower, especially in patients with renal impairment.

'Kalten' may be suitable for older patients where higher doses of the constituents are considered inappropriate.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS

'Kalten': Heart block, hyperkalaemia, anuria, acute renal failure, severe progressive renal disease, diabetic nephropathy; blood urea over 10 mmol/l or serum creatinine over 130 micromol/l if not possible to monitor carefully and frequently. In renal impairment additional potassium conserving agents may cause hyperkalaemia. Sensitivity to hydrochlorothiazide or amiloride hydrochloride.

'Tenormin' LS: Heart block.

PRECAUTIONS

Untreated cardiac failure, bradycardia, renal failure, anaesthesia, pregnancy. Disturbed fluid or electrolyte balance. Caution in patients with chronic obstructive airways disease or asthma. Atenolol modifies the tachycardia of hypoglycaemia. Co-administration with verapamil or Class I antidysrhythmic agents.

Withdrawal of clonidine.

Withdrawal of beta blocking drugs should be gradual in patients with ischaemic heart disease.

Additional precautions for 'Kalten'

Co-administration with lithium.

Metabolic effects: Measurement of potassium levels is appropriate, especially in the older patient, those receiving digitalis preparations for cardiac failure, taking abnormal diet (in potassium) diets, or suffering from gastrointestinal complaints.

Caution in metabolic or respiratory acidosis.

Diabetes: 'Kalten' may lower glucose tolerance. Discontinue before glucose tolerance testing. Hyponatraemia and hypochloraemia may occur.

Hepatic or renal impairment: Caution in patients where fluid and electrolyte balance is critical. Hyperkalaemia and hypokalaemia may occur. Discontinue treatment if increasing azotaemia and oliguria occur.

Amiloride may precipitate hepatic encephalopathy, Jaundice may occur in cirrhotic patients.

Breast-feeding: Discontinue if 'Kalten' deemed essential.

SIDE EFFECTS

Coldness of extremities, bradycardia and muscular fatigue may occur. Sleep disturbance rarely seen. Rashes and dry eyes have been reported with beta blockers - consider discontinuance if they occur.

With amiloride hydrochloride and hydrochlorothiazide gastrointestinal disturbances may occur. Side effects commonly associated with diuresis; dizziness and headache may occur. Skin rashes and blood dyscrasias have been reported.

PRODUCT LICENCE NUMBERS AND BASIC NHS COST

'Kalten' Capsules 29 43b in calendar packs of 28, £6.70.

'Tenormin' LS Tablets 29 46 in calendar packs of 28, £3.88

'Kalten' and 'Tenormin' LS are trade marks

Further information is available on request from the Company

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STUART