

## **p-AMINOSALICYLIC ACID (PAS) Fact Sheet**

PAS is a simple molecule related to aspirin and the sunscreen PABA.

Dose: 4 grams three times a day

Administration: Oral, granules need to be given in acidic beverage

Excretion: Acetylated hepatically, 80% excreted in urine

Distribution: Widely distributed, poor CNS penetration

### **Adverse Reactions**

#### Gastrointestinal

1. Diarrhea – common with granules. Often self-limited. Treat symptomatically. Occasionally requires reduction in dose.
2. Nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain also seen. Give with food, treat symptomatically. Occasionally requires reduction in dose.

#### Other toxicities

1. Hypersensitivity reactions – fever, rash, joint pain and blood dyscrasias (leucopenia, neutropenia, thrombocytopenia and hemolytic anemia).
2. Hepatitis and Loeffler's syndrome reported rarely.
3. Malabsorption of vitamin B<sub>12</sub>, folic acid, iron and lipids.
4. Crystalluria may be prevented by the maintenance of urine at a neutral or alkaline pH.
5. Goiter and hypothyroidism may result because iodine accumulation in thyroid is inhibited.

### **Drug Interactions**

Aspirin Potentiates the action of PAS.

Digoxin Oral absorption of PAS may be reduced with a subsequent reduction in serum levels of PAS. Digoxin doses may need to be increased.

p-Aminobenzoic Acid (PABA) PABA decreases PAS activity.

Sulfonamides PAS may antagonize antibacterial action.

Vitamin B<sub>12</sub> (Cyanocobalamin) PAS inhibits intestinal absorption of B<sub>12</sub> and thus may lead to a B<sub>12</sub> deficiency.