**Tip of the Month**

**Concomitant therapy with Cosopt® and Diamox® is not useful**

**The Science behind the Tip**

Although the β-blocker timolol and the topical carbonic anhydrase inhibitor (CAI) dorzolamide both act by decreased aqueous humour production, they are almost completely additive in their effects on aqueous humour flow\(^1\). Thus, the combination product Cosopt® has a powerful intraocular pressure (IOP) lowering effect of 32.7% at peak moment (i.e. time of maximal drug effect, 2 hours after drug application)\(^2\). Similar effects on aqueous humour flow and IOP were observed in the 1980s with timolol and the oral CAI acetazolamide (Diamox®) taken together\(^3\).

When a maximal IOP lowering effect is needed, it can be useful to switch from Cosopt® to [Diamox® + a topical β-blocker]. Diamox® is more effective as a suppressor of aqueous humour flow than dorzolamide\(^4,6\) and dorzolamide has no additive effects in subjects already taking Diamox\(^4,7\).

**References**


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