

Generic medications: what does it mean for my kidney transplant?

Lucy Chen, BScPhm, PharmD

Care & Transitions Facilitator

Registered pharmacist

Disclosure

- No conflicts of interest.

Outline

- Why this talk?
- What is a generic medication?
- What is different (and the same) about it?
- What if I have a kidney transplant?
- What do I need to do?

Why this talk?

- As of April 1, 2019: patent for Advagraf[®] (Tacrolimus Extended Release) has expired.
- Generic versions of tacrolimus extended release may be introduced to your local pharmacy in the coming months.

What is a generic medication?

- Brand name vs generic name
- Brand name medication/medicine vs generic medication/medicine

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN

HOME
HEALTH CARE 

MACDONNELL PHARMACY
P.O. BOX 370, ST. PETER'S, N.S. B0E 3B0
PHONE: 535-3196

7433149 **FROST, JACK**
TAKE 1 CAPSULE DAILY

(90) **APO-HYDRALAZINE 50MG**
HYDRALAZINE HCl 50MG

CAPSULE APX Rep: 0

Dr. THAW, SPRING DIN 00441635 Feb 16, 2012
JM

Brand name **Benadryl**

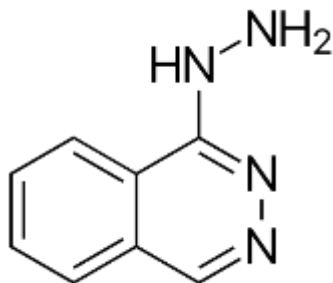
Generic name **Diphenhydramine HCl 25mg | Antihistamine**

- Sneezing
- Itchy, Watery Eyes
- Runny Nose
- Itchy Throat

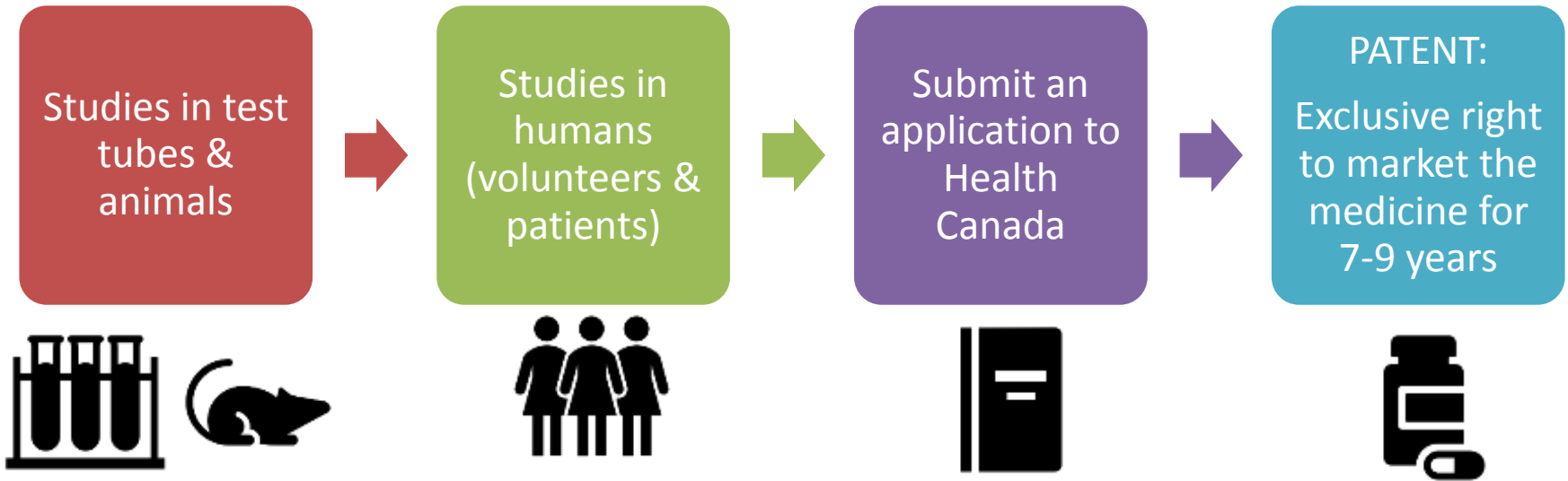
ULTRATABS™
*small tablet size actual size **24 TABLETS**

“Hydralazine”
= generic name
= chemical name

“Apo-hydralazine”
= brand name

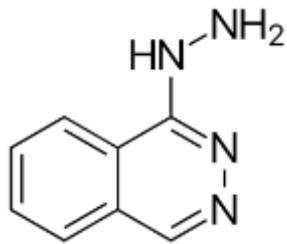


Brand name medicine = patented medicine = 'original innovator'

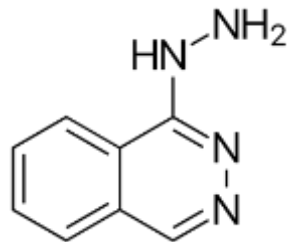


When a patent expires, other companies can also make and sell that medicine. This is called a **generic medicine** (i.e. a copy).

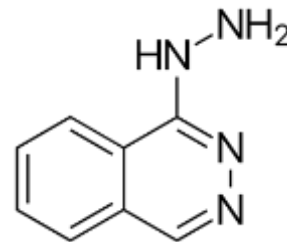
- Same chemical ingredient
- Same amount
- Similar dosage form



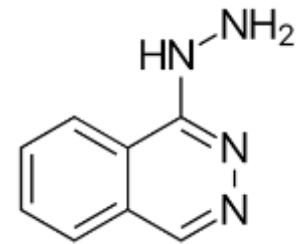
Apresoline



Apo-
hydralazine



Jamp-
hydralazine

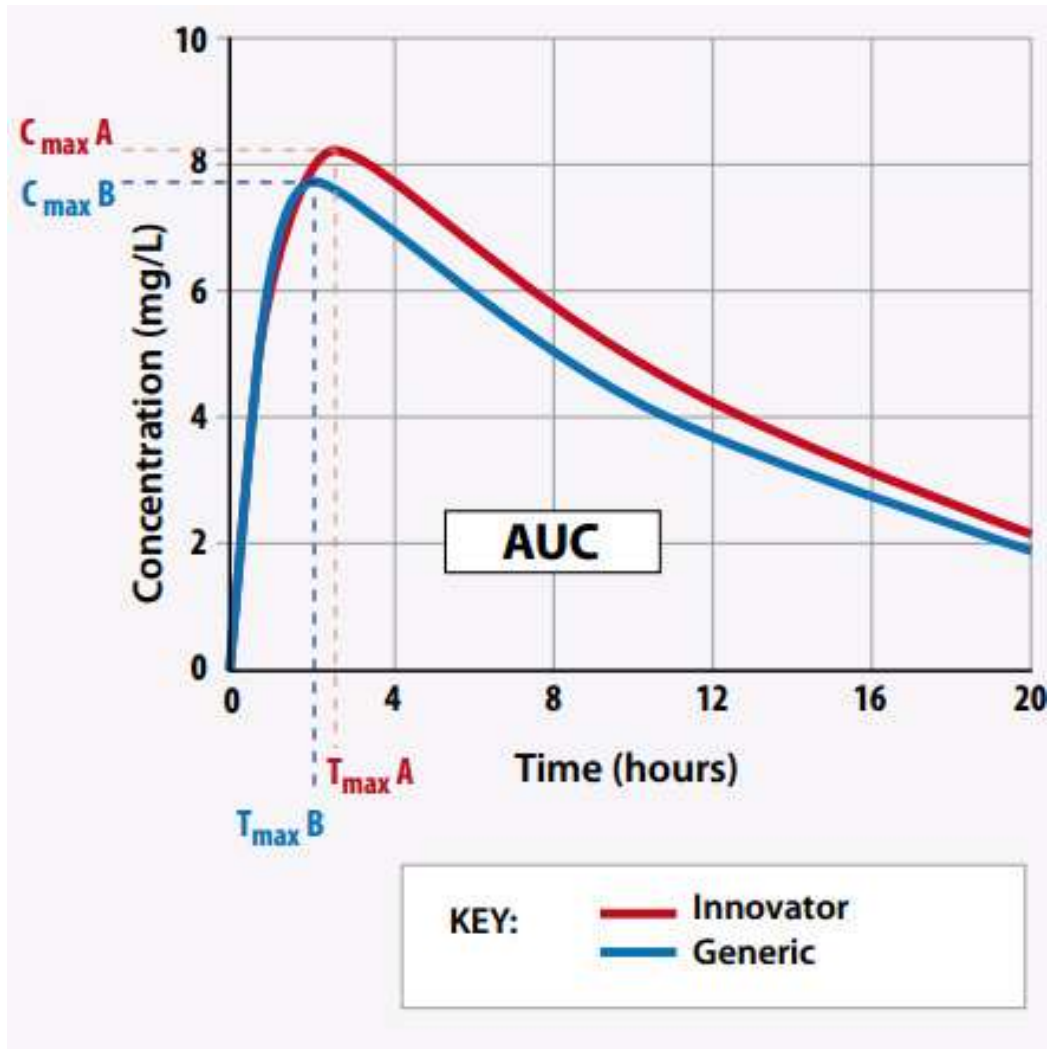


Mint-
hydralazine

How is it different?

- Generic drugs must be approved by Health Canada before they can be sold from a pharmacy.
 - To get approval, the company must prove:
 - Same chemical ingredient
 - Same amount
 - Same dosage form
- } = bioequivalence

How is it different?



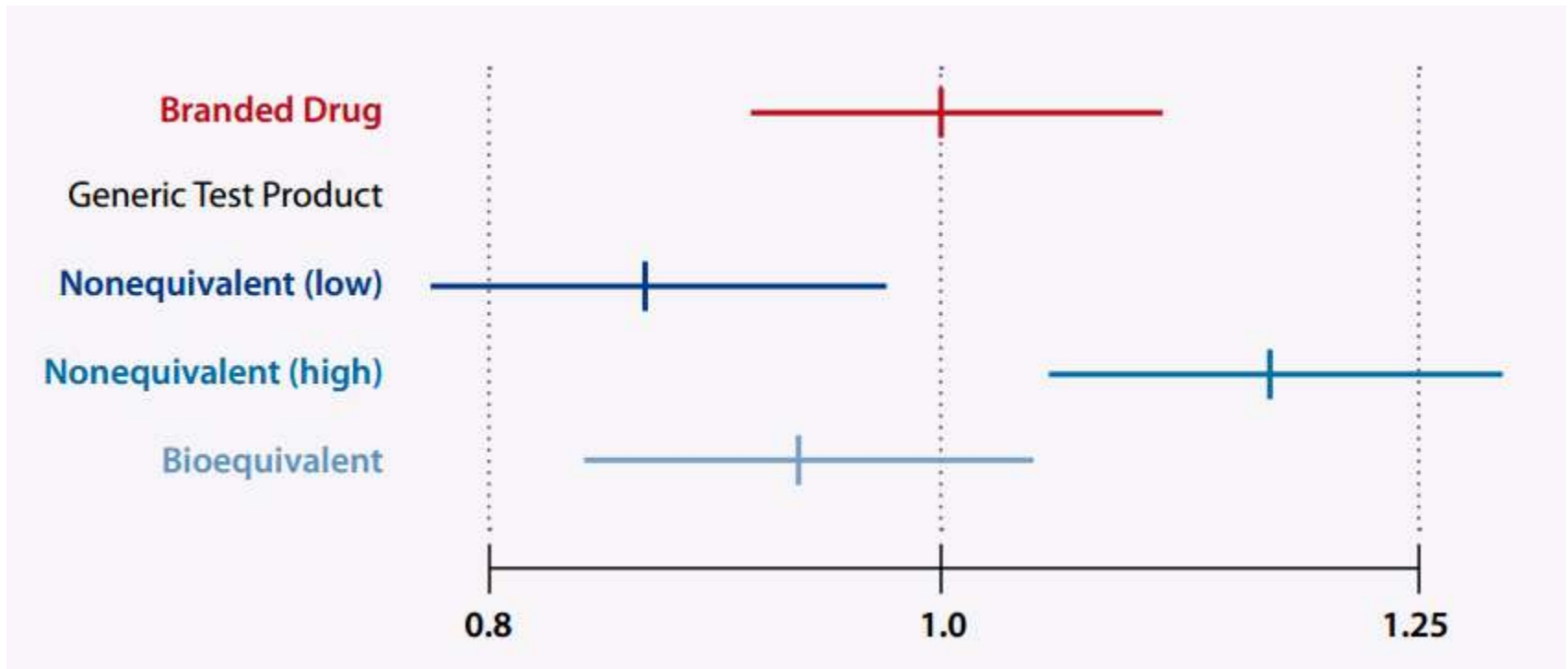
Most medications:

“Match” to the original innovator medication by 80-125%

Critical dose medications (e.g. tacrolimus):

“Match” to the original innovator medication by 90-112%

How is it different?



How is it different?

What is the same?

- Chemical ingredient
- Amount and dosage form
- Manufacturing standards

What is different?

- Inactive 'filler' ingredients
- Appearance
- Cost (generic < brand)
 - Test tube, animal and clinical studies do not need to be repeated

Bioequivalence studies:

- Compares the generic drug to the original innovator
- Does NOT compare the generic drug to other generics

What if I have a kidney transplant?

- In the majority of cases, generic medicines work well and are safe to take.
 - Cheaper doesn't mean lower quality
 - May look different: ask your pharmacist

What if I have a kidney transplant?

- Some transplant medicines are ‘critical dose’ medications. (Small changes can make a big difference.)
 - Tacrolimus, sirolimus, cyclosporine
- It is possible that an approved generic version may have different effect
- It is possible that changing from one generic to another may have different effect
- But it is unlikely

What do I need to do?

Do not change between generic and brand tacrolimus. If you do, tell us and check your blood work (drug level) in 1 week.

NEVER STOP OR SKIP YOUR MEDICINE

What do I need to do?

- Drug plans (typically) cover the lowest cost generic. If you choose a higher cost brand, you pay the difference.
- By law in Ontario, the pharmacist dispenses the lowest cost generic.

What do I need to do?

Option 1

1. Go to a generic version of tacrolimus extended release
2. Call transplant clinic to tell us
3. Check blood work in 1 week
4. Always use the same generic of tacrolimus

Option 2



What is innoviCares?
InnoviCares is a **free** prescription savings card that helps you save money on select prescription medications, by paying a portion of the cost at pharmacy. It works just like any drug insurance card and can be used with or without another drug plan.

100+ PRODUCTS **20+** MANUFACTURERS

CURRENTLY COVERED BY INNOVICARES


Use this card today and next time you visit your pharmacy.

INDIVIDUAL PROGRAMS FUNDED BY PARTICIPATING PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURERS

- 1 Present this to your pharmacy with your prescription. Ask your pharmacy to keep your card on file for future use.
- 2 Register this Client ID online at innovicare.com to receive your personalized plastic card and gain access to additional perks, exclusive offers, and healthcare tools.

innovicare

MULTI-USE IN-NET-1 PRESTATION RÉGULIÈRE

Client ID: 32 Group Code: 312 Client ID: INNOVACARE0899MB 

In Summary

- A generic medicine is a copy of a brand name medicine whose patent has expired.
 - Same ingredient, amount, and format
 - Lower cost doesn't mean lower quality
- Tacrolimus is a critical dose medicine so extra caution is needed. **Do not change between generic and brand tacrolimus.**
- If you change, call us and do blood work in 1 week. If you want to continue Advagraf[®], use the Innovi card.

ANY QUESTIONS?