

| TRIPTAN | formulation | cost | cost per dose | comment |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Sumatriptan | generic tablet | £2.14 for 6 x 100mg tablet | £0.36 | Efficacy of 50mg not significantly different from that of 100mg (Ferrari MD, et al. |
| | generic tablet | £1.67 for 6 x 50mg tablet | £0.28 | First choice |
| | "Imigran Radis" rapidly dispersing tablet | £23.90 for 6 x 50mg ; £42.90 for 6 x 100mg | £3.98 per 50mg dose; £7.15 per 100mg dose | |
| | nasal spray | £35.39 for 6 x 20mg | £5.88 | Sumatriptan nasal spray is not useful if vomiting as it depends on ingestion for |
| | | £11.80 for 2 x 10mg | £5.90 | Nasal spray can be used in adolescents (12-17 years) |
| | Sub-cutaneous injection | £39.50 for 2 "pre-filled disposable devices" ; £42.47 for 2 "pre-filled syringes with device"; £40.41 for 2 "syringe refills" | £19.75 for "pre-filled disposable devices"; £21.24 for "pre-filled syringes with device"; £20.21 for "syringe refills" | Note small differences in product description will influence cost of prescription. |
| Zolmitriptan | generic tablet | £3.47 for 6 x 2.5mg | £0.58 | Second choice |
| | orodispersible tablet sugar free | £3.65 for 6 x 2.5mg [Cat M] | £0.61 | |
| | | £16.66 for 6 x 5mg | £2.78 | If 5mg dose required, use 2x 2.5mg. |
| | nasal spray | £36.50 for 6 unit doses | £6.08 | Useful if vomiting as up to 30% absorbed via nasal mucosa Not licensed in children or adolescents. |
| Rizatriptan | "Maxalt" tablet | £13.37 for 3 x 10mg | £4.46 | |
| | | £26.74 for 6 x 5mg | £4.46 | Metabolism affected by propranolol; decrease to 5mg dose, maximum 10mg daily. |
| | "Maxalt Melt" wafer | Same price as tablets; | £4.46 | |
| Naratriptan | | £3.33 for 6 x 2.5mg | £0.56p | Low efficacy, according to "BASH" . Slow onset. Use if side-effects to other triptans. No convincing evidence for claims to lesser relapse rate. |
| Almotriptan | "Almogran" tablets | £18.14 for 6 x 12.5mg | £3.02 | Similar efficacy and relapse rates as sumatriptan 100mg. Well tolerated. |
| Eletriptan | "Relpax" tablets | £22.50 for 6 tablets, both 20mg and 40mg | £3.75 per tablet (either strength) | Clear dose response wrt efficacy for doses between 20mg and 80mg. Standard dose 40mg. 20mg for mild-moderate renal impairment or side-effects at higher doses. |
| Frovatriptan | "Migard" tablet | £16.67 for 6 x 2.5mg | £2.78 | Longer T1/2 = 26 hours. Relapse rate no better than other triptans. 2.5mg less efficacious than sumatriptan 100mg but fewer side-effects. |
| Prices from Drug Tariff January 2013 | | | | References from British Association for the Study of Headache. Guidelines for All Healthcare Professionals in the Diagnosis and Management of Migraine, Tension-Type, Cluster and Medication-Overuse Headache Writing Committee: TJ Steiner, EA MacGregor, PTG Davies 3rd edition; approved for publication, 18 January 2007 |