

Look-Alike, Sound-Alike (LASA) medicines

COMMON PRESCRIBING/TRANSCRIPTION ERROR

**Prescribing error
frequently detected
by Pharmacy as 'near misses':**

Cyclophosphamide 
instead of
Ciclosporin for Rheumatoid Arthritis 

Possible reasons for error:

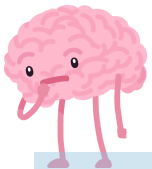
1. Similarity of spelling (orthography) → 'Cy' was typed instead of 'Ci' for Ciclosporin → drop down selection would only show Cyclophosphamide
2. Similar drug indication → both are immunosuppressants
3. Similar sounds (phonology) → Cyclophosphamide and Ciclosporin

3 common LASA-related errors and prevention strategies

01 See 

Ciclosporin

CYclophosphamide

02 Think 

STRENGTHS?
INDICATION?

TAB 25mg & 100mg, INJ 50mg/mL
inj & SYRUP 100mg/mL
Immunosuppression in organ
transplantation, Prophylaxis of
graft rejection in bone marrow
transplant (BMT), Severe
psoriasis, SLE, etc.

TAB 50mg, INJ 1g
Leukaemia (ACL, AML, CLL,
CML), Lymphoma, Multiple
myeloma, Neuroblastoma,
Ovarian cancer, Small cell lung
cancer, etc.

TAzocin®

01

See 

Prazosin

Piperacillin/Tazobactam

02

Think 

INJ 4g Piperacillin / 0.5g Tazobactam
ANTIBIOTIC for bacterial infections

STRENGTHS
INDICATIONS

TAB 1mg, 2mg & 5mg
ANTIHYPERTENSIVE used in hypertension,
Congestive heart failure & Benign Prostatic
Hyperplasia

01 See

Hydrochlorothiazide

Hydrocortisone

02 Think

STRENGTHS
INDICATIONS

TAB 25 mg & 50mg
DIURETIC used in oedema &
hypertension

TAB 10mg, INJ 100mg, TOPICAL 1%
CORTICOSTEROID used in anti-
inflammatory indications, etc

**Prescribing errors involving these drugs may cause serious harm to patients.
Always triple check the product NAME and STRENGTH before entering the drug
into the computer system.**

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