



## ISMP's List of *Confused Drug Names*

Listed below are drug names (first column) that have sometimes been confused with other drug names (second column). Many of these were actual mix-ups that led to patients receiving the wrong drug. All of these names were contained in reports sent by health professionals and consumers to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices' Medication Errors Reporting Program.

With the large number of drugs on the market today, the potential for medicines to have a name that looks or sounds like another medicine is high. For this reason, most drug companies test the brand names they plan to use for new medicines. They contract with companies that get working nurses, pharmacists, and doctors to look at handwritten prescriptions of the medicine to see if it looks like another medicine. This process leads to

fewer medicines with look-alike names. Still, there are a lot of medicines on the market with similar names.

Doctors who include the reason you are taking the medicine on the prescription can help pharmacists avoid these kinds of mistakes. Most medicines with look-alike names are not used to treat the same condition. So, having your doctor list the reason for the medicine alerts the pharmacist to your condition and serves as a check to make sure the correct medicine is provided. But if a mix-up happens, reading the drug information leaflet that comes with your medicine can help you notice the error right away. Electronic prescriptions that doctors enter into a computer produce legible prescriptions that are less likely to be misread. But only 10% of doctors send prescriptions to pharmacies using a computer.

### You can help prevent errors by:

- ✓ Asking your doctor to list the reason for the medicine on the prescription
- ✓ Making sure the pharmacist knows the reason you are taking a medicine
- ✓ Inspecting the medicine before you leave the pharmacy to be sure it looks as expected if you are refilling a prescription
- ✓ Talking to a pharmacist about the medicine when picking up a new prescription
- ✓ Reading the drug information leaflet that comes with your medicine

## ISMP's List of Confused Drug Names

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Abelcet	amphotericin B
Accupril	Aciphex
aceta <b>ZOLAMIDE</b>	aceto <b>HEXAMIDE</b>
acetic acid for irrigation	glacial acetic acid
aceto <b>HEXAMIDE</b>	aceta <b>ZOLAMIDE</b>
Aciphex	Accupril
Aciphex	Aricept
Activase	TNKase
Actonel	Actos
Actos	Actonel
Adacel (Tdap)	Daptacel (DTaP)
Adderall	Inderal
Advicor	Altacor
Afrin (oxymetazoline)	Afrin (saline)
Afrin (saline)	Afrin (oxymetazoline)
Aggrastat	argatroban
Aldara	Alora
Alkeran	Leukeran
Alkeran	Myleran
Allegra	Viagra
Alora	Aldara
<b>ALPRA</b> zolam	<b>LOR</b> azepam
Altacor	Advicor
Ambisome	amphotericin B
Amikin	Kineret
a <b>MIL</b> oride	am <b>LODIP</b> ine
am <b>LODIP</b> ine	a <b>MIL</b> oride
amphotericin B	Abelcet
amphotericin B	Ambisome
Anacin	Anacin-3
Anacin-3	Anacin
antacid	Atacand
Antivert	Axert
Anzemet	Avandamet
Apresoline	Priscoline
argatroban	Aggrastat
argatroban	Orgaran
Aricept	Aciphex
Aricept	Azilect
aripiprazole	proton pump inhibitors
aripiprazole	rabeprazole
Asacol	Os-Cal
Atacand	antacid
Atrovent	Natru-Vent
Avandamet	Anzemet
Avandia	Prandin

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Avandia	Coumadin
<b>AVIN</b> za	<b>INV</b> anz
<b>AVIN</b> za	Evista
Axert	Antivert
aza <b>CITID</b> ine	aza <b>THIO</b> prine
aza <b>THIO</b> prine	aza <b>CITID</b> ine
Azilect	Aricept
<b>B &amp; O (belladonna and opium)</b>	Beano
Baby <b>BIG</b>	HBIG (hepatitis B immune globulin)
Beano	<b>B &amp; O (belladonna and opium)</b>
Betadine (with providone-iodine)	Betadine (without providone-iodine)
Betadine (without providone-iodine)	Betadine (with providone-iodine)
Bicillin C-R	Bicillin L-A
Bicillin L-A	Bicillin C-R
Brethine	Methergine
Brevibloc	Brevital
Brevital	Brevibloc
bu <b>PROP</b> ion	bus <b>PIR</b> one
bus <b>PIR</b> one	bu <b>PROP</b> ion
car <b>BAM</b> azepine	<b>OX</b> carbazepine
<b>CARBO</b> platin	<b>CIS</b> platin
Cardura	Coumadin
Cedax	Cidex
ce <b>FAZ</b> olin	ce <b>TRIA</b> Xone
ce <b>TRIA</b> Xone	ce <b>FAZ</b> olin
Cele <b>BREX</b>	Cele <b>XA</b>
Cele <b>BREX</b>	Cerebyx
Cele <b>XA</b>	Zy <b>PREXA</b>
Cele <b>XA</b>	Cele <b>BREX</b>
Cele <b>XA</b>	Cerebyx
Cerebyx	Cele <b>BREX</b>
Cerebyx	Cele <b>XA</b>
chlordiaze <b>POXIDE</b>	chlpro <b>MAZINE</b>
chlpro <b>MAZINE</b>	chlordiaze <b>POXIDE</b>
chlpro <b>MAZINE</b>	chlpro <b>PAMIDE</b>
chlpro <b>PAMIDE</b>	chlpro <b>MAZINE</b>
Cidex	Cedax
<b>CIS</b> platin	<b>CARBO</b> platin
Claritin-D	Claritin-D 24
Claritin-D 24	Claritin-D
clomi <b>PHENE</b>	clomi <b>PRAMINE</b>
clomi <b>PRAMINE</b>	clomi <b>PHENE</b>
clonaze <b>PAM</b>	clo <b>NID</b> ine
clo <b>NID</b> ine	clonaze <b>PAM</b>
clo <b>NID</b> ine	Klono <b>PI</b> N
Clozaril	Colazal

► Brand name medicines appear in **green**; generic medicines appear in **red**.

Unless noted, reports were received through the ISMP Medication Errors Reporting Program (MERP). Report actual and potential medication errors to the MERP via the web at [www.ismp.org](http://www.ismp.org) or by calling 1-800-FAIL-SAF(E). ISMP guarantees confidentiality of information received and respects reporters' wishes as to the level of detail included in publication.

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coagulation factor IX (recombinant)	factor IX complex, vapor heated
Colace	Cozaar
Colazal	Clozaril
colchicine	Cortrosyn
Comvax	Recombivax HB
Cortrosyn	colchicine
Coumadin	Avandia
Coumadin	Cardura
Cozaar	Colace
Cozaar	Zocor
cycloSERINE	cycloSPORINE
cycloSPORINE	cycloSERINE
DACTINomycin	DAPTOmycin
Daptacel (DTaP)	Adacel (Tdap)
DAPTOmycin	DACTINomycin
Darvon	Diovan
DAUNOrubicin	DAUNOrubicin citrate liposomal
DAUNOrubicin	DOXOrubicin
DAUNOrubicin	IDArubicin
DAUNOrubicin citrate liposomal	DAUNOrubicin
Denavir	indinavir
Depakote	Depakote ER
Depakote ER	Depakote
Depo-Medrol	Solu-MEDROL
Depo-Provera	Depo-SubQ Provera 104
Depo-SubQ Provera 104	Depo-Provera
dexamethylphenidate	methadone
Diabinese	Diamox
Diabeta	Zebeta
Diamox	Diabinese
Dilacor XR	Pilocar
Dilaudid	Dilaudid-5
Dilaudid-5	Dilaudid
dimenhyDRINATE	diphenhydrAMINE
diphenhydrAMINE	dimenhyDRINATE
Diovan	Zyban
Diovan	Darvon
Diprivan	Ditropan
Ditropan	Diprivan
DOBUTamine	DOPamine
DOPamine	DOBUTamine
Doxil	Paxil
DOXOrubicin	DAUNOrubicin
DOXOrubicin	DOXOrubicin liposomal
DOXOrubicin	IDArubicin
DOXOrubicin liposomal	DOXOrubicin

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Dulcolax (bisacodyl)	Dulcolax (docusate sodium)
Dulcolax (docusate sodium)	Dulcolax (bisacodyl)
DULOxetine	FLUOxetine
Duricef	Ultracet
edetate calcium disodium	edetate disodium
edetate disodium	edetate calcium disodium
Enbrel	Levbid
Engerix-B adult	Engerix-B pediatric/adolescent
Engerix-B pediatric/adolescent	Engerix-B adult
Enjuvia	Januvia
ePHEDrine	EPINEPHrine
EPINEPHrine	ePHEDrine
Estratest	Estratest HS
Estratest HS	Estratest
ethambutol	Ethmozine
Ethmozine	ethambutol
Evista	AVINza
factor IX complex, vapor heated	coagulation factor IX (recombinant)
Femara	Femhrt
Femhrt	Femara
fentaNYL	SUFentanil
flavoxate	fluvoxamine
FLUOxetine	PAROxetine
FLUOxetine	DULOxetine
fluvoxamine	flavoxate
Folex	Foltx
folic acid	folinic acid (leucovorin calcium)
folinic acid (leucovorin calcium)	folic acid
Foltx	Folex
fomepizole	omeprazole
Foradil	Toradol
gentamicin	gentian violet
gentian violet	gentamicin
glacial acetic acid	acetic acid for irrigation
glipiZIDE	glyBURIDE
glyBURIDE	glipiZIDE
Granulex	Regranex
guaiFENesin	guanFACINE
guanFACINE	guaiFENesin
HBIG (hepatitis B immune globulin)	BabyBIG
Healon	Hyalgan
heparin	Hespan
Hespan	heparin
HumaLOG mix 75/25	HumuLIN 70/30
HumaLOG	HumuLIN
Humapen Memoir (used with HumaLOG)	Humira Pen

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Humira Pen	Humapen Memoir (used with HumaLOG)
HumuLIN 70/30	HumaLOG mix 75/25
HumuLIN	HumaLOG
Hyalgan	Healon
hydr <b>ALAZINE</b>	hydr <b>OXYzine</b>
<b>HYDRO</b> codone	<b>oxyCODONE</b>
Hydrogesic	hydr <b>OXYzine</b>
<b>HYDRO</b> morphine	<b>morphine</b>
hydr <b>OXYzine</b>	Hydrogesic
hydr <b>OXYzine</b>	hydr <b>ALAZINE</b>
<b>IDA</b> rubicin	<b>DAUNO</b> rubicin
<b>IDA</b> rubicin	<b>DOXO</b> rubicin
Inderal	Adderall
indinavir	Denavir
in <b>FLIX</b> imab	ri <b>TUX</b> imab
influenza virus vaccine	tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD)
Inspira	Spiriva
<b>INV</b> anz	<b>AVIN</b> za
iodine	Lodine
Isordil	Plendil
isotretinoin	tretinoin
Januvia	Enjuvia
K Phos Neutral	Neutra Phos K
Kaletra	Keppra
Keppra	Kaletra
Ketalar	<b>ketorolac</b>
<b>ketorolac</b>	Ketalar
Kineret	Amikin
<b>KlonoPIN</b>	<b>cloNIDine</b>
Kwell	Qwell
La <b>MIC</b> tal	Lam <b>SIL</b>
Lam <b>SIL</b>	La <b>MIC</b> tal
lami <b>VUD</b> ine	lamo <b>TRI</b> gine
lamo <b>TRI</b> gine	lami <b>VUD</b> ine
Lanoxin	levothyroxine
Lantus	Lente
Lasix	Luvox
Lente	Lantus
leucovorin calcium	Leukeran
Leukeran	Alkeran
Leukeran	Myleran
Leukeran	leucovorin calcium
Levbid	Enbrel
levothyroxine	Lanoxin
Lexapro	Loxitane
Lipitor	Zyr <b>TEC</b>

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Lodine	iodine
<b>LOR</b> azepam	<b>ALPRA</b> zolam
<b>LOR</b> azepam	Lovaza
Lotronex	Protonix
Lovaza	<b>LOR</b> azepam
Loxitane	Lexapro
Loxitane	Soriatane
Lunesta	Neulasta
Lupron Depot-3 Month	Lupron Depot-Ped
Lupron Depot-Ped	Lupron Depot-3 Month
Luvox	Lasix
Maalox	Maalox Total Stomach Relief
Maalox Total Stomach Relief	Maalox
Maxzide	Microzide
Mephyton	methadone
Metadate	methadone
Metadate CD	Metadate ER
Metadate ER	Metadate CD
Metadate ER	methadone
<b>metFORMIN</b>	<b>metroNIDAZOLE</b>
methadone	dexamethylphenidate
methadone	Mephyton
methadone	Metadate ER
methadone	Metadate
methadone	methylphenidate
Methergine	Brethine
methimazole	metolazone
methylphenidate	methadone
metolazone	methimazole
<b>metroNIDAZOLE</b>	<b>metFORMIN</b>
Micronase	Microzide
Microzide	Maxzide
Microzide	Micronase
mifepristone	misoprostol
Miralax	Mirapex
Mirapex	Miralax
misoprostol	mifepristone
morphine - non-concentrated oral liquid	morphine - oral liquid concentrate
morphine - oral liquid concentrate	morphine - non-concentrated oral liquid
morphine	<b>HYDRO</b> morphine
MS Contin	Oxy <b>CONTIN</b>
Mucinex	Mucomyst
Mucomyst	Mucinex
Myleran	Alkeran
Myleran	Leukeran
Narcan	Norcuron

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Natru-Vent	Atrovent
Navane	Norvasc
Neo-Synephrine (oxymetazoline)	Neo-Synephrine (phenylephrine)
Neo-Synephrine (phenylephrine)	Neo-Synephrine (oxymetazoline)
Neulasta	Lunesta
Neulasta	Neumega
Neumega	Neupogen
Neumega	Neulasta
Neupogen	Neumega
Neurontin	Noroxin
Neutra Phos K	K Phos Neutral
NexAVAR	NexIUM
NexIUM	NexAVAR
niCARDipine	NIFEdipine
NIFEdipine	niCARDipine
NIFEdipine	niMODipine
niMODipine	NIFEdipine
Norcuron	Narcan
Noroxin	Neurontin
Norvasc	Navane
NovoLIN 70/30	NovoLOG MIX 70/30
NovoLOG Flexpen	NovoLOG MIX 70/30 Flexpen
NovoLOG MIX 70/30 Flexpen	NovoLOG Flexpen
NovoLOG MIX 70/30	NovoLIN 70/30
Occlusal-HP	Ocuflox
Ocuflox	Occlusal-HP
OLANZapine	QUETiapine
omeprazole	fomepizole
opium tincture	paregoric (camphorated tincture of opium)
Oracea	Orencia
Orencia	Oracea
Orgaran	argatroban
Os-Cal	Asacol
OXcarbazepine	carBAMazepine
oxyCODONE	HYDROcodone
oxyCODONE	OxyCONTIN
OxyCONTIN	MS Contin
OxyCONTIN	oxyCODONE
paclitaxel	paclitaxel protein-bound particles
paclitaxel protein-bound particles	paclitaxel
Pamelor	Panlor DC
Panlor DC	Pamelor
paregoric (camphorated tincture of opium)	opium tincture
PARoxetine	FLUoxetine
Patanol	Platinol
Pavulon	Peptavlon

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Paxil	Doxil
Paxil	Taxol
Paxil	Plavix
Peptavlon	Pavulon
Percocet	Procet
PENTobarbital	PHENobarbital
PHENobarbital	PENTobarbital
Pilocar	Dilacor XR
Platinol	Patanol
Plavix	Paxil
Plendil	Isordil
pneumococcal 7-valent vaccine	pneumococcal polyvalent vaccine
pneumococcal polyvalent vaccine	pneumococcal 7-valent vaccine
Prandin	Avandia
Precare	Precose
Precose	Precare
prednisoLONE	predniSONE
predniSONE	prednisoLONE
PriLOSEC	PROzac
Priscoline	Apresoline
probenecid	Procanbid
Procan SR	Procanbid
Procanbid	probenecid
Procanbid	Procan SR
Procardia XL	Protain XL
Procet	Percocet
Prograf	PROzac
propylthiouracil	Purinethol
Protain XL	Procardia XL
protamine	Protonix
proton pump inhibitors	aripiprazole
Protonix	Lotronex
Protonix	protamine
PROzac	Prograf
PROzac	PriLOSEC
Purinethol	propylthiouracil
QUETiapine	OLANZapine
quiNIDine	quiNINE
quiNINE	quiNIDine
Qwell	Kwell
rabeprazole	aripiprazole
Razadyne	Rozerem
Recombivax HB	Comvax
Regranex	Granulex
Retrovir	ritonavir
Rifadin	Rifater

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Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
rifampin	rifaximin
Rifater	Rifadin
rifaximin	rifampin
Ritalin	ritodrine
Ritalin LA	Ritalin SR
Ritalin SR	Ritalin LA
ritodrine	Ritalin
ritonavir	Retrovir
riTUXimab	inFLIXimab
Roxanol	Roxicodone IntenSol
Roxanol	Roxicet
Roxicet	Roxanol
Roxicodone IntenSol	Roxanol
Rozerem	Razadyne
Salagen	selegiline
SandIMMUNE	SandoSTATIN
SandoSTATIN	SandIMMUNE
saquinavir	SINEquan
saquinavir (free base)	saquinavir mesylate
saquinavir mesylate	saquinavir (free base)
Sarafem	Serophene
selegiline	Salagen
Serophene	Sarafem
SEROquel	SINEquan
sertraline	Soriatane
SINEquan	saquinavir
SINEquan	SEROquel
sitaGLIPtin	SUMatriptan
Solu-CORTEF	Solu-MEDROL
Solu-MEDROL	Depo-Medrol
Solu-MEDROL	Solu-CORTEF
Soriatane	Loxitane
Soriatane	sertraline
Spiriva	Inspra
SUFentanil	fentaNYL
sulfADIAZINE	sulfiSOXAZOLE
sulfiSOXAZOLE	sulfADIAZINE
SUMatriptan	sitaGLIPtin
SUMatriptan	zolmitriptan
Taxol	Taxotere
Taxol	Paxil
Taxotere	Taxol
TEGretol	TEGretol XR
TEGretol	TRENTal
TEGretol XR	TEGretol
Testoderm TTS	Testoderm

Drug Name	Confused Drug Name
Testoderm TTS	Testoderm with adhesive
Testoderm with adhesive	Testoderm
Testoderm with adhesive	Testoderm TTS
Testoderm	Testoderm TTS
Testoderm	Testoderm with adhesive
tetanus diphtheria toxoid (Td)	tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD)
tiaGABine	tiZANidine
Tiazac	Ziac
tiZANidine	tiaGABine
TNKase	Activase
TNKase	t-PA
Tobradex	Tobrex
Tobrex	Tobradex
TOLAZamide	TOLBUTamide
TOLBUTamide	TOLAZamide
Topamax	Toprol XL
Toprol XL	Topamax
Toradol	Foradil
t-PA	TNKase
Tracleer	Tricor
traMADol	traZODone
traZODone	traMADol
TRENTal	TEGretol
tretinoin	isotretinoin
Tricor	Tracleer
tromethamine	Trophamine
Trophamine	tromethamine
tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD)	influenza virus vaccine
tuberculin purified protein derivative (PPD)	tetanus diphtheria toxoid (Td)
Tylenol	Tylenol PM
Tylenol PM	Tylenol
Ultracet	Duricef
valacyclovir	valganciclovir
Valcyte	Valtrex
valganciclovir	valacyclovir
Valtrex	Valcyte
Varivax	VZIG (varicella-zoster immunoglobulin)
Vexol	Vosol
Viagra	Allegra
vinBLASTine	vinCRISTine
vinCRISTine	vinBLASTine
Viokase	Viokase 8
Viokase 8	Viokase
Viracept	Viramune
Viramune	Viracept
Vosol	Vexol

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