

Mechanism of Action

Carbonic Anhydrase Inhibitor

Carbon-fiber Hydra with Inhibiting-chains

Acetazolamide works by inhibiting carbonic anhydrase, interfering with bicarbonate absorption in the kidneys. Thus, the blood is acidified and the urine is alkalyzed.

Sodium Bicarbonate (NaHCO_3) Diuresis

Salt-shaker Bi-car-bomb Die-rocket

Acetazolamide causes self-limited NaHCO_3 diuresis, and reduces total body stores of HCO_3^- .

Side Effects

Metabolic Acidosis

Metal-Ball Acidic-lemon

A side effect of acetazolamide use may be metabolic acidosis, as it causes reduction of total HCO_3^- body stores, acidifying the blood. Patients may also become hyperchloremic.

Paresthesias

Paris-t-shirt with Pins-and-needles

Another adverse effect of acetazolamide may be paresthesias, or tingling and numbness within the fingers and toes.