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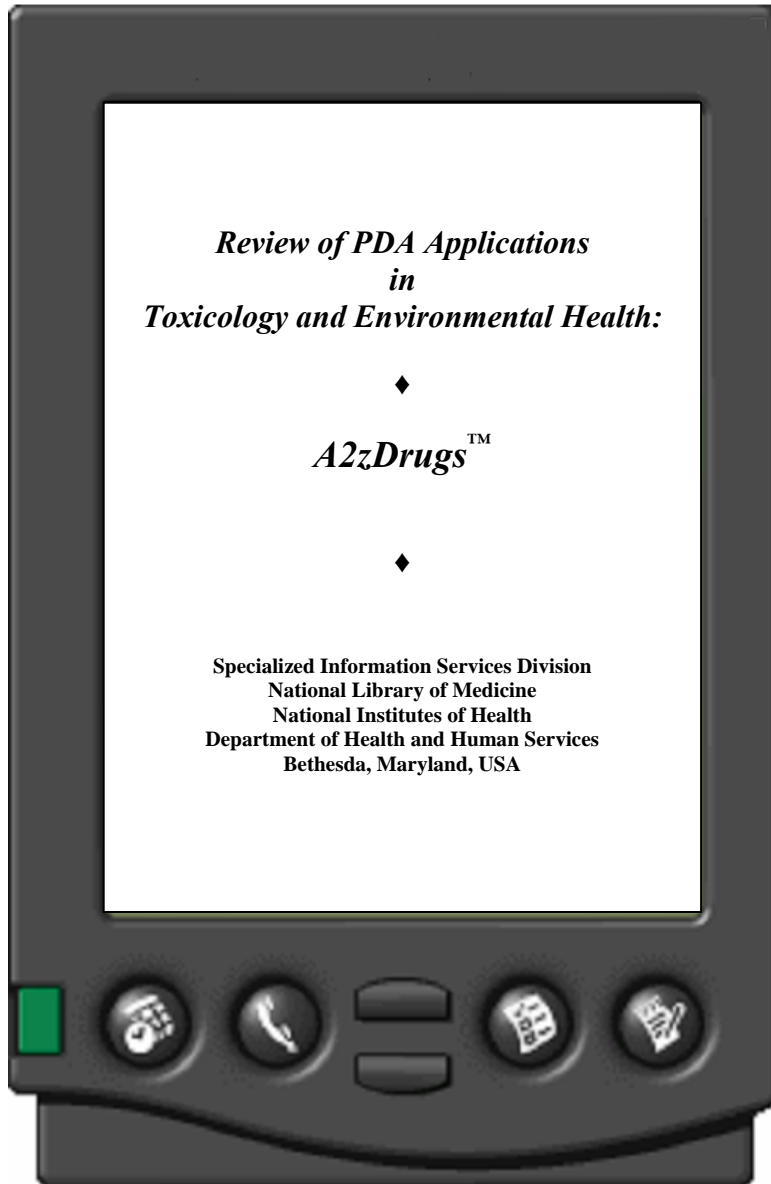
Review of PDA Applications
in
Toxicology and Environmental Health:

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A2zDrugs™

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Specialized Information Services Division
National Library of Medicine
National Institutes of Health
Department of Health and Human Services
Bethesda, Maryland, USA

A2zDrugs™

(Reviewed 05/2004)

General Information

For general comments regarding the *Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health*, please see the **Overview**. Here we review the main technical and content features of the Palm OS version of *A2zDrugs™ (7.0.0)* based upon the downloadable demo. *A2zDrugs™* is the handheld version of *A to Z Drug Facts*, a drug guide with the latest FDA approvals, indications, dosages, side effects, and patient care considerations. *A2zDrugs™* allows the practitioner to consult information about pharmacological issues at point of care and contains information on over 700 generic and 2800 brand name drugs. Skyscape indexes the information to allow users to access information on topics such as drug action, indications, contraindications, adverse reactions, dosage, and pregnancy warnings more efficiently.

Intended Users

- ➢ Physicians
- ➢ Physician's Assistants
- ➢ Nurses
- ➢ Nurse Practitioners
- ➢ Emergency Medical Personnel

Authorship/Data Source

The contents of the *A2zDrugs™* application is based on the hardcopy publication *A to Z Drug Facts*, a drug guide authored by David S. Tatro, PharmD, and published by Facts and Comparisons (Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.). The handheld version is produced by Skyscape, Inc.

Contents
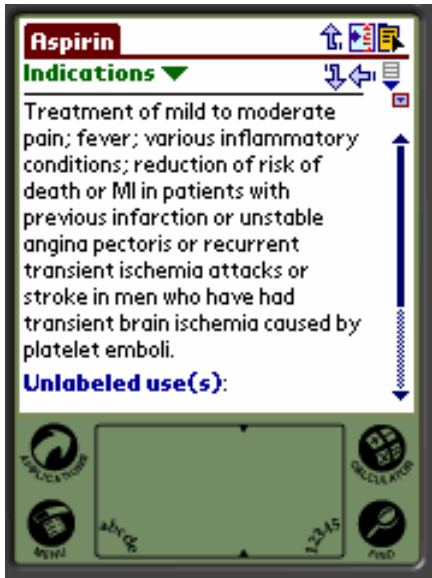
The *A2zDrugs*™ application provides an alphabetically organized drug reference that integrates drug therapy protocols with patient care guidelines. It includes information on over 3500 drugs (generic and brand name drugs). Individual drug monographs are divided into pharmacological and patient care considerations and include information on drug interactions, indications, route/dosage, side effects, and precautions/warnings. They also provide detailed pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic (absorption, distribution, metabolism, excretion) data.

◄ *The Main Index, a small portion of which is shown in the screen shot to the left, allows the user to access the A2zDrugs contents via a list of drug names (both generic and brand names). Each drug name is linked to a monograph organized into sections covering various aspects of that drug (e.g., indications, contraindications, adverse reactions).*
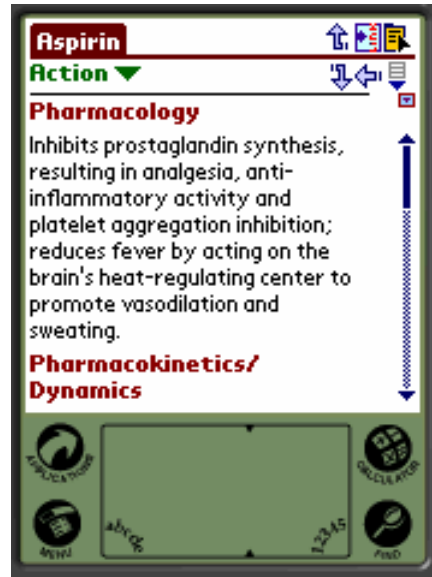
► *Tapping on any drug name in the Main Index reveals a scrollable topics menu, most of which is shown in the screen shot to the right. Each topic represents, and is linked to, the corresponding section of the drug monograph text.*
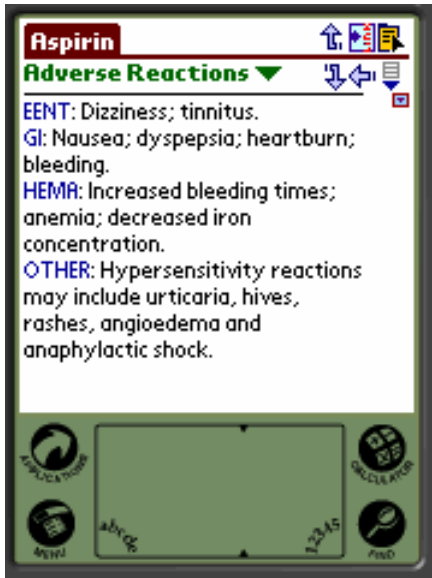
◄ *Using Aspirin as an example, the next 18 screen shots will illustrate the sections typically included in each drug monograph, beginning with Indications (shown to the left). Tapping on the monograph section name (in this case, Indications) will display the topics menu, from which the user can choose a different monograph section. Note that the Indications section may also mention unlabeled use(s) of a drug.*

► *The screen shot to the right displays the Action section of the monograph, which includes a Pharmacology subsection and a Pharmacokinetics/Dynamics subsection covering drug absorption, distribution, metabolism, and excretion.*
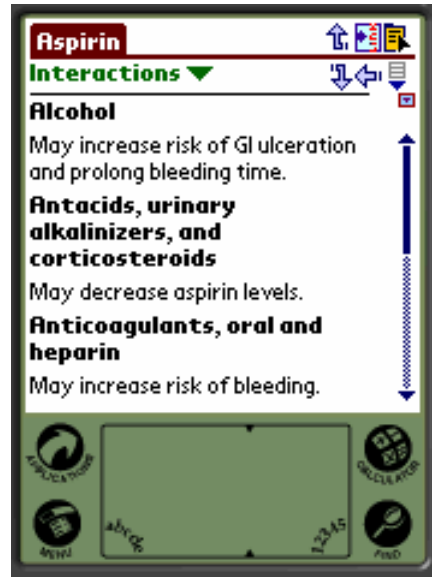

◄ *The screen shot to the left displays the Contraindications section of the Aspirin monograph.*
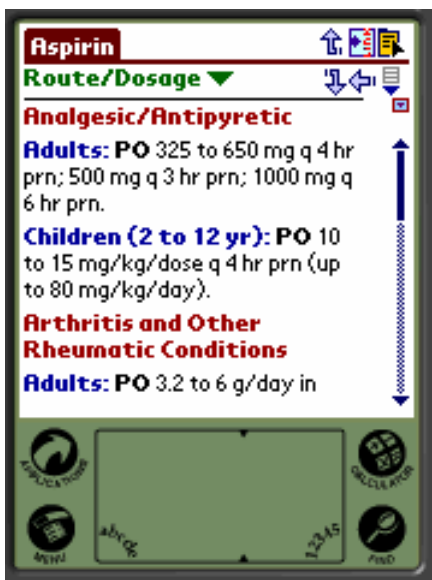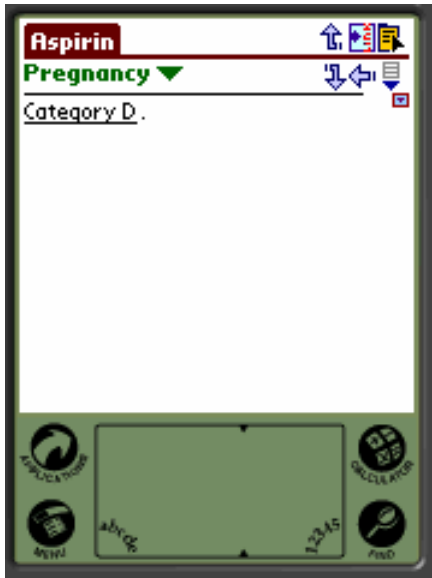
◄ *The screen shot to the left displays the Adverse Reactions that may be associated with Aspirin use.*

► *The screen shot to the right displays a portion of the information on Interactions that may occur between Aspirin and other drugs or substances.*
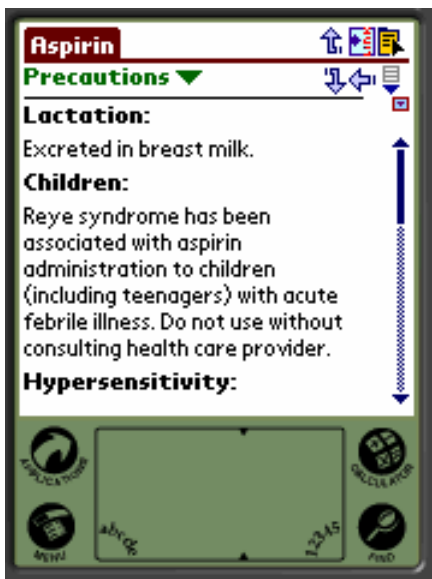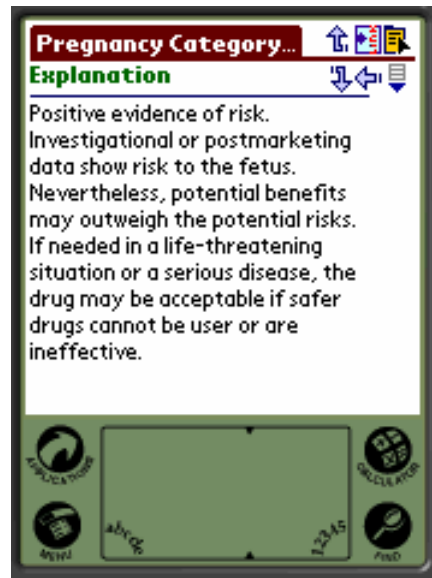

◄ *The screen shot to the left displays the Route/Dosage information for various uses of Aspirin.*

◄ *The Pregnancy section of the Aspirin monograph is shown in the screen shot to the left. Note that Aspirin is classified under Pregnancy Category D (hyperlinked), the Explanation of which appears in the screen shot below.*

◄ *The screen shot to the left displays a portion of the Precautions section of the Aspirin monograph.*
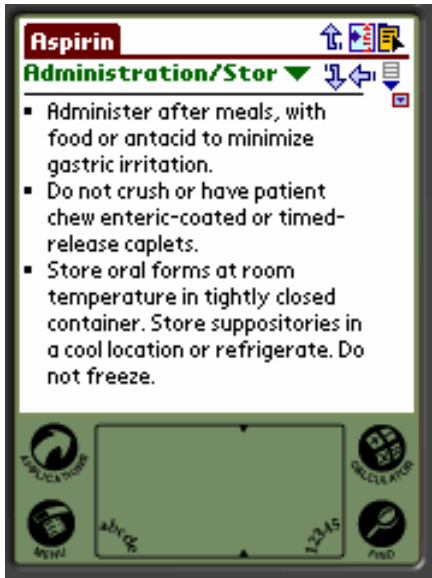
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◄ *A portion of the list of Brand Names for Aspirin is shown in the screen shot to the left. Note that most drug brand names are included in the Main Index.*

► *The screen shot to the right displays a portion of the How Supplied information for the various Aspirin brand names.*
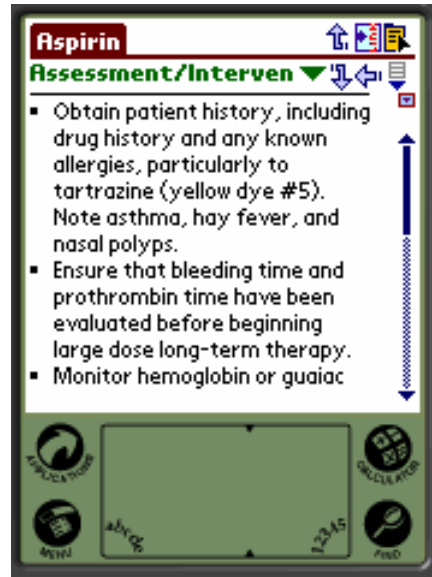

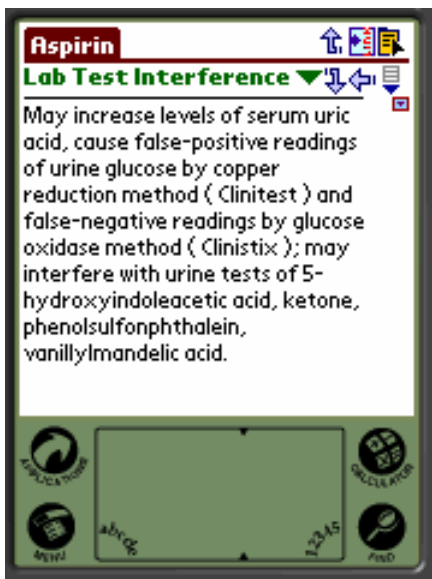◄ *The screen shot to the left shows the (Drug) Class information for Aspirin.*

◄ *The Administration/Storage information for Aspirin is displayed in the screen shot to the left.*

► *The screen shot to the right shows a portion of the Assessment/Interventions section of the Aspirin monograph.*
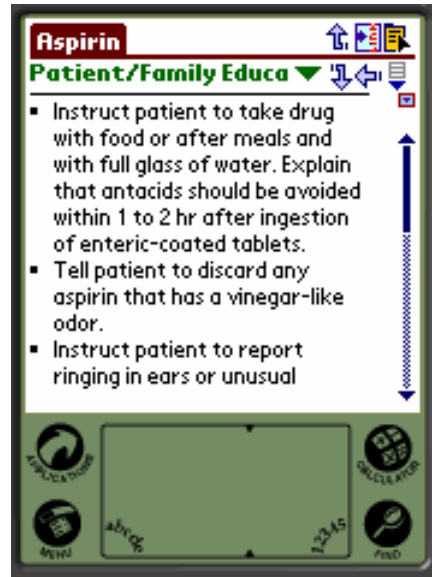

◄ *The Lab Test Interference information for Aspirin is displayed in the screen shot to the left.*

◄ *The screen shot to the left displays the Overdosage section of the Aspirin monograph.*

► *A portion of the Patient/Family Education information for Aspirin is shown in the screen shot to the right.*
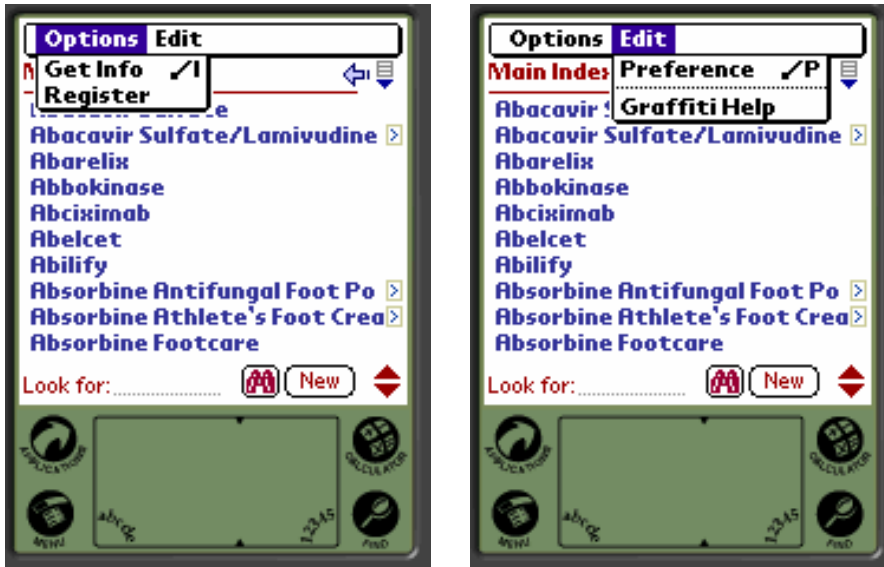

◄ *Finally, the screen shot to the left shows the correct drug name Pronunciation (in this case, that of Aspirin).*
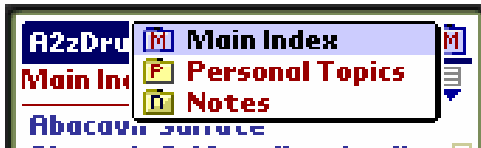
Navigation

Tapping on the *A2zDrugs* title in the top left corner of the screen provides access to the following features (see two screen shots below):

- Get Info
- Register
- Preference
- Graffiti Help

Tapping on provides access to the following (see partial screen shot below):

- Main Index
- Personal Topics
- Notes

Furthermore, on most screens the user can tap on to return to the previous screen. Additionally, the user can tap on to access help documentation.

When in the Main Index mode, tapping on **Main Index** ▼ allows the user to access the following additional information categories:

- Combination Drugs

- Orphan Drugs
- AIDS Drugs
- Organisms Index
- Foreign Index
- Table of Contents

At the bottom of the screen, the application allows the user to perform a search. By typing text into the space following Look for:..................... , an incremental search is initiated, and the list scrolls in response to the user's input. The user can also type a series of letters into the space and tap 🔍; upon tapping 🔍 again, the user will be taken to the next occurrence of that series of letters.

The New button allows the user to add new content (a new drug and any specific aspects, such as indications, interactions, precautions) to the application under the Personal Topics heading.

The up/down arrows ↕ (bottom right of screen) allow the user to scroll through the Main Index and the additional information categories mentioned above. A vertical scroll bar on the left side of the screen allows the user to scroll through the various drug monograph sections.

Tapping on the ✖ at the top right of any pop-up screen, allows the user to close out that screen and return to the previous display.

Requirements

- ❖ Palm OS (reviewed here) or Windows Pocket PC
- ❖ 2.4 MB of RAM (Palm OS 3.1 or higher)
- ❖ 8.7 MB of RAM (Windows CE version 2.0 or higher, which supports ActiveSync and Pocket PC lines of handhelds)

Most Skyscape products work off memory cards. For exceptions and installation questions, please visit www.skyscape.com/support/memorycardmatrix.asp.

Application Type/Price

- ❖ Commercial
- ❖ $49.95

Availability

The *A2zDrugs*™ application is available from commercial PDA software distributors.

Useful Web Links

For information about Facts and Comparisons (Wolters Kluwer Health, Inc.), visit www.factsandcomparisons.com. For additional information about Skyscape Inc., go to www.skyscape.com.

Review of PDA Applications
in
Toxicology and Environmental Health

<u>Overview</u>

Handheld computer devices known as Personal Digital Assistants (PDAs) are increasingly being used in the fields of toxicology and environmental health. Moreover, software applications covering specialized subject matter in these fields are increasingly being made available to PDA users.

In an effort to provide information on the main technical and content features of selected applications, the National Library of Medicine's Division of Specialized Information Services (SIS) has undertaken an ongoing review of them. Typically, individual reports in the review series are based on free, downloadable demos.

Each report typically covers the following topics: General Information, Intended Users, Authorship/Data Source, Contents, Navigation, Requirements, Application Type/Price, Availability, Useful Web Links, and Updates.

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<u>Note</u>: The *Review of PDA Applications in Toxicology and Environmental Health* is not intended to be all comprehensive, but rather a review of selected applications. SIS staff welcomes any comments on completed reviews or suggestions for additional reviews of applications not currently included, as long as they fall within the scope of toxicology and environmental health. You may contact us via email at tehip@teh.nlm.nih.gov with any comments, questions, or suggestions.

It is not the intention of SIS staff to recommend, or not recommend, any particular PDA device(s) or software application(s), but rather to provide an objective and descriptive review of the main technical and content features of selected applications based on their downloadable demo versions.