

Diclofenac Sandoz[®]

diclofenac sodium enteric-coated tablets

Consumer Medicine Information

WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET

This leaflet answers some common questions about Diclofenac Sandoz.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

WHAT DICLOFENAC SANDOZ IS USED FOR

Diclofenac Sandoz is used to treat the symptoms of inflammatory and degenerative forms of rheumatism, rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. It is also used to relieve states of acute or chronic pain in which there is an inflammatory component, as well as for the symptomatic treatment of menstrual pain (period pain).

It contains the active ingredient diclofenac sodium.

Diclofenac sodium belongs to a group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

It works by reducing pain and inflammation (swelling and redness).

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

There is no evidence that this medicine is addictive.

BEFORE YOU TAKE DICLOFENAC SANDOZ

When you must not take it

Do not take this medicine if you have an allergy to:

- diclofenac sodium, the active ingredient, or to any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet under Product Description.
- any other similar medicines, such as aspirin or other NSAIDs.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin.

Do not take this medicine if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- stomach or intestinal ulcer
- bleeding from the stomach or bowel (symptoms of which may include blood in your stools or black stools)
- severe kidney or liver problems
- severe heart failure.

Do not take this medicine during the last three months of pregnancy.

It may affect your developing baby if you take it during the last three months of pregnancy.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell you doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- history of ulcers (stomach or intestinal)
- gastrointestinal problems such as stomach ulcer, bleeding or black stools, or have experienced stomach discomfort or heartburn after taking anti-inflammatory medicines in the past
- Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis, which are diseases of the bowel
- a tendency to bleed or other blood problems such as anaemia
- history of haemorrhoids (piles) or irritation of the rectum (back passage)
- any heart problems, including disease of the heart with shortness of breath, and swelling of the feet or lips due to fluid build-up
- problems with your liver or kidney function
- asthma or any other chronic lung disease that causes difficulty in breathing

- seasonal allergies (e.g. hay fever)
- repeated chest infections
- polyps in the nose
- diabetes
- recent major surgery
- high blood pressure.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

Tell your doctor if you are lactose intolerant.

Diclofenac Sandoz tablets contain lactose.

Tell your doctor if you are planning to give this medicine to a child.

Safety and effectiveness in children have not been established.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking Diclofenac Sandoz.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Diclofenac Sandoz may interfere with each other. These include:

- aspirin, salicylates, ibuprofen, or other NSAID medicines
- anticoagulants such as warfarin, medicines used for thinning the blood or stop blood clots
- digoxin, a medicine used to treat heart problems
- lithium or selective serotonin-reuptake inhibitors (SSRIs), medicines used to treat some types of depression
- diuretics, also called fluid or water tablets, medicines used to increase the amount of urine
- ACE inhibitors or beta-blockers, medicines used to treat high blood pressure, heart conditions, glaucoma and migraine
- corticosteroids, medicines such as prednisone and cortisone, used to reduce the activity of your immune system
- antidiabetic agents, medicines used to treat diabetes
- methotrexate, a medicine used to treat arthritis, as well as some types of cancers
- cyclosporin, a medicine used in patients who have received organ transplants
- glucocorticoids, a group of anti-inflammatory medications, used to treat arthritis
- certain antibiotics called quinolones
- voriconazole, a medicine used to treat fungal infections.

These medicines may be affected by Diclofenac Sandoz, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

HOW TO TAKE DICLOFENAC SANDOZ

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

The usual starting dose is 75mg to 150mg per day. For long-term treatment, 75mg to 100mg daily is usually sufficient.

In period pain, the usual starting dose is 50mg to 100mg per day, beginning as soon as cramps begin and continuing until the pain goes away, but for no longer than 3 days. If necessary, the dose can be increased over several menstrual cycles up to a maximum of 200mg per day.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure of the correct dose for you.

They will tell you exactly how much to take.

Follow the instructions they give you.

If you take the wrong dose, Diclofenac Sandoz may not work as well and your problem may not improve.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water or other liquid.

Do not chew them.

These tablets have a special coating to stop them dissolving until they have gone through the stomach and into the intestines, where they can start to work. If you chew them, the coating is destroyed.

When to take Diclofenac Sandoz

It is recommended to take the tablets before meals. You may take them with, or immediately after food in order to reduce the chance of stomach upset.

How long to take Diclofenac Sandoz

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

This medicine helps to control your condition but does not cure it.

If you forget to take it

Take your dose as soon as you remember, and continue to take it as you would normally.

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26 or New Zealand 0800 POISON or 0800 764766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Diclofenac Sandoz. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include:

- vomiting
- bleeding from the stomach or bowel
- diarrhoea
- dizziness
- ringing in the ears
- convulsions (fits).

WHILE YOU ARE TAKING DICLOFENAC SANDOZ

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Diclofenac Sandoz.

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking this medicine.

It can slow down blood clotting and affect kidney function.

If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

Tell your doctor if you get an infection while taking this medicine.

This medicine may hide some of the signs of an infection (pain, fever, swelling, redness). You may think, mistakenly, that you are better or that the infection is not serious.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may do some tests (check your kidneys, liver and blood) from time to time to prevent unwanted side effects.

Things you must not do

Do not take any of the following medicines while you are taking Diclofenac Sandoz without first telling your doctor:

- aspirin (also called ASA or acetylsalicylic acid)
- other salicylates
- other medicines containing diclofenac
- ibuprofen
- any other NSAID medicine.

If you take these medicines together with Diclofenac Sandoz, they may cause unwanted side effects.

If you need to take something for headache or fever, it is usually okay to take paracetamol. If you are not sure, your doctor or pharmacist can advise you.

Do not stop any other forms of treatment for arthritis that your doctor has told you to follow.

This medicine does not replace exercise or rest programs or the use of heat/cold treatments.

Do not take Diclofenac Sandoz to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Diclofenac Sandoz affects you.

This medicine may cause dizziness or light-headedness in some people.

Elderly patients should take the minimum number of tablets that provides relief of symptoms.

SIDE EFFECTS

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Diclofenac Sandoz.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following list of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- stomach pain including nausea (feeling sick), vomiting, indigestion, loss of appetite, weight loss, wind, abdominal cramps
- constipation, diarrhoea
- skin rashes, skin inflammation with flaking or peeling
- dizziness, spinning sensation
- drowsiness, disorientation, forgetfulness
- headache
- sore mouth or tongue
- altered taste sensation
- feeling depressed, anxious or irritable
- strange or disturbing thoughts or moods, nightmares, sleeplessness, shakiness
- tingling or numbness of the hands or feet
- feeling fast or irregular heart beat
- unusual weight gain or swelling of ankles or legs due to fluid build up
- symptoms of sunburn that happen more quickly than usual (redness, itching, swelling, blistering of the lips, eyes, mouth and/or skin)
- blurred or double vision
- difficulty hearing, buzzing or ringing of the ears
- hair loss or thinning.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- red or purple skin
- severe pain or tenderness in the stomach, vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds, bleeding from the back passage, black sticky bowel motions (stools) or bloody diarrhoea
- rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- persistent nausea, loss of appetite, unusual tiredness, vomiting, pain in the upper right abdomen, yellowing of the skin/or eyes, dark urine or pale bowel motions
- constant “flu-like” symptoms (chills, fever, sore throat, aching joints, swollen glands, tiredness or lack of energy), bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

- development of painful red areas, large blisters, peeling of skin, bleeding lips, eyes, mouth, nose or genitals which may be accompanied by fever and chills, aching muscles and generally feeling unwell
- sudden and severe headache, stiff neck, severe nausea, dizziness, numbness, difficulty in speaking, paralysis, fainting, convulsions/seizures (fits)
- change in the colour or amount of urine passed, blood in the urine, burning feeling when passing urine and frequent need to urinate
- chest pains which may be a sign of a heart attack.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

AFTER TAKING DICLOFENAC SANDOZ

Storage

Keep your medicine in the original container.

If you take it out of its original container it may not keep well.

Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store Diclofenac Sandoz or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

What it looks like

Diclofenac Sandoz tablets come in two strengths:

Diclofenac Sandoz 25mg - round, brown-yellow enteric-coated tablets.

Diclofenac Sandoz 50mg - round, brown-yellow enteric-coated tablets.

Available in blisters or bottles* of 50 tablets.

Ingredients

Active ingredients:

- Diclofenac Sandoz 25mg - 25mg diclofenac sodium
- Diclofenac Sandoz 50mg - 50mg diclofenac sodium

Inactive ingredients:

- lactose
- calcium hydrogen phosphate
- microcrystalline cellulose
- maize starch
- sodium starch glycollate
- magnesium stearate
- colloidal silicon dioxide
- methacrylic acid copolymer
- triethyl citrate
- talc
- titanium dioxide
- yellow ferric oxide.

Supplier

Sandoz Pty Ltd
ABN 60 075 449 553
Level 4, 100 Harris St
Pymont NSW 2009
Tel: 1800 634 500

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Private Bag 65904 Mairangi Bay
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Australian Register Numbers:

Diclofenac Sandoz 25mg - AUST R 63664 (*blisters*)
Diclofenac Sandoz 25mg - AUST R 61297 (*bottles*)*
Diclofenac Sandoz 50mg - AUST R 63661 (*blisters*)
Diclofenac Sandoz 50mg - AUST R 61298 (*bottles*)*

* Not registered in New Zealand