

# SYNTOCINON®

5IU and 10IU/mL injection  
synthetic oxytocin

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## Consumer Medicine Information

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Syntocinon.

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 having Syntocinon against the benefits they expect it to provide.

**If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

#### Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

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### What Syntocinon is used for

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Syntocinon can be used to bring on (induce) labour. It can also be used during and immediately after delivery to help the birth and to prevent or treat excessive bleeding.

Syntocinon is a man-made chemical that is identical to a natural hormone called oxytocin. It works by stimulating the muscles of the uterus (womb) to produce rhythmic contractions.

Syntocinon is not suitable in all situations - for example, if the baby or placenta are in the wrong position or if you have had a previous Caesarian section or other surgery involving the uterus. Your doctor can give you more information on the suitability of Syntocinon in your particular case.

**Ask your doctor if you have any**

**questions about why Syntocinon has been prescribed for you.**  
Your doctor may have prescribed it for another purpose.

Syntocinon is only available with a doctor's prescription. It is not addictive.

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### Before you have Syntocinon

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#### **When you must not have it**

**You must not have Syntocinon if you are allergic to oxytocin, the active ingredient, or to any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

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.

#### **Before you have it**

**Tell your doctor if you have any heart problems.**

The amount of fluid you will be given may need to be reduced if you have a problem with your heart.

**Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.**

Your doctor will want to know if you are prone to allergies.

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

**If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell him/her before you have Syntocinon.**

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### How Syntocinon is given

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To bring on (induce) or maintain labour, Syntocinon is given by intravenous infusion (drip). The speed of the infusion is set to maintain a pattern of contractions similar to normal labour. During the infusion, both you and your baby will be closely monitored to prevent complications. If Syntocinon is needed at delivery or to prevent excessive bleeding, it can also be given intramuscularly (into a muscle).

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### Side effects

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**Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are having Syntocinon.**

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

**Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:**

- signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing
- signs of too much fluid when high doses or long infusions are given, such as headache, nausea (feeling sick), vomiting, drowsiness, lack of energy, pain in the abdomen that is different from labour pains
- dizziness, light headedness or faintness
- fast or irregular heart beat
- chest pain

**Tell your doctor if you notice**

**anything else that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may happen in some people.

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## **Product description**

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### ***What it looks like***

Syntocinon is available in a glass ampoule containing 1 mL of a clear, colourless solution; 5 ampoules in a cardboard carton.

### ***Ingredients***

Each ampoule contains either 5 or 10 International Units of oxytocin. It also contains:

- sodium acetate
- acetic acid
- chlorbutol
- ethanol 96%
- water for injections

### ***Sponsor***

Syntocinon is supplied in New Zealand by:

Novartis New Zealand Limited

Private Bag 65904

Mairangi Bay

Auckland

Building G, 5 Orbit Drive

Rosedale

Auckland 0632

Telephone: 0800 652 422

® = registered trademark

This leaflet was prepared on 23 June 2009 based on the currently approved data sheet for this product.