

AMIZIDE

Amiloride hydrochloride 5 mg and hydrochlorothiazide 50 mg Tablets

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about AMIZIDE. It does not contain all the information available on this medicine. 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 AMIZIDE against the benefits they expect it will have for you. If you have any concerns about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet. You may want to read it again.

What AMIZIDE is used for and how it works

Your AMIZIDE tablets contain the active ingredients amiloride hydrochloride and hydrochlorothiazide. AMIZIDE is used to treat high blood pressure. It can also be used to reduce fluid retention in people with heart or liver disease.

AMIZIDE helps to reduce the amount of excess fluid in the body by increasing the amount of urine produced, while at the same time, helping to maintain normal potassium levels in the blood.

AMIZIDE may be taken alone, or in combination with other medicines to treat your condition.

Your doctor may have prescribed AMIZIDE for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why AMIZIDE has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence that AMIZIDE is addictive.

AMIZIDE is available only with a prescription from your doctor.

Before you take AMIZIDE

When you must not take it

Do not take AMIZIDE if you:

- are allergic to amiloride, hydrochlorothiazide, or any other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- are allergic to sulphur
- have kidney problems
- have problems passing urine
- have high potassium levels in your blood (hyperkalaemia)
- are pregnant, or intend to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding

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.

AMIZIDE is not recommended for use in children.

Before you start taking it

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

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

- heart and lung problems
- liver problems
- kidney problems
- diabetes
- gout or hyperuricaemia
- high cholesterol levels

Taking other medicines

If you are taking any other medicines, including any you get without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Some medicines may be affected by AMIZIDE, or may affect how well it works. These include:

- preparations which contain potassium
- ACE inhibitors, a group of medicines used to treat high blood pressure
- lithium, a medicine used in the treatment of mood swings
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, diclofenac, naproxen, used to relieve pain or inflammation
- barbiturates, such as phenobarbitone, used to treat epilepsy
- strong pain killers such as codeine, morphine, dextropropoxyphene
- insulin and tablets used to treat diabetes
- corticosteroid medicines such as prednisone and dexamethasone
- alcohol

Your doctor can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

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

How to take AMIZIDE properly

How much to take

The usual dose is one or two tablets daily.

Your doctor may advise you to take a different dose. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

Your doctor may increase your dose if necessary. No more than 4 tablets a day should be taken.

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

How to take it

Swallow the tablets with a glass of water.

When to take it

If you are taking AMIZIDE once a day, take it in the morning, for example, at breakfast time. AMIZIDE takes about two hours to start working.

If you are taking more than one dose per day, take the last dose no later than 6 pm, unless your doctor tells you otherwise. AMIZIDE may increase the amount of urine you pass and also the number of times you go to the toilet. By taking the last dose no later than 6 pm there may be less chance of your sleep being disturbed.

How long to take it

It is important to take AMIZIDE every day as it helps control your condition and lower the fluid build up in your body.

Keep taking AMIZIDE for as long as your doctor recommends.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your tablets as you would normally.

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

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

Taking your medicine at the same time each day may help you to remember to take it regularly. If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

While you are taking AMIZIDE

Things you must do

Before starting any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking AMIZIDE.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking AMIZIDE.

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

Tell your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms:

- excessive vomiting or diarrhoea
- dry mouth, thirst
- weakness, tiredness, drowsiness
- muscle pain or cramps
- fast heart beat
- passing less urine than normal

You may be dehydrated from losing too much water if you experience any of these symptoms.

Visit your doctor regularly so they can check on your progress. Your doctor may want to check your blood pressure and potassium levels regularly to make sure AMIZIDE is working properly.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking AMIZIDE, or change the dose, without checking with your doctor.

Do not use AMIZIDE to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give AMIZIDE 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 AMIZIDE affects you.

AMIZIDE may cause drowsiness, dizziness or lightheadedness in some people. If any of these occur, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Be careful getting up from a sitting or lying position.

Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting may occur, especially when you get up quickly. Getting up slowly may help. If this problem gets worse or continues, talk to your doctor.

Be careful when drinking alcohol or taking strong pain killers while taking AMIZIDE.

Combining AMIZIDE with alcohol or strong pain killers can make you more dizzy or lightheaded.

Be aware of foods or drinks that have a high potassium content.

AMIZIDE helps to maintain normal potassium levels in your body. However, if you eat foods or have drinks that are high in potassium this may lead to an increase of potassium in your body. Too much potassium can be harmful; therefore, it is important to discuss your diet with your doctor or pharmacist.

Monitor your blood sugar levels carefully if you are a diabetic.

AMIZIDE may change how well your diabetes is controlled. Your doses of diabetic medicines, including insulin, may need to change.

Side effects

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

All medicines can have some unwanted 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.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible 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:

- dizziness or light-headedness
- drowsiness, lack of energy
- nausea, vomiting, change in appetite
- diarrhoea or constipation
- stomach discomfort or fullness
- passing wind
- bad taste in the mouth, visual disturbances, nasal congestion
- impotence
- headache

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- very dry mouth or unusual thirst
- muscle pain or cramps, swollen or painful joints
- numbness or tingling in the hands or feet

- irregular or very fast heart beat
- chest pain
- mental confusion
- pain when passing urine, loss of control of your bladder or bowels
- yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice)
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- bruising or bleeding more easily than normal.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency Department at the nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- rash, itching or hives
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing
- fits or seizures
- vomiting blood or material that looks like coffee grounds
- bleeding from the back passage, black, sticky bowel motions (stools) or bloody diarrhoea.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

In case of overdose

You should only take the number of tablets that you have been told.

Immediately contact your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) or go to the Emergency department at your nearest hospital, if you think that you may have taken too much, or if anyone else has taken any AMIZIDE by mistake. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Take the container of AMIZIDE with you if you can.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

Storage conditions

Keep AMIZIDE 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.

Keep your tablets in the bottle until it is time to take them. If you take the tablets out of their pack they may not keep well.

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

Do not store AMIZIDE, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on windowsills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking AMIZIDE or if the tablets have passed the expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.

Product description

What it looks like

AMIZIDE tablets are round, flat, yellow tablets, marked with "AMIZIDE" on one side.

Ingredients

Each AMIZIDE tablet contains the active ingredients amiloride hydrochloride (5 mg) and hydrochlorothiazide (50 mg)

Each AMIZIDE tablet also contains lactose hydrous, maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, purified talc, sodium starch glycollate, magnesium stearate and quinoline yellow lake.

If you want to know more

Should you have any questions regarding this product, please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Who supplies this medicine

Distributed in New Zealand by:

Mylan New Zealand Ltd,
PO Box 11183,
Ellerslie,
Auckland.

Telephone: (09) 579 2792

Date of information

2 February 2009
(Based on datasheet dated 2 February 2009)