

DIURIN 40
Furosemide
40 mg Tablets



What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about DIURIN. 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 DIURIN 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 DIURIN is used for and how it works

Your DIURIN tablets contain the active ingredient furosemide. It belongs to a group of medicines known as diuretics. These medicines reduce the amount of excess fluid in the body by increasing the amount of urine produced.

DIURIN is used to treat patients with oedema (swelling of the body due to excess fluid) caused by various conditions such as congestive heart failure, liver or kidney problems.

DIURIN is also used to treat hypertension (high blood pressure). It may be used alone or in combination with other medicines to treat this condition.

Your doctor may, however, prescribe DIURIN for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why DIURIN has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence that DIURIN is addictive.

DIURIN is only available on prescription from your doctor.

Before you take DIURIN

When you must not take it

Do not take DIURIN if you:

- are allergic to furosemide
- are allergic to medicines which contain sulphur, such as sulphur antibiotics or some medicines used to treat diabetes
- are allergic to any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- have severe kidney problems
- have liver problems
- are severely dehydrated
- have low blood pressure (hypotension)
- have low sodium or potassium levels in your blood
- are breast feeding.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips or tongue that may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing, wheezing or shortness of breath.

Do not give to children unless prescribed by your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to other medicines which contain sulphur, such as sulphur antibiotics and some medicines used to treat diabetes
- are allergic to any other substances, such as foods, dyes or preservatives
- have any liver or kidney problems
- have any heart problems
- have high cholesterol levels
- have diabetes
- have any urinary problems
- have prostate problems
- have gout, a disease with painful, swollen joints
- have Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), a disease affecting the skin, joints and kidneys
- are about to have elective surgery
- are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed
- are on a salt restricted diet.

If this medicine is for a newborn child, tell your doctor if the baby is jaundice.

Symptoms of jaundice may include yellowing of the skin, eyes, dark urine and flu-like symptoms.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking DIURIN.

Taking other medicines

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

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

- Some medicines used to treat diabetes
- Antibiotics, medicines used to treat infections (e.g. aminoglycosides and certain cephalosporins such as cephaloridine)
- Certain other fluid tablets or diuretics
- Medicines used to treat high blood pressure and certain heart conditions, especially ACE inhibitors
- Digoxin and other medicines used to treat heart failure
- Medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation, including arthritis, such as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and salicylates (e.g. acetylsalicylic acid)
- Muscle relaxants such as tubocurarine, succinylcholine
- Steroid medicines, such as cortisone, prednisone, dexamethasone
- Lithium, a medicine used to treat mood swings and some types of depression
- Adrenaline and noradrenaline, medicines used in emergency situations
- Amphotericin, a medicine used to treat fungal infections
- Cisplatin, a medicine used to treat cancer
- Theophylline, a medicine used to treat asthma
- Probenecid, a medicine used to treat gout
- Large amounts of laxatives
- Methotrexate, a medicine used to treat arthritis and some types of cancers
- Sucralfate, a medicine used to treat stomach and intestinal ulcers

- Anticonvulsant medicines such as choral hydrate, phenytoin
- Cyclosporin, a medicine following organ transplants.

These medicines may be affected by DIURIN or may affect how well it works. You may need to take different amounts of your medicine or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

You should not eat large amounts of liquorice when you are taking DIURIN.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking DIURIN.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about this list of medicines.

How to take DIURIN properly

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

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

How much to take

Do not take more than the recommended dose.

The usual dose is between 20 mg and 80 mg, given as a single daily dose. Your doctor may increase or decrease this dose depending on your condition and how well you respond to this medicine.

The dose in children is usually less than this. The dose will be calculated by your doctor and will depend on the weight of the child.

There are no special dosage recommendations for the elderly.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets with a glass of water.

Take the tablets on an empty stomach, for example 1 hour before food or 2 hours after food, as food may interfere with the absorption of DIURIN.

How long to take it

Continue taking DIURIN for as long as your doctor tells you to.

If you forget to take it

If you forget to take your DIURIN tablets and 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 it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

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

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

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 DIURIN

Things you must do:

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

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking DIURIN before you start any new medicine.

Tell your doctor if you develop a skin rash or hives, or you become pregnant while taking DIURIN.

If you are going to have surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking DIURIN.

If you are going to have any blood or urine tests, tell your doctor that you are taking DIURIN.

Things you must not do

Do not take DIURIN to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop taking DIURIN or lower the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Things to be careful of

DIURIN may cause dizziness or tiredness in some people.

Be careful when driving, operating machinery or performing jobs that need you to be alert, until you are certain that DIURIN does not affect your performance.

Be careful drinking alcohol while taking DIURIN. If you drink alcohol, it may make some of the unwanted side effects of DIURIN worse.

Your doctor may suggest that you avoid alcohol completely or reduce the amount of alcohol you drink while you are taking DIURIN.

Make sure that you eat a diet high in potassium (lean meat, bananas, potatoes, tomatoes, cauliflower, spinach, dried fruit etc).

Low levels of potassium may increase the chance of unwanted side effects whilst taking DIURIN.

DIURIN may cause your skin to become more sensitive to the sun. If this happens you should take care to wear protective clothing including a sun hat and sun block when you are outside.

Be careful if you eat liquorice while taking DIURIN.

Eating large amounts of liquorice can increase the chance of developing side effects.

Side effects

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

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.

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

- Headache
- Dizziness or lightheadedness
- Restlessness
- Very dry mouth or unusual thirst
- Weight loss, loss of appetite
- Weakness, drowsiness, tiredness or lack of energy
- Numbness or tingling in the hands or feet
- Muscle pains, cramps or calf muscle spasms
- Blurred or impaired vision
- Ringing or buzzing in the ears
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation
- Fever
- Increased sensitivity to sunlight
- Confusion.

These are the more common side effects of furosemide. Mostly they are mild or short-lived.

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

- Irregular or fast heart beat
- Symptoms of gout, a disease with painful, swollen joints
- Dark coloured urine
- Severe dizziness or a spinning sensation
- Severe stomach pain with nausea and vomiting
- Flaking or peeling of the skin
- Passing less urine than is normal for you
- Signs of frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- Bruising or bleeding more easily than normal
- Symptoms of anaemia such as tiredness or weakness, shortness of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale
- Loss of control of your bladder or bowels (incontinence)
- Swelling or redness along a vein that is extremely tender when touched.
- Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:
 - Sudden or severe itching, skin rash, hives, flaking or peeling of the skin
 - Swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat which may cause difficulty swallowing or breathing
 - Yellowing of the eyes or skin (jaundice)
 - Severe chest pain
 - Fainting or having a rapid, weak pulse
 - Loss of hearing.

These side effects are rare but serious. You may need urgent medical attention.

The list of side effects mentioned above is not complete. If you should suffer from any of these side effects or any other undesired effect please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

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 DIURIN by mistake. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Take the container of DIURIN with you if you can.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

Storage conditions

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date shown on the label or if the packaging shows signs of tampering.

Keep your DIURIN tablets in the container until it is time to take them.

Store below 25°C and out of reach of children.

Avoid exposure to heat, light and moisture.

Do not store DIURIN, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking DIURIN or if the tablets have passed the expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with the remaining medicine.

Product Description

What DIURIN tablets look like

DIURIN tablets are off-white, flat, round tablets. Marked "F" scoreline "40" on one side, and blank on the other side.

Each DIURIN tablet contains the active ingredient, furosemide.

Each DIURIN tablet also contains lactose monohydrate, maize starch, povidone and magnesium stearate.

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,
P O Box 11183,
Ellerslie,
Auckland.

Telephone: (09) 579 2792

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