

ADALAT[®] (Add-a-lat)

nifedipine

Consumer Medicine Information

WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET

This leaflet answers some common questions about Adalat. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

This leaflet does **NOT** relate to other forms of Adalat products.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Adalat 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 ADALAT IS USED FOR

Adalat tablets are used either to treat high blood pressure or to prevent chronic stable angina, one of a number of types of angina.

Adalat tablets are not used for the relief of a sudden attack of angina.

Adalat tablets contain the active substance nifedipine which belongs to a group of medicines called calcium channel blockers. They work by opening up blood vessels in the body to lower blood pressure and improve the supply of blood and oxygen to the heart.

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.

BEFORE YOU TAKE ADALAT

When you must not take it

Do not take Adalat if you have an allergy to:

- nifedipine, the active ingredient in Adalat
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- active substances similar to nifedipine such as: amlodipine, felodipine and isradipine.

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 in the first 20 weeks of your pregnancy.

It may affect your developing baby if you take it during this period.

Do not breast-feed if you are taking this medicine.

The active ingredient in Adalat passes into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby may be affected.

Do not take Adalat if you have had a heart attack, or if you are

in cardiovascular shock (very low blood pressure due to a failing heart).

Do not take Adalat tablets if you are taking another medicine containing the active substance rifampicin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis and other serious infections.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack and blister.

The expiry date is printed on the carton and on each blister after "EXP" (e.g. 11 09 refers to November 2009). The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. If it has expired return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

Do not take this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If the packaging 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 your 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:

- heart failure
- other heart or blood vessel disorders
- low blood pressure
- narrowing of the aorta
- liver disease

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

Adalat contains lactose. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, tell your doctor before taking it.

Taking other medicines

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

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

- medicines used to treat stomach ulcers, such as cimetidine, cisapride
- medicines used to treat angina (chest pain), such as diltiazem, nitrates
- medicines used to treat heart failure, such as digoxin, beta-blockers
- medicines used to treat arrhythmia (fast or irregular heartbeats), such as quinidine
- medicines used to treat bacterial infections, such as quinupristin and dalfopristin, erythromycin
- medicines used to treat tuberculosis, such as rifampicin
- medicines used to treat epilepsy, such as phenytoin, carbamazepine, phenobarbitone, valproic acid
- medicines used to treat HIV, such as ritonavir
- medicines used to treat fungal skin infections, such as ketoconazole
- medicines used to treat depression, such as fluoxetine, nefazodone

- medicines used to suppress the immune system, such as tacrolimus
- other medicines used to lower your blood pressure

These medicines may be affected by Adalat 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 or pharmacist has a more complete list of medicines to avoid while taking Adalat.

You should not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while you are taking Adalat because this can cause unwanted changes in the blood pressure lowering effect of the tablets.

HOW TO TAKE ADALAT

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 printed on the pharmacist label, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

The correct dose of Adalat to take has been decided by your doctor. Make sure you follow the instructions given to you by your doctor. The usual dosage is 10 mg to 20 mg twice daily. If required, your doctor may increase the dose up to 40 mg twice daily. The maximum dose of 60 mg (daily) should not be exceeded.

How to take it

The tablets are to be swallowed whole with some liquid, either with or without a meal.

Do not halve the tablets.

When to take it

The tablets are usually taken every 12 hours.

How long to take it

Your doctor will determine how long you should take Adalat tablets. Do not stop taking the tablets unless you are told to do so by your doctor or you do not feel well while you are taking them (see **SIDE EFFECTS** at the end of this leaflet).

If you forget to take it

If you have forgotten to take your Adalat tablet(s) at the right time, take it as soon as you remember, then continue as normal for the next dose. If you do not remember until it is almost time to take your next dose [i.e. within 6 (six) hours of your next dose], then skip the dose that you forgot but be sure to take the next dose when it is due.

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

If you have missed several doses, consult your doctor.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre for advice (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too many Adalat tablets. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

Signs of an overdose include feeling dizzy and fainting due to drop in blood pressure, irregular or rapid

heart beats, shortness of breath and even loss of consciousness.

WHILE YOU ARE TAKING ADALAT

Things you must do

Take Adalat tablets exactly as told by your doctor. If you do not follow your doctor's instruction, you may not get control of your blood pressure or relief from your angina.

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

Tell your doctor if you continue to have angina attacks or if they become more frequent while you are taking Adalat tablets.

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

The use of Adalat may affect the results of certain laboratory tests or x-rays. If you are about to have any tests or x-rays, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine.

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

Things you must not do

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

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

Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.

If you stop taking it suddenly, your condition may worsen or you may have unwanted side effects.

Things to be careful of

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

Adalat tablets may cause dizziness or fainting in some patients, especially when they first start taking the medicine.

If you have angina, be careful not to overdo physical activities when you first start taking Adalat. You may feel better when you start taking it, but you will need time to improve your physical fitness.

SIDE EFFECTS

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

All medicines have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. In serious cases, you may need medical attention.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists 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.

The list below includes the more common side effects of your medicine.

- headache
- flushing
- constipation
- generally feeling unwell

- general swelling and/or swelling of the arm, ankles or legs

Your doctor may need to monitor your liver function, as Adalat can increase your liver enzymes. You may not experience any specific symptoms.

Swelling at the back of the throat can occur, which may cause difficulty in talking or breathing. Tell your doctor if this occurs; you may need urgent medical attention.

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

- chest pain
- fast and/or irregular heartbeats
- 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 trouble breathing
- signs of liver problems such as yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice)
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers

If you have these side effects you may need urgent medical attention.

Very rarely, some people experience a purple/brown discolouration of the skin or redness, flaking and itching of the skin. Also, it has been reported for some people to develop a rash or blistering of the skin when they are exposed to sunlight.

Tell your doctor if you experience any of these symptoms.

In a small number of cases of *in vitro* fertilisation, medicines like nifedipine appeared to have interfered with the normal function of sperm. This effect went away

after the medicine was stopped. In those men who are taking Adalat tablets and are repeatedly unsuccessful in fathering a child by *in vitro* fertilisation, the medicine should be considered as one of the possible causes if no other explanation can be found.

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

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

Check with your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you have any problems while taking Adalat.

AFTER TAKING ADALAT

Storage

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

If you take the tablets out of the pack they may not keep well.

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

Do not store it or any other medicine in the bathroom, near a sink, or on a window-sill.

Do not leave it in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep the tablets where children cannot reach them.

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 Adalat, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets left over.

Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.

PRODUCT DESCRIPTION

What it looks like

Adalat 10 tablets are round, film-coated tablets in pink-grey colour marked with "A 10" on one side. The tablets are supplied in blister packs of 60's with each tablet containing 10 mg of nifedipine.

Adalat 20 tablets are round, film-coated tablets, pink-grey in colour, marked with "1 U" on one side and the BAYER cross on the reverse. The tablets are supplied in blister packs of 60's with each tablet containing 20 mg of nifedipine.

Ingredients

Active Ingredient:

- Adalat 10 - nifedipine 10 mg
- Adalat 20 - nifedipine 20 mg

Inactive ingredients:

- cellulose
- maize starch
- lactose
- polysorbate 80
- hypromellose
- macrogol 4000
- magnesium stearate
- iron oxide red
- titanium dioxide

Supplier

Made in Germany for:

Bayer New Zealand Limited
3 Argus Place
Hillcrest, North Shore
Auckland 0627

Telephone: 0800 233 988

Date of preparation

August 2011

See MEDSAFE website (www.medsafe.govt.nz) for latest New Zealand Consumer Medicine Information.

® Registered Trademark of Bayer AG, Germany
© Bayer New Zealand Ltd
All rights reserved

