

Colgout®

Colchicine 0.5mg tablets

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about **Colgout**. 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 **Colgout** 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 Colgout is used for

Colgout is used for the relief of pain in acute attacks of gout. **Colgout** is not an analgesic and does not provide relief from other types of pain.

Colgout has a preventative effect that helps to reduce the number of acute attacks. It will not reduce the amount of uric acid in the body.

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

Colgout belongs to a group of medicines called antigout drugs.

Your doctor however may have prescribed **Colgout** for another reason.

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

This medicine is not addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take Colgout

When you must not take it

Do not take Colgout if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing *colchicine*
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing; swelling of the face, lips or tongue; skin rash, itching or hives.

Use in children

Do not give this medicine to children.

Safety and effectiveness in this age group have not been established.

Do not take Colgout if you have:

- combined kidney and liver disease
- serious kidney or liver disease
- serious heart disease
- severe stomach disorder
- a blood disorder

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack. If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

Do not take this medicine if the bottle shows signs of having been tampered with.

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:

1. **you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**
2. **you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**
 - stomach problems
 - kidney or liver disease
 - heart disease
 - alcoholism
3. **you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.** **Colgout** may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.
4. **you are breast-feeding or plan to breastfeed.** **Colgout** passes into breast milk and although the effect on your baby is not known, there is a possibility that your breastfed baby may be affected.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of you taking **Colgout** when breast-feeding.

Use in elderly or debilitated patients

Elderly or debilitated patients may be more sensitive to the effects or side effects of **Colgout**.

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

Taking other medicines

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

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

- cyclosporin – a medicine used to suppress the immune system
- erythromycin / clarithromycin – antibiotics used to treat bacterial infection
- acidifying and alkalinising agents, such as ammonium chloride, ascorbic acid (vitamin C), sodium bicarbonate
- medicines to help you sleep
- alcohol
- NSAIDs (such as ibuprofen, naproxen or diclofenac or aspirin – anti-inflammatory drugs used to treat pain)
- medicines used to treat cancer including radiation therapy
- vitamin B12
- anticoagulants such as warfarin, heparin
- antithyroid medicines

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

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

How to take Colgout

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

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

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how much **Colgout** to take. Do not take more than your doctor tells you to. **Colgout** can be harmful if you take too much.

The usual dosage of **Colgout** needed to control an acute attack of gout ranges from 4 to 6mg (8 to 12 tablets) over 4 days

The recommended dose for

Adults: Initial dose is 2 tablets (1mg) followed by 1 tablet every 6 hours *until pain is relieved.*

Do not take more than 2.5mg (5 tablets) in first 24 hours.

The total dose over 4 days must not be more than 6mg (12 tablets).

If nausea, vomiting or stomach problems occur, stop taking the tablets immediately.

For elderly patients the maximum dose is 3mg (6 tablets) over 4 days.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.

When to take it

Colgout may be taken before or after food.

How long to take it

This will depend on your condition and your response to the treatment.

Stop taking **Colgout** when your pain is relieved.

Do not take **Colgout** for more than four days.

Take a break of at least three days before starting another course of **Colgout**.

Immediately stop taking **Colgout** at the first sign of stomach pain, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea. Do this even if your symptoms have not been relieved.

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.

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 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much **Colgout**. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention. This medicine can cause life-threatening, harmful effects.

If you take too much **Colgout** you may feel:

- nausea, vomiting, stomach pain and diarrhoea
- burning feeling or rawness in the mouth and throat
- difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- fever
- muscle weakness
- mental confusion, delirium, convulsions

While you are taking Colgout

Things you must do

Immediately stop taking **Colgout** if you get stomach pain, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting.

Remember to take note of the number of tablets you took before the onset of these symptoms so that you can take fewer tablets during subsequent attacks.

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

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. Colgout may delay corneal wound healing following eye surgery. If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine. It may interfere with the results of some tests.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked. Your doctor may do some tests such as blood counts from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Things you must not do

Do not take Colgout 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 Colgout affects you.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before drinking alcohol while you are taking Colgout. If you drink alcohol while taking Colgout, you may develop stomach problems.

Side effects

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

This medicine helps most people with gout, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. 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.

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 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:

- early symptoms of nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhoea

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

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

- loss of appetite
- loss of hair

The above list includes more serious side effects which may require medical attention.

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

- burning feeling in the stomach or throat
- severe nausea, vomiting, stomach pain
- severe diarrhoea with bloody or black tarry stools
- itchy skin, skin rash, hives, unusual bleeding or bruising under the skin
- difficulty in passing urine or blood in urine
- confusion, convulsions
- fever
- muscle weakness
- numbness or weakness in the fingers and toes

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

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. Some of these side effects (eg changes in thyroid function, or in the blood) can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress.

After using Colgout

Storage

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

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

Keep your tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store Colgout 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

The tablets are round, white tablets and are available in bottles of 100.

Ingredients

Colgout contains 0.5 mg of colchicine as the active ingredient. It also contains:

- magnesium stearate
- lactose
- maize starch
- povidone

Distributor

Colgout is supplied by:

Healthcare Logistics
Trading as Pharmacy Retailing
(NZ) Limited
58 Richard Pearse Drive
Airport Oaks
Auckland
New Zealand

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