

This product is no longer marketed in New Zealand and this consumer medicine information may not be up to date. More up-to-date consumer medicine information for a product with the same active ingredient may be available on the Medsafe website.

Consumer Medicine Information

DIURIN 500

Frusemide 500mg 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 ingredients frusemide. It belongs to a group of medicines known as diuretics.

DIURIN is used to treat patients with severe kidney problems.

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 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 frusemide, sulphonamides or any other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- You do not have a problem with your kidneys
- You have complete kidney failure
- You are pregnant or breast feeding
- You have liver problems.

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 take it

Tell your doctor if:

- You have liver problems
- You are about to have elective surgery
- You have any urinary problems
- You have gout

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.

Medicines that may interfere with DIURIN include:

- Glucocorticoids (used to treat a variety of diseases)
- Salicylates including aspirin
- Neuromuscular blocking agents such as tubocurarine, succinylcholine
- Lithium (used to treat mental conditions such as anxiety and depression)
- Antibiotics (used to treat infections)
- Ethacrynic acid, cisplatin
- ACE inhibitors (used to treat high blood pressure)
- NSAIDs (e.g. indomethacin, acetylsalicylic acid)
- Phenytoin, methotrexate, probenecid
- Theophylline (used to treat symptoms of asthma)
- Anticonvulsants (used to treat seizures)
- Antidiabetics
- Pressor amines (e.g. adrenaline, noradrenaline)
- Sucralfate (used to treat ulcers)

These medicines may be affected by DIURIN or may affect how well DIURIN works. You may need different amounts of your medicines or you may need to take different medicines.

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

How to take DIURIN properly

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how much DIURIN you need to take. It is important that you take DIURIN as directed by your doctor. Do not take more than the recommended dose.

Your doctor will monitor your response to treatment, and change your dose accordingly. The maximum daily dose is 1000mg.

There are no special dosage recommendations for the elderly.

The use of high dose DIURIN is not recommended for children.

How long to take it

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

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

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 a surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking DIURIN.

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

Do not take DIURIN to treat any other complaints 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.

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.

Side effects

Tell your pharmacist or doctor 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:

- Headaches, dizziness, dry mouth
- Blurred vision
- Diarrhoea, constipation
- Buzzing sound in ears
- Tingling or numbness in hands and feet
- Rash, itchy red skin
- Unusual bruising or bleeding under the skin
- Restlessness

These are the more common side effects of frusemide.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience:

- Fainting or feeling light-headed
- Calf muscle spasms, weakness
- Vomiting, nausea
- Light sensitivity

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 on one side with a breakline.

Each DIURIN tablet contains the active ingredient, frusemide.

Each DIURIN tablet also contains microcrystalline cellulose, lactose hydrous, maize starch, polysorbate, purified talc, colloidal silicon dioxide, sodium starch glycollate 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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2 February 2009
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