

NEO-MERCAZOLE[®]

Carbimazole 5 mg tablets

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about NEO-MERCAZOLE tablets.

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 your taking NEO-MERCAZOLE against the benefits expected 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 NEO-MERCAZOLE is used for

NEO-MERCAZOLE contains the active ingredient carbimazole.

NEO-MERCAZOLE is used to reduce the formation of thyroid hormones in people with an over-active thyroid gland. The condition is called hyperthyroidism. NEO-MERCAZOLE may be used alone or together with other treatments for hyperthyroidism.

NEO-MERCAZOLE may also be used to restore the normal function of the thyroid before its partial removal by surgery, and before and after radio-active iodine treatment.

Your doctor, however, may have prescribed NEO-MERCAZOLE for another purpose.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions why NEO-MERCAZOLE has been prescribed for you.

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

Before you take NEO-MERCAZOLE

When you must not take it

Do not take NEO-MERCAZOLE if:

1. you have had an allergic reaction to NEO-MERCAZOLE or any ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
2. the package is torn or shows signs of tampering

3. the expiry date printed on the pack has passed. If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.
4. If you are not sure if you should be taking NEO-MERCAZOLE, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if:

1. **you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant**
NEO-MERCAZOLE is not generally recommended for use in pregnancy unless the benefits of treatment outweigh the risk to the unborn baby. If there is a need to take NEO-MERCAZOLE when you are pregnant your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits to you and the unborn baby.
2. **you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed**
NEO-MERCAZOLE passes into breast milk. You should not breast-feed if you are taking NEO-MERCAZOLE.
3. **you have any other health problems, especially the following:**
 - liver disease
4. **you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives**

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, do so before you start taking NEO-MERCAZOLE.

- ***Taking other medicines***

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you have bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with NEO-MERCAZOLE.

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

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about taking other medicines.

How to take NEO-MERCAZOLE

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to take

Take NEOMERCAZOLE exactly as your doctor has prescribed.

Your doctor will tell you how many NEO-MERCAZOLE tablets to take each day.

The dosage will be decided according to the severity of your condition and your individual needs, and may be changed at intervals during treatment.

The usual adult starting dose is four to twelve 5 mg tablets each day, in divided doses.

For children, the usual starting dose is three 5 mg tablets each day, in divided doses.

Once control is achieved your doctor may gradually reduce your dose. The usual maintenance dose is two to three 5 mg tablets each day.

How to take it

Swallow tablets whole with a glass of water or other liquid.

When to take it

Each day's tablets may be divided evenly into two (morning and evening), or three (morning, noon and night) daily doses

Take your NEO-MERCAZOLE at about the same times each day.

It does not matter if you take NEO-MERCAZOLE with food or not. Taking your medicine at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you to remember when to take the tablets.

How long to take it

There can be large differences in the amount of time NEO-MERCAZOLE takes to start working, depending on your condition. There should be some improvement within three months of starting your NEO-MERCAZOLE treatment.

In order to maintain control of the thyroid gland, you may need to continue to take NEO-MERCAZOLE tablets for several months or years.

Continue taking NEO-MERCAZOLE until your doctor tells you to stop.

Radio-iodine is another treatment for hyperthyroidism. If you need radio-iodine treatment, your doctor may tell you to stop taking NEO-MERCAZOLE temporarily.

If you forget to take it

If you miss a dose take it as soon as you remember. If your next dose is due, take both doses together.

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

If you have trouble remembering your dose, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

In case of an overdose

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the National Poisons Information Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much NEO-MERCAZOLE. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

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

While you are taking NEO-MERCAZOLE

Things you must do

IMPORTANT

If you suffer from any infection, especially a sore throat or mouth ulcers, a fever, unexplained bleeding or bruising while you are taking NEO-MERCAZOLE, stop taking the tablets and report this **immediately** to your doctor. Blood tests may be performed to check if there are any problems with your bone marrow before restarting your treatment.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking NEO-MERCAZOLE.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking NEO-MERCAZOLE.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Tell your doctor if you feel the tablets are not helping your condition.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

Your doctor may ask you to have occasional blood tests to help determine how you are responding to treatment.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking NEO-MERCAZOLE or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not let yourself run out of medicine over the weekend or on holidays.

Do not give NEO-MERCAZOLE to anyone else even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use NEO-MERCAZOLE to treat other complaints unless your doctor says to.

Do not take any other medicines whether they require a prescription or not without first telling your doctor or consulting a pharmacist.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how NEO-MERCAZOLE affects you.

However, NEO-MERCAZOLE is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

Side effects

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

NEO-MERCAZOLE helps most people with hyperthyroidism but it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

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

- nausea
- headache
- painful joints
- stomach upset
- skin rashes
- itching

These are the more common side effects of NEO-MERCAZOLE, and usually occur in the first 8 weeks of treatment. Mostly these are mild and should decrease as you get used to your medicine.

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

- aching muscles, muscle tenderness or weakness not caused by exercise
- yellowing of your skin and/or the whites of your eyes
- frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, nosebleeds

These may be serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything on this list.

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

After taking NEO-MERCAZOLE

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 NEO-MERCAZOLE in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30 °C.

Do not store it or any other medicine in a bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep NEO-MERCAZOLE where young 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 NEO-MERCAZOLE, or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.

Product Description

Availability

NEO-MERCAZOLE comes in one tablet strength, 5 mg.

NEO-MERCAZOLE comes in packs of 100 tablets.

What NEO-MERCAZOLE looks like

Pale pink circular tablets, with shallow biconvex faces. One side is imprinted "Neo 5". The other side is blank.

Ingredients

Active ingredient

- carbimazole 5mg

Inactive ingredients

- lactose, maize starch, sucrose, magnesium stearate, talc, gum acacia, ferric oxide, gelatin.

Distributor

NEO-MERCAZOLE is distributed by:
AFT Pharmaceuticals Ltd
P.O. Box 33-203
Takapuna
AUCKLAND
Telephone: 09 488 0232
Email: customer.service@aftp pharm.com

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