Prostin F₂ alpha
Dinoprost

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Prostin F₂ alpha. 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 or pharmacist has weighed the risks of you being given Prostin F₂ alpha against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

What Prostin F₂ alpha is used for

Prostin F₂ alpha contains 5 mg/mL of the active ingredient called dinoprost. This is in the form of dinoprost tromethamine, a type of dinoprost.

The active ingredient is also known as prostaglandin F₂ alpha. Prostaglandins occur naturally in the body and are very important in spontaneous labour.

Prostin F₂ alpha is used to induce miscarriage. The medicine empties the uterus by causing contractions. These contractions may not happen until several hours after administration.

Your doctor may have prescribed Prostin F₂ alpha for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Prostin F₂ alpha has been prescribed for you.

Prostin F₂ alpha is a PRESCRIPTION ONLY MEDICINE that must be administered by a doctor. Never administer this medicine yourself.

Before you are given Prostin F₂ alpha

Before you are given Prostin F₂ alpha you should tell your doctor if you have:

- ever had a caesarean section or any other operation on your uterus.
- ever had a bad reaction to a prostaglandin treatment in the past or to the inactive ingredient benzyl alcohol.
- heart, lung, kidney or liver problems.
- had a previous difficult labour or delivery.
- more than 6 children.
- experienced vaginal bleeding during your pregnancy.
- pelvic inflammatory disease.
- ever had asthma or are using any asthma preparations.
- glaucoma (raised pressure in your eyes).
- epilepsy.
- high blood pressure.
Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines and Prostin F₂ alpha may interfere with each other. These include:

- oxytocin

Your doctor or pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while being given Prostin F₂ alpha.

How Prostin F₂ alpha is given

Prostin F₂ alpha is given either by injection into the uterus through your belly or by a direct injection into your veins.

The dose of Prostin F₂ alpha will be determined by your doctor for your individual requirements.

Prostin F₂ alpha should only be used in hospitals and clinics with specialised units for pregnancy and childbirth.

Overdose

Your doctor or pharmacist has information on how to recognize and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well after you have been given Prostin F₂ alpha. 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.

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

Tell your doctor if you have any of the following during treatment and they worry you:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea.

These are the more common side effects of Prostin F₂ alpha.

Less frequent side effects include the following:

- Blood loss
- Blood clots
- Infections
- Fever
- Chills
- Pain
- Fast heart beat
- High or low blood pressure
- Tiredness
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Shortness of breath
- Narrowing of the airways
- Coughing.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately if you notice any of these side effects.

**Rare but more serious side effects include:**

- Allergic-type reactions
- A tear in the uterus
- Effects on your heart beat.

You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. **Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

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

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**Storage**

Prostin F\(_2\)alpha will be stored at the hospital or facility where you will be treated. The injection is kept in a cool dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 25°C.

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**Product description**

**What it looks like**

Prostin F\(_2\)alpha is a clear colourless solution in a glass ampoule containing 1 mL.

**Ingredients**

Prostin F\(_2\)alpha contains the active ingredient dinoprost tromethamine.

Inactive ingredients are: Benzyl alcohol, Water for injections, Sodium hydroxide and Hydrochloric acid.

**Supplier**

Prostin F\(_2\)alpha is supplied in New Zealand by:

Pharmacia
PO Box 11-282
Ellerslie
Auckland

For medical enquiries call (09) 5804300

This leaflet was prepared in August 2002.