



PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Metronidazole Tablets BP 200mg
Metronidazole Tablets BP 400mg
(metronidazole)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

In this leaflet:

1. What Metronidazole Tablets are and what they are used for
2. Before you take Metronidazole Tablets
3. How to take Metronidazole Tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Metronidazole Tablets
6. Further information

1. WHAT METRONIDAZOLE TABLETS ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE USED FOR

The name of this medicine is metronidazole. This belongs to a group of medicines called antibiotics. It works by killing bacteria and parasites that cause infections in your body. It can be used to:

- Treat infections of the blood, brain, lung, bones, genital tract, pelvic area, stomach and intestines
- Treat gum ulcers and other dental infections
- Treat infected leg ulcers and pressure sores
- Prevent infections after surgery

If you need any further information on your illness, speak to your doctor.

2. BEFORE YOU TAKE METRONIDAZOLE TABLETS

Do not take Metronidazole Tablets if

You are allergic (hypersensitive) to metronidazole, nitroimidazoles or any of the other ingredients in your medicine (listed in Section 6: Further information).

Signs of an allergic reaction include: a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue.

Do not take Metronidazole if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Metronidazole.

Take special care with Metronidazole Tablets

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before using your medicine if:

- You have or have ever had a liver problem
- You are having kidney dialysis (see section 3: 'people having kidney dialysis').
- You have a disease of nervous system

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking your medicine. Do this even if they have applied in the past.

Taking other medicines

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained without a prescription, including herbal medicines. This is because Metronidazole can affect the way some other medicines work. Also, some other medicines can affect the way Metronidazole works.

In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking:

- anti-coagulants (blood thinning agents), such as warfarin. The dosage of warfarin may need to be reduced if you are taking this drug.
- lithium. If taken at the same time as metronidazole, the kidneys may be affected.
- medicines used to treat epilepsy, such as phenytoin, primidone, phenobarbitone.
- 5 fluorouracil for cancer

- Busulfan for leukaemia (cancer of the blood cells)
- Ciclosporin – to prevent the rejection of organs after transplant
- Disulfiram for alcoholism

If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking metronidazole.

Taking Metronidazole Tablets with food and drink

Do not drink any alcohol while you are taking Metronidazole and for 48 hours after finishing your course. Drinking alcohol while using Metronidazole might cause unpleasant side effects, such as feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting), stomach pain, hot flushes, very fast or uneven heartbeat (palpitations) and headache.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Tell your doctor before using Metronidazole if:

- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Metronidazole should not be taken during pregnancy unless considered absolutely necessary.
- You are breast-feeding. It is better not to use Metronidazole if you are breast-feeding. This is because small amounts may pass into the mother's milk.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines

While taking Metronidazole you may feel sleepy, dizzy, confused, see or hear things that are not there (hallucinations), have fits (convulsions) or temporary eyesight problems (such as blurred or double vision). If this happens, do not drive or use any machinery or tools.

Test

Your doctor may wish to carry out some tests if you have been using this medicine for more than 10 days.

3. HOW TO TAKE METRONIDAZOLE TABLETS

Taking your medicine

Always take metronidazole exactly as your doctor has told you. It is important to finish a full course of treatment. The length of a course will depend on your needs and the illness being treated.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water
- Do not crush or chew the tablets
- Take these tablets during or just after a meal
- The dose of metronidazole will depend on your needs and the illness being treated
- The length of your treatment will depend on the type of illness you have and how bad it is

The usual dose for adults and children is given below:

To treat bacterial infection

Adults

- The initial dose is 800mg
- After 8 hours take another dose of 400mg and repeat this dose every 8 hours

Children

- Your doctor will work out how much your child should take depending on their weight
- If your child is a baby under 8 weeks of age, your doctor will give them one daily dose or two separate doses 12 hourly
- repeat the dose every 8 hours

To prevent infections from happening after surgery

Adults

- Start Taking metronidazole Tablets 24 hours before your operation
- Take 400 mg of metronidazole every 8 hours
- After the operation you may be given Metronidazole either through a drip into a vein or rectally as a suppository until you are able to take tablets again

Children

- Start giving your child Metronidazole Tablets 1-2 hours before their operation

- Your doctor will work out how much your child should take depending on their weight
- After the operation your child may be given Metronidazole either through a drip into a vein or rectally as a suppository until they are able to take tablets again

Other types of infections

For treatment of other infections caused by parasites and some bacteria your doctor will decide how much metronidazole you need to take and how often. This will depend on your illness and how bad it is. The pharmacist's label on the packaging will tell you how many tablets to take and how often to take them.

People having kidney dialysis

Kidney dialysis removes metronidazole from your blood. If you are having kidney dialysis you must take this medicine after your dialysis treatment.

People with liver problems

Your doctor may tell you to use a lower dose or to use the medicine less often.

If you take more Metronidazole Tablets than you should

If you take more metronidazole than you should, contact your doctor or nearest hospital emergency department immediately. Always take the box, this leaflet and any tablets that are left over with you, if you can. This is so the doctor knows what you have taken.

If you forget to take Metronidazole Tablets

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember and carry on as before. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the forgotten dose and continue as usual. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Metronidazole Tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Stop taking Metronidazole and see a doctor or go to a hospital straight away if:

- You get swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing. You could also notice an itchy, lumpy rash (hives) or nettle rash (urticaria). This may mean you are having an allergic reaction to Metronidazole.

- A serious but very rare side effect is a brain disease (encephalopathy).

Symptoms vary but you might get a fever, stiff neck, headache, see or hear things that aren't there. You might also have problems using your arms and legs, problems with speaking or feel confused.

Talk to your doctor straight away if you notice the following side effects.

- Yellowing of the skin and eyes. This could be due to a liver problem (jaundice).
- Unexpected infections, mouth ulcers, bruising, bleeding gums, or severe tiredness. This could be caused by a blood problem.
- Severe stomach pain which may reach through to your back (pancreatitis)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following side effects:

Very rare (affects less than 1 in 10 000 people)

- Fits (convulsions)
- Mental problems such as feeling confused and seeing or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations)
- Problems with your eyesight such as blurred or double vision
- Skin rash and flushing
- Headache
- Darkening of the urine
- Feeling sleepy or dizzy
- Pains in the muscles or joints
- Liver problems including life - threatening liver failure (hepatocellular liver injury)

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- Numbness, tingling, pain, or a feeling of weakness, in the arms or legs
- Unpleasant taste in the mouth

- Furred tongue
- Feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting), upset stomach, or diarrhoea
- Loss of appetite
- Fever
- Feeling depressed
- Pain in your eyes (optic neuritis)
- A group of symptoms together including: fever, nausea, vomiting, headache, stiff neck and extreme sensitivity to bright light. This may be caused by an inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord (meningitis)

If any of the side effects gets serious, lasts longer than a few days or you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5. HOW TO STORE METRONIDAZOLE TABLETS

- Keep your medicine in a safe place and out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store below 25°C in original packing (protect from light)
- Do not use this medicine after the expiry date shown on the pack. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. Do not dispose of medicines by flushing down a toilet or sink or by throwing out with your normal household rubbish. This will help protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Metronidazole Tablets contain

Each tablet contains 200mg or 400mg of metronidazole as the active substance. The other ingredients are povidone, magnesium stearate, colloidal anhydrous silica and maize starch.

What Metronidazole Tablets look like and contents of the pack

The tablets are off-white coloured, round, biconvex and uncoated, engraved with either 'MZ 200' (200mg) or 'MZ 400' (400mg) and a break line on one side whilst plain on the other.

Metronidazole Tablets 200mg are available in containers of 7, 14, 15, 21, 28, 42, 56, 70, 84, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 as well as in bottles containing 50 tablets.

Metronidazole Tablets 400mg are available in containers of 28, 30, 50, 60, 84, 90, 100, 112, 120, 140, 168, 180, 500 and 1000 tablets.

They are also available in blister packs of 7, 14, 15, 21, 28, 42, 56, 70 and 84 tablets (not all pack sizes may be marketed).

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

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