

Furosemide 20mg tablets

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.

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1 What Furosemide tablets are and what they are used for

Furosemide tablets is one of a group of medicines called diuretics (water tablets).

Your doctor has prescribed Furosemide tablets to treat a condition called oedema where there is too much water in your body. This could be due to problems with your heart, kidneys, liver, blood vessels or high blood pressure. Furosemide helps your kidneys to get rid of the extra water that is not needed in your body.

2 Before you take

Do not take Furosemide tablets if you:

- are **allergic** (hypersensitive) to furosemide, other sulfonamide related drugs or any of the other ingredients in Furosemide tablets (see section 6)
- have **severe kidney damage** which has stopped them working properly and producing urine
- have very low levels of **potassium, sodium** or other **electrolytes** in your blood or low blood volume (your doctor will be able to advise you)
- are **dehydrated**
- have **low blood pressure**
- take **potassium supplements** or **potassium sparing diuretics** for high blood pressure (e.g. amiloride or spironolactone)
- have **liver cirrhosis** (tiredness, weakness, water retention, feeling or being sick, loss of weight or appetite, yellowing skin or eyes, itch) or **liver encephalopathy** (confusion, altered levels of consciousness and coma as a result of liver failure)
- have **Addison's disease** (low levels of corticosteroid hormones secreted)
- have **digitalis poisoning** (feeling or being sick, high levels of potassium in the blood, slow, fast or irregular heart beats).
- are **breast-feeding**

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Furosemide tablets if you have:

- low blood volume (**hypovolaemia**) or are at risk of developing **low blood pressure**
- **low levels of protein** in the blood (hypoproteinaemia) as a result of kidney damage
- **liver congestion** (slowed blood flow through the vessels) or other **liver problems**
- **kidney problems**
- or may have **diabetes**. If you are taking insulin, your doctor may need to adjust your insulin dosage
- are **elderly**, if you are on other medications which can cause the drop of **blood pressure** and if you have other medical conditions that are risks for the drop of blood pressure
- **prostate** trouble or difficulty passing urine
- or have had **gout**
- have an abnormal **blood condition**
- are about to undergo any **blood** or **urine tests**

Your doctor will want to monitor you, and may take blood for testing while you are taking this medicine.

Taking other medicines

Please **tell your doctor or pharmacist** if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Especially:

- **drugs to lower blood pressure**, such as ACE inhibitors, renin inhibitors, alpha blockers, calcium channel blockers, diuretics, phenothiazines
- **drugs to treat mental illness** (e.g. pimozide, amisulpride, sertindole)
- **drugs for arrhythmias** (e.g. sotalol, amiodarone, flecainide)
- **digoxin** for your heart
- **moxisylyte** for Raynaud's syndrome
- **nitrates** (for angina)
- **lithium** for depression or mania
- **sucralfate** for stomach ulcers
- **colestyramine** or **colestipol** for high cholesterol
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (**NSAIDs**) e.g. ibuprofen or naproxen
- **aspirin** for pain
- **antibiotics** for infections that affect your kidneys or ears (e.g. cefaclor, colistin, gentamicin, vancomycin)
- **amphoterecin** (to treat fungal infections)
- **chloral hydrate** (to treat insomnia)
- **antidepressants** (e.g. monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs))
- **medicines to control diabetes** such as insulin or tablets
- **antiepileptics** e.g. phenytoin or carbamazepine
- **corticosteroids** or **antihistamines** (to treat allergic reactions)
- **drugs for ADHD**
- **drugs treating cancer** e.g. aldesleukin
- **levodopa** (for Parkinson's disease)
- **oral contraceptives**
- **alprostadil** for erectile dysfunction
- certain **treatments for asthma** such as theophylline or salbutamol
- **probenecid** to prevent gout
- **laxatives** used over a long period of time
- medicines or foods containing **liquorice**
- if you are about to undergo a procedure where curariform **muscle relaxants** (e.g. vecuronium) or **anaesthetics** may be used, tell your anaesthetist/dentist or healthcare professional

Furosemide and alcohol

You should avoid drinking alcohol while taking Furosemide tablets as this may lower your blood pressure further.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Speak to your doctor before you take Furosemide tablets if you are pregnant, thinking of getting pregnant, or breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

Do not drive or operate machinery if you feel less alert after taking Furosemide tablets.

Important information about some of the ingredients in Furosemide tablets

Your medicine contains **lactose**; **do not** take Furosemide tablets if you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to a sugar called lactose.

3 How to take

Always take Furosemide tablets exactly as your doctor has told you.

If you are not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Swallow the tablets with a glass of water.

Doses:

• Adults and children over 12 years:

Water retention: the usual starting dose is 40mg in the morning, then 20mg a day or 40mg on alternate days. Up to 80mg a day may be given.

High blood pressure: 20-40mg twice a day.

• **Elderly:** may be reduced in this age group.

• **Children under 12 years:** 1-3mg per kg of bodyweight. A more suitable dosage form e.g. oral solution, may be appropriate.

Dosage adjustment may be necessary in patients with:

- hypoproteinaemia
- liver congestion/dysfunction

If you take more than you should

If you take more medicine than your doctor has told you to, contact a doctor or your nearest hospital casualty department immediately and take your Furosemide tablets with you. Symptoms of an overdose include dehydration, changes in the levels of certain chemicals in the blood and low blood pressure.

If you forget to take the tablets

If you forget to take a dose, take another as soon as you remember. Then take your next dose at the normal time. Do not take double the amount to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Furosemide tablets

Speak to your doctor before you stop taking Furosemide tablets.

4 Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Furosemide tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you have any of the following side effects while taking your medicine tell your doctor immediately or go to hospital straight away:

- Severe allergic reaction which may include a skin rash, itching, dermatitis, peeling skin, sensitivity to sunlight or sun lamps or fever, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Blistering or peeling of the skin around the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals, flu-like symptoms and fever could be a condition called Stevens-Johnson syndrome.
- Inflammation of blood vessels (vasculitis, which may cause rash, fever and joint or muscle pains) or kidney inflammation, this may change the number of times you pass urine or you may see blood in your urine. You may have a fever, feel drowsy, or notice swelling e.g. of the ankles
- Blood clot (causing pain, swelling or tenderness in the legs)

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

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- Dehydration, altered balance of fluid or chemicals in the body (e.g. sodium, potassium, chlorine, calcium and magnesium) causing a dry mouth, weakness, tiredness or drowsiness, restlessness, fits, muscle pain, fatigue or cramps, low blood pressure causing loss of concentration and slowed reactions, difficulty passing water, fast or irregular heart rate and feeling and being sick

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- Low blood volume (hypovolaemia)
- Increased creatinine and blood urea (seen in blood tests)

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- Anaemia causing tiredness, breathlessness, unusual bleeding or bruising
- Changes in the body seen in tests such as levels of cholesterol, glucose, uric acid
- Gout
- Changes in vision including blurred or yellow vision

- Light-headedness, sensations of pressure in the head, headache, drowsiness, weakness, changes in vision, dry mouth, dizziness when standing.
- Irregular heartbeat
- Muscle cramps or weakness
- Changes in the amount or need to urinate
- Tiredness
- Dry mouth, thirst, feeling or being sick, changes in bowel movements including diarrhoea and constipation
- Deafness (sometimes irreversible)

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

- Changes in blood cells such as amount of white blood cells, reduction of platelets causing a rash fever, sweating, tiredness, and weight loss. Your doctor will perform regular blood tests to ensure no changes have occurred.
- Psychiatric disorder NOC causing delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech
- Feeling 'pins and needles' or tingling sensation
- Confusion, headache, tiredness, generally feeling unwell, fever
- Ringing in the ears, loss of hearing usually reversible
- Symptoms of shock such as changes in heart rate, breathlessness, cool clammy skin
- Inflammation of the pancreas causing pains in your abdomen or back and nausea
- Changes in the liver causing yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes)
- Skin rashes

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- Involuntary movements of the muscle
- Inflammation or failure of the kidney which may cause back pain or changes in the amount or need to urinate

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

- Worsening of conditions where there is already balances of fluid or chemicals in the body
- Acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) (acute febrile drug eruption)
- Dizziness, fainting and loss of consciousness (caused by symptomatic hypotension)
- Decreased levels of potassium in the body

Additional side effects in children

- Increased risk or persistence of patent ductus arteriosus in premature infants.
- Kidney stones in infants

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet.

You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5 How to store

Keep out of the reach and sight of children. Store below 25°C in a dry place. Protect from light Do not use Furosemide after the expiry date stated on the label/carton/bottle. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6 Further information

What Furosemide tablets contain

- Each tablet contains the active substance (the ingredient that makes the tablets work) furosemide, each tablet contains 20mg.
- The other ingredients are lactose, magnesium stearate, maize starch, stearic acid.

What Furosemide tablets look like and contents of the pack

Furosemide tablets are white, uncoated tablets. Pack size is 28.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Accord, Barnstaple, EX32 8NS, UK.

This leaflet was last revised in December 2019