

Apo-Furosemide

Furosemide

20mg and 40mg Tablets

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using Apo-Furosemide.

This leaflet answers some common questions about Apo-Furosemide. 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 you using Apo-Furosemide 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 with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What Apo-Furosemide is used for

The name of your medicine is Apo-Furosemide tablet. It contains the active ingredient furosemide.

Apo-Furosemide is used for:

- The treatment of swelling of the ankles, feet, legs or even the brain or lungs. This swelling is called oedema and can occur in some heart, lung, liver or kidney conditions.
- Treatment of high blood pressure (which is also called hypertension).

Your doctor may have prescribed Apo-Furosemide for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Apo-Furosemide has been prescribed for you.

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

There is no evidence that this medicine is addictive.

Before you use Apo-Furosemide

When you must not use it

Do not use Apo-Furosemide if:

- **You are hypersensitive to, or have had an allergic reaction to furosemide, sulfonamides or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include: cough, shortness of breath, wheezing, difficulty breathing or tightness in chest; swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat or other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin; fainting; or hay fever-like symptoms.

If you think you are having an allergic reaction, do not take any more of the medicine and contact your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department at the nearest hospital.

- **You have the following health/medical conditions:**
 - Certain kidney problems.
 - No production of or no passing of urine
 - low blood pressure (hypotension)
 - low sodium levels in your blood
 - low potassium levels in your blood
 - Dehydration
 - You are pregnant – Furosemide may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.
 - You are breast feeding – Furosemide may pass into human breast milk.
- **You are to have a general anesthetic. It is advisable to stop taking furosemide one week before elective surgery.**

- **The expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.**

If you take it after the expiry date has passed, it may have no effect at all, or worse, there may be an entirely unexpected effect.

- **The packaging is torn, shows signs of tampering or it does not look quite right.**

If you are not sure whether you should start using Apo-Furosemide, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor if:

1. You have allergies to:

- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

2. You have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:

- Liver problems
- Kidney problems
- Heart problems
- High cholesterol levels
- Asthma
- Diabetes
- Gout, a disease with painful, swollen joints
- Passing less urine than is normal for you
- Difficulty in passing urine
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE), a disease affecting the skin, joints and kidneys.

3. You are currently pregnant or you plan to become pregnant.

Do not take this medicine whilst pregnant until you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved.

4. You are currently breastfeeding or you plan to breast-feed. Do not take this medicine whilst breastfeeding.

Furosemide can pass into breast milk and may affect your baby. Your doctor will discuss with you the risks and benefits of taking furosemide when breast-feeding.

5. You are planning to have surgery or an anaesthetic.

6. You are currently receiving or are planning to receive dental treatment.

7. You are on a restricted salt diet.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using Apo-Furosemide.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. You should also tell any health professional who is prescribing a new medication for you that you are taking Apo-Furosemide.

Some medicines may interfere with Apo-Furosemide. These include:

- certain other fluid tablets or diuretic medicines such as ethacrynic acid

- medicines used to treat high blood pressure and some other heart conditions, especially ACE inhibitors or angiotensin receptor antagonists
- digoxin and other medicines used to treat heart failure
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and aspirin, medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation, including arthritis
- medicines used to relax muscles such as tubocurarine and succinylcholine
- lithium, a medicine used to treat mood swings and some types of depression
- medicines used in emergency situations such as adrenaline and noradrenaline
- cisplatin, a medicine used to treat cancer
- theophylline, a medicine used to treat asthma
- certain antibiotics, especially cephalosporins and aminoglycosides
- amphotericin, a medicine used to treat fungal infections
- barbiturates, medicine used to treat epilepsy, to produce calmness, or to help you sleep
- narcotic/strong pain killers such as codeine and morphine
- medicines used to treat diabetes such as insulin
- sucralfate, a medicine used to treat stomach ulcers
- anticonvulsant medicines such as chloral hydrate or phenytoin
- corticosteroids such as cortisone, prednisone or dexamethasone
- medicines used during scans to see the images of your body
- methotrexate and cyclosporine A, medicines that suppress the immune
- Carbenoxolone, used to treat ulcers of the mouth or oesophagus
- medicines used to treat thyroid conditions
- risperidone, used to treat a number of mood disorders
- Large amounts of laxatives (medicines for constipation).

These medicines may be affected by Apo-Furosemide, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

Other medicines not listed above may also interact with furosemide.

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

How to use Apo-Furosemide

Follow carefully all directions given to you by your doctor. Their instructions may be different to the information in this leaflet.

The label should be carefully read

How much to take

Oedema

Adults: 20 to 80mg as a single dose. The dose may be increased in exceptional cases up to 400mg per day.

Children: 2mg per kg bodyweight per day. The dose may be increased by 1-2mg per kg and should not exceed 6mg per kg bodyweight.

Hypertension

Adults: The recommended dosage is 40mg twice daily. The dose may be adjusted according to the patient's response.

Patients with kidney or liver impairment may usually be treated with the normal dose. In severe cases a reduction of the daily dose may be necessary.

Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine you should take. This will depend on your condition and whether you are taking any other medicines.

Do not stop taking your medicine or change your dosage without first checking with your doctor.

How to take it

Swallow the tablet(s) with a glass of water.

When to take it

Furosemide tablets are usually taken once or twice a day.

Take furosemide tablets on an empty stomach. For example, one hour before food or two hours after food. Food can interfere with the absorption of furosemide tablets.

Take this medicine at the same time each day. Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect and will also help you remember when to take it.

How long to take it

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

Your doctor will advise you when you can stop taking Apo-Furosemide completely.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time to take your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for missed doses.

This may increase the chance of you experiencing side effects.

If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints to help you remember.

While you are using Apo-Furosemide

Things you must do

Immediately stop taking Apo-Furosemide and check with your doctor if a skin rash or other allergic reaction occurs.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Apo-Furosemide.

Take your medicine exactly as your doctor has prescribed.

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking this medicine.

Tell your doctor (immediately) if you become pregnant while you are taking it.

Tell your doctor (immediately) if you are breast feeding or are planning to breast feed while you are taking it.

Visit your doctor regularly. Your doctor needs to check your progress and see whether you need to keep taking Apo-Furosemide.

Always discuss with your doctor any problems or difficulties during or after taking Apo-Furosemide.

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.

Keep enough Apo-Furosemide to last weekends and holidays.

Things you must not do

Do not give Apo-Furosemide to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not take your medicine to treat any other condition unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop taking your medicine, or change the dosage, without first checking with your doctor.

Do not take any other medicine while you are taking Apo-Furosemide without first telling your doctor.

Do not take Apo-Furosemide for a longer time than your doctor has prescribed.

Things to be careful of

Do not drive, operate machinery, or participate in any dangerous activities where alertness is required, until you know how Apo-Furosemide affects you.

Dizziness or fatigue may occur during initiation of treatment with furosemide, patients driving vehicles or operating machinery should exercise caution until they have determined their reaction to the drug.

Prior to undergoing surgery, furosemide should preferably be withdrawn cautiously about a week prior to anaesthesia.

In case of overdose

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Apo-Furosemide.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much furosemide, you may feel confused, dehydrated, dizzy or you may pass excessive urine.

Side Effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Apo-Furosemide or if you have any questions or concerns.

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 adverse effects.

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

Furosemide is generally well tolerated.

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

This list includes the most common side effects. Sometimes they are serious, but most of the time they are not:

- very dry mouth or unusual thirst
- weight loss
- weakness or tiredness
- numbness or tingling in the hands and/or feet
- calf muscle spasms
- muscle pains or cramps
- joint pain or stiffness
- restlessness
- drowsiness or a lack of energy
- dizziness or light-headedness
- headache
- fever
- vomiting or nausea
- diarrhoea
- blurred or impaired vision
- unusual bleeding or bruising under the skin
- ringing or buzzing in the ears
- Confusion.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following.

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

- irregular or fast heart beat
- passing less urine than is normal for you
- severe stomach pain, often with nausea or vomiting
- severe dizziness or a spinning sensation
- increased sensitivity to sunlight
- flaking or peeling of the skin
- symptoms of anaemia such as tiredness, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale
- frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, nose bleeds
- loss of control of your bladder or bowels (incontinence)
- gout, a disease with painful, swollen joints
- Deafness or ringing in the ears.

If you or someone you know or care for experience any of the following, stop taking furosemide and contact your doctor immediately or go to the Accident and Emergency department at your nearest hospital.

Other adverse effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice any other effects.

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

After using Apo-Furosemide

Storage

Keep your medicine in its original packaging until it is time to take it.

If you take your medicine out of its original packaging it may not keep well.

Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature will stay below 25°C.

Do not store your medicine, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep this medicine where 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 this medicine or it has passed its expiry date, your pharmacist can dispose of the remaining medicine safely.

No special requirements for disposal.

Any unused medicine or waste material should be disposed of in accordance with local requirements.

Product description

What it looks like

Apo-Furosemide 20mg tablets are white to off-white, round tablets, debossed with "F2" on one side and plain on the other side.

Apo-Furosemide 40mg tablets are white to off-white, round tablets, debossed "F4" on one side and breakline on the other side.

Apo-Furosemide 20mg and 40mg tablets are available in bottle of 100, 250 or 1000 tablets.

* Not all strengths, pack types and/or pack sizes may be available.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

Each tablet contains 20mg or 40mg of furosemide as the active ingredient.

Inactive ingredients:

- Lactose monohydrate
- Corn starch
- Pregelatinised starch
- Sodium starch glycollate
- Magnesium stearate

This medicine is gluten free and free of azo dyes.

This medicine contains lactose.

Sponsor Details

Apo-Furosemide is supplied in New Zealand by:

Apotex NZ Ltd
32 Hillside Road
Wairau Valley
AUCKLAND 0627

Telephone: (09) 444 2073

Fax: (09) 444 2951

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