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 gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet has been divided into the following sections:
1. What Deseril is and what it is taken for
2. Check before you take Deseril
3. How to take Deseril
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Deseril
6. Further information

1. What Deseril is and what it is taken for
Deseril Tablets belong to a group of medicines called antimigraine drugs. Deseril is taken regularly by people who get migraines, cluster headaches or vascular headaches (headaches caused by swelling in a vein in your head). It reduces how often you get the headaches and makes them less severe.

Deseril should not be used to stop a headache once it has started.

Deseril can also be used to control diarrhoea in carcinoid syndrome (a rare condition caused by a tumour in your appendix).

2. Check before you take Deseril
Do not take Deseril:
• if you are allergic to methysergide maleate or any of the ingredients in Deseril (see Section 6 Further information)
• if you have high blood pressure
• if you suffer from, or have ever suffered from, heart or circulation problems
• if you have kidney, liver or lung problems
• if you have any urinary problems that make it difficult to pass water
• if you have collagen disease, such as arthritis
• if you have a severe bacterial infection

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• if you have any swollen, tender or painful areas on your legs
• if you suffer from temporal arteritis (the main symptoms are headache and scalp sensitivity and tender thickened scalp arteries)
• if you suffer from rare types of migraine (called hemiplegic or basilar migraines).
• If you have a history of fibrosis affecting the lungs, stomach, kidneys or heart.

Do not give Deseril to children.

If any of the above applies to you, or if you are not sure, speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you take Deseril.

Take special care with Deseril
Before you take Deseril tell your doctor if:
• you have ever had a stomach ulcer
• you have ever suffered from severe weight loss or malnutrition.

Whilst you are taking Deseril your doctor will want you to have regular check-ups.

If any of the above applies to you, or if you are not sure, speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you take Deseril.

Taking other medicines
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any of the following medicines as they may interfere with Deseril:

• other medicines to treat or prevent migraines
  - for example ergotamine, ergot alkaloids, sumatriptan, almotriptan, eletriptan, frovatriptan, naratriptan, rizatriptan, zolmitriptan (used to treat infections) for example erythromycin and clarithromycin

• some types of antibiotics (macrolide antibiotics)
  - (used to treat HIV infection) for example ritonavir, indinavir, nelfinavir, delavirdine

• HIV protease or reverse transcriptase inhibitors
  - for example ketoconazole and itraconazole

• some medicines used to treat fungal infections (azole antifungals)
• cimetidine
• nicotine
  - used to treat stomach ulcers
  - if you are a heavy smoker or using nicotine replacement therapy (for example nicotine patches or gum).

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

Taking with food and drink
You should take your tablets with food.
Pregnancy and breast-feeding
Do not take Deseril if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breast-feeding. If you become pregnant whilst taking Deseril tell your doctor immediately.

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

Driving and using machines
Taking Deseril may make your vision blurred or make you feel dizzy or less alert than usual. If you are affected you should not drive or use machines until the effect has worn off.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Deseril
Deseril contains:

- lactose, which makes it unsuitable for people with lactase deficiency and other conditions known as galactosaemia or glucose/galactose malabsorption syndrome.

3. How to take Deseril
Always take Deseril exactly as your doctor has told you to. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Adults and the elderly:
Migraine or Cluster Headaches
The usual dosage for migraine or cluster headaches is 1 or 2 tablets three times a day (a total of 3 to 6 tablets a day). You should start with one tablet at bedtime; your doctor will alter your dose until the migraines are controlled satisfactorily. You should take your tablets with food, usually at meal times.

After six months treatment, your doctor will arrange one month with no treatment to assess your migraines. The dosage will be reduced over two to three weeks.

Carcinoid Syndrome
The usual dose for controlling diarrhoea in carcinoid syndrome is 12 to 20 tablets a day.

What to do if you take more Deseril than you should
If you (or someone else) accidentally takes too much of your medicine you should tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest casualty department. Show any left over medicines or the empty packet to the doctor.

If you forget to take Deseril
Do not worry. If you miss a dose, take another as soon as you remember, unless it is almost time for your next dose (within 1-2 hours). Then go on as before. DO NOT take a double dose.
If you stop taking Deseril  
Do not stop taking Deseril suddenly as your symptoms may get worse.

If you want to stop taking Deseril ask your doctor who will tell you how to reduce the dose gradually.

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

4. Possible side effects  
Like all medicines, Deseril can cause side effects, although not everyone gets them.

Tell your doctor immediately if you get any of the following:
- pain in your legs or arms
- an unexpected change in the amount of water you pass
- chest pains
- irregular heart beat
- difficulty in breathing
- numb or cold arms or legs
- severe stomach pain
- loss of vision.

The more common side effects of Deseril include:
- feeling or being sick
- drowsiness
- dizziness
- stomach pains
- heartburn.

Rarely you may suffer more serious side effects, such as:
- retention of fluid in the tissues which may lead to swelling
- difficulty in sleeping
- backache
- weight gain
- loss of hair
- leg cramps
- skin rashes.

Very occasionally mental and behavioural changes have also occurred.

If any of the side effects gets worse, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

5. How to store Deseril  
Keep out of the reach and sight of children.
Do not use Deseril after the expiry date which is stated on the label after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

If your doctor decides to stop your treatment, return any unused medicine to the pharmacist. Only keep it if your doctor tells you to.

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

6. Further information

What's in your medicine?
The active ingredient in this medicine is methysergide maleate.

Each Deseril tablet contains 1.33 mg methysergide maleate (equivalent to 1 mg methysergide base). It also contains the following inactive ingredients:

- maleic acid, gelatin, stearic acid, talc, maize starch, lactose, gum acacia, sugar, titanium dioxide (E171), colloidal anhydrous silica, carnauba wax and edible black ink (consisting of Shellac, black iron oxide, ethanol and isopropanol).

What Deseril looks like and contents of the pack
Deseril tablets are white, biconvex, sugar-coated tablets, branded DSL on one side. They come in packs of 60 tablets.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer
The product licence holder is: Alliance Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Avonbridge House, Chippenham, Wiltshire, SN15 2BB, UK.

Deseril is manufactured by Novartis Pharmaceuticals UK Ltd, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 5AB, England.

The information in this leaflet applies only to Deseril. If you have any questions or you are not sure about anything, ask your doctor or a pharmacist.

This leaflet was last approved: 22nd February 2010

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