Methyldopa 125mg, 250mg and 500mg tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start to take your 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.

1 What Methyldopa tablets are and what they are used for
Methyldopa belongs to a group of medicines called antihypertensives, which lower blood pressure. Methyldopa tablets are used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension).

2 Before you take
Do not take Methyldopa tablets and tell your doctor if you:
• are allergic (hypersensitive) to methyldopa or any of the other ingredients. (see section 6).
• have liver disease
• have high blood pressure due to a tumour near the kidney (phaeochromocytoma)
• suffer from depression
• are taking MAOIs (monoamine oxidase inhibitors) for depression.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Methyldopa tablets if you:
• have had liver disease
• have kidney disease
• or a relative have a genetic/inherited disorder of the red blood pigment haemoglobin (porphyria)
• have damaged or diseased blood vessels in your brain.

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:
• alprostadil used to treat erectile dysfunction
• NSAIDs (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs) which are used to relieve pain
• antihypertensive medicines used to treat high blood pressure (e.g. propranolol, nilfedipine, verapamil or ‘water tablets’)
• medicines used to treat anxiety or insomnia (e.g. diazepam, temazepam)
• combined oral contraceptive (“the pill”) or hormone replacement therapy (HRT)
• medicines to treat Parkinson's disease such as levodopa, entacapone
• linezolid (used to treat some infections)
• lithium (used to treat depression and mental illness)
• MAOIs (mono-amine oxidase inhibitors) used to treat depression (e.g. phenelzine)
• medicines to treat mental illness (e.g. chlorpromazine and thioridazine)
• moxisylyte used to treat Raynaud's syndrome
• muscle relaxants such as baclofen, tizanidine
• nitrates
• muscle relaxants such as baclofen, tizanidine
• sympathomimetics medicines used mainly for coughs and colds (e.g. ephedrine or salbutamol)
• medicines used to treat ulcers such as carbenoxolone
• iron supplements.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding
If you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or are breast-feeding ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines
Methyldopa tablets may make you feel drowsy. Make sure you are not affected before you drive or operate machinery.

Colourants
Each tablet contains sunset yellow (E110) which may cause allergic reactions.

Blood tests
Methyldopa may affect the results of certain laboratory tests. Regular checks (before the start of treatment and 6-12 weeks later) may be carried out on blood cells and liver function (blood test to show your liver is working).

Surgery
If you have to have surgery, including dental, that requires an anaesthetic let them know what medicines you are taking.

Methyldopa Tablets
125, 250 & 500mg x 56's
JDE No.: 50809801
Dimensions: 148x210 (Reel Fed)
Component: Leaflet for Blisters
Pharmacode: 6784
Date Sent: 30/05/14
Technologist: R.Wrey
Technically Approved
5 How to take
Always take Methyldopa tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. If you are not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist. You are advised not to drink alcohol with this medicine. Discuss this with your doctor if you have any questions. Swallow these tablets with water.

Doses:
Adults and children over 12 years:
Initially 250mg two or three times a day, for 2 days. Then increased every 2 or more days until an adequate response is achieved up to a maximum of 3g daily.

Children under 12 years:
Initially 10mg per kg of bodyweight daily in 2-4 divided doses adjusted as required up to 60mg/kg or 3g daily, whichever is less.

Elderly:
Initially no more than 250mg a day (e.g. 125mg twice daily), increasing up to a maximum of 2g a day.
Methyldopa may be given with, or instead of, other medicines to lower blood pressure and the doses may need to be amended.

If you take more than you should
If you (or someone else) swallow a lot of the tablets at the same time, or if you think a child may have swallowed any, contact your nearest hospital casualty department or tell your doctor immediately.
Symptoms of an overdose include excessive drowsiness, weakness, slow heart rate, low blood pressure, dizziness, light-headedness, painful infrequent bowel movements, bloated feeling, wind, diarrhoea, feeling or being sick.

If you forget to take the tablets
Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget to take a dose take it as soon as you remember it and then take the next dose at the right time.

If you stop taking the tablets
Do not stop treatment early because an increase in blood pressure may occur. Talk to your doctor before you stop taking the tablets and follow their advice.

4 Possible side effects
Like all medicines, Methyldopa tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following effects or any effects not listed.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects or notice any other effects not listed:
• Allergic reactions: inflammation of heart muscle or the sac surrounding the heart, skin rash which may be red and/or scaly, fever.
• Blood: your medicine may alter the numbers and types of your blood cells and cause a rise in urea in the blood. If you notice increased bruising, nosebleeds, sore throats, infections or fever, you should tell your doctor who may want to give you a blood test.
• Endocrine system: abnormal production of milk.

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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 Methyldopa tablets 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 Methyldopa tablets contain
• The active substance (the ingredient that makes the tablet work) is anhydrous methyldopa. Each film-coated tablet contains either 125mg, 250mg or 500mg of the active substance.
• The other ingredients are polyvidone, sodium edetate, magnesium stearate, crospovidone, precipitated silica, macrogol, talc, E104, E110 (sunset yellow), E132, E171, E172, E330, E460, E464.

What Methyldopa tablets look like and contents of the pack
Methyldopa tablets are yellow, circular, biconvex, film-coated tablets.
Pack size: 56
Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer
Actavis, Barnstable, EX32 8NS, UK.

This leaflet was last revised in June 2014.

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125, 250 & 500mg tablets PIL - UK

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