Metronidazole Tablets

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What is in this leaflet:

-  If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

Do not take Metronidazole Tablets

- if you are allergic to metronidazole or any of the other ingredients in this medicine.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Metronidazole Tablets if:

- You are taking other medicines that may affect the way Metronidazole works.
- You have or have ever had a liver problem
- You have or have ever had a disease of nervous system
- You are having kidney dialysis (see section 3: ‘people having kidney dialysis’).
- You have or have ever had a liver problem
- You are taking other medicines that may affect the way Metronidazole works.

Taking your medicine

- Take these tablets during or just after a meal
- Do not crush or chew the tablets
- Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Other medicines and Metronidazole Tablets

- 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-epileptic drugs (medicines used to treat epilepsy, such as phenytoin, primidone, phenobarbital)
- 5 fluoroarcid for cancer
- Busulfan for leukaemia (cancer of the blood cells)
- Cyclosporin - 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.

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:

- 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.

Text

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

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 you are under 8 years of age, your doctor will give you one daily dose or two separate doses 12 hours
- 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. They will work out 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 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 medicine, 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.
- You develop skin rashes with blistering, peeling or bleeding of the skin around the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals. You may also have flu-like symptoms and a high temperature. These could be signs of something called ‘Slavin-Johnson Syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis.
- 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:

- Fever
- Feeling depressed
- Pain in your eyes (optic neuropathy)
- 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)
- Hearing impairment hearing loss
- Ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
- You get a rash or skin discolouration with or without raised areas which often occurs at the same location each time the drug is taken.

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 METRONIDAZOLE TABLETS

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach 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. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER 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, 56, 70, 84, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 as well as in blister packs 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
Ares, Odyssey Business Park, West End Road, South Ruislip, HA4 6QD
United Kingdom
Manufacturers:
Milpharm Limited, Ares, Odyssey Business Park, West End Road, South Ruislip, HA4 6QD
United Kingdom
Marketing Authorisation Holder:
Milpharm Limited
Ares, Odyssey Business Park, West End Road, South Ruislip, HA4 6QD
United Kingdom

APL Swift Services (Malta) Ltd., Hal Far, Birzebbuga BBG 3000
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• 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.
• Loss of appetite
• Feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting), upset stomach, or diarrhoea
• Furred tongue
• Unpleasant taste in the mouth
• Numbness, tingling, pain, or a feeling of weakness, in the arms or legs
• Liver problems including life threatening liver failure (hepatocellular liver injury)
• Pains in the muscles or joints
• Darkening of the urine
• Mental problems such as feeling confused and seeing or hearing things that are not there
• Fits (convulsions)
• Feeling confused
• Ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
• A serious but very rare side effect is a brain disease (encephalopathy).