

Patient Information leaflet
CO-DYDRAMOL 500/10mg TABLETS
(Paracetamol 500mg/Dihydrocodeine 10mg)

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.

1. WHAT CO-DYDRAMOL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Co-Dydramol tablets contain paracetamol and dihydrocodeine, which are used to relieve moderate pain and reduce temperature.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE CO-DYDRAMOL

Do NOT take Co-Dydramol if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to paracetamol, dihydrocodeine, other opioids or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- you have a medical condition where you find it difficult to breathe
- you are having an asthma attack
- you have liver disease
- you have diarrhoea caused by poisoning or severe bloody diarrhoea (pseudomembranous colitis).

DO NOT TAKE WITH ANY OTHER PARACETAMOL-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

Warnings and precautions

- Do not take for longer than directed by your doctor or pharmacist or take more tablets than recommended.
- Do not drink alcohol on the same day that you take these tablets.
- Taking dihydrocodeine regularly for a long time can lead to addiction, which might cause you to feel restless and irritable when you stop taking the tablets.
- Taking a painkiller for headaches too often or for too long can make them worse.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you take this medicine if you have:

- kidney or liver problems, including alcoholic liver disease
- diseased adrenal glands (Addison's disease) or high blood pressure caused by a tumour near a kidney (phaeochromocytoma)
- inflammatory bowel disease
- gall bladder disease or gall stones
- recently had surgery on your gastro-intestinal tract or urinary system
- an enlarged prostate gland
- epilepsy or fits (may be made worse by co-dydramol)
- suffered head injury or raised pressure in the skull (may cause painful eyes, changes in vision or headache behind the eyes)
- an underactive thyroid gland
- muscle weakness (myasthenia gravis)
- low blood pressure or are in shock
- suffered from alcoholism, drug abuse or dependence or mental illness
- you are elderly (you may need a lower dose).

Other medicines and Co-Dydramol

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

- ciprofloxacin (antibacterial medicine)
- Monoamine Oxidase Inhibitors (MAOIs for depression, e.g. moclobemide, or have taken these within the last 2 weeks)
- oral contraceptives (the "pill")
- medicines to prevent blood clotting such as warfarin
- cyclizine, metoclopramide or domperidone (to prevent sickness)
- guanethidine or diuretics ("water tablets") e.g. spironolactone, furosemide (to treat high blood pressure)
- mexiletine (to treat irregular heartbeats)
- loperamide or kaolin (to treat diarrhoea)
- selegiline (for Parkinson's disease)
- phenytoin (to treat epilepsy)
- cimetidine (to treat stomach ulcers)
- atropine or hyoscine (anticholinergic medicines)
- cisapride (to treat gastro-oesophageal reflux disease)
- medicines which affect the nervous system such as sleeping tablets, diazepam, hydroxyzine and medicines to treat mental illness
- medicines to treat depression (e.g. tranylcypromine, amitriptyline)
- medicines which affect the liver (e.g. primidone and rifampicin)
- colestyramine (to treat high cholesterol levels)
- muscle relaxants
- barbiturates (e.g. phenobarbital)
- anaesthetics
- opioid antagonists (buprenorphine, naltrexone, naloxone)

Diet

If your diet is poor or you have a low protein intake, you may be at a higher risk of serious paracetamol poisoning when taking Co-Dydramol tablets.

Driving and using machines

If these tablets make you feel drowsy, dizzy, or you experience blurred vision or vertigo (a type of dizziness), or cannot think clearly, do not drive or operate machinery. The medicine can affect your ability to drive as it may make you sleepy or dizzy.

- Do not drive while taking this medicine until you know how it affects you.
- It is an offence to drive if this medicine affects your ability to drive.
- However, you would not be committing an offence if:
 - The medicine has been prescribed to treat a medical or dental problem and
 - You have taken it according to the instructions given by the prescriber or in the information provided with the medicine and
 - It was not affecting your ability to drive safely

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure whether it is safe for you to drive while taking this medicine.

Continued overleaf