

Package leaflet: Information for the user

**Salofalk Suppositories 500mg**  
Mesalazine

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- 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 only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- 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.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Salofalk suppositories are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you use Salofalk suppositories
3. How to use Salofalk suppositories
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Salofalk suppositories
6. Contents of the pack and other information

**1. What Salofalk suppositories 500mg are and what they are used for**

Salofalk suppositories contain the active substance mesalazine, an anti-inflammatory agent used to treat inflammatory bowel disease.

Salofalk suppositories are used for:

- the treatment of mild and moderate episodes of an inflammatory disease in the rectum (back passage) known by doctors as ulcerative colitis or ulcerative proctitis.

**2. What you need to know before you use Salofalk suppositories 500mg**

**Do not use Salofalk suppositories**

- If you are allergic to salicylic acid, to salicylates such as aspirin or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you have a serious liver or kidney disease.

**Warnings and precautions**

**Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using this medicine:**

- If you have a history of problems with your lungs, particularly if you suffer from **bronchial asthma**.
- If you have a history of allergy to sulphasalazine, a substance related to mesalazine.
- If you suffer with problems of your **liver**.
- If you suffer with problems of your **kidney**.
- If you have ever developed a severe skin rash or skin peeling, blistering and/or mouth sores after using mesalazine.

During treatment your doctor may want to keep you under close medical supervision and you may need to have regular blood and urine tests.

Kidney stones may develop with use of mesalazine. Symptoms may include pain in sides of abdomen and blood in urine. Take care to drink sufficient amount of liquid during treatment with mesalazine.

Serious skin reactions including Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis have been reported in association with mesalazine treatment. Stop using mesalazine and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the symptoms related to these serious skin reactions described in section 4.

#### **Other medicines and Salofalk suppositories 500mg**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any of the medicines mentioned below as the effects of these medicines may change (interactions):

- **Certain agents that inhibit blood clotting** (medicines for thrombosis or to thin your blood, e.g., warfarin)
- **Azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine or thioguanine** (medicines used to treat immune disorders).

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

#### **Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before using this medicine.

You should only use Salofalk suppositories during pregnancy if your doctor tells you to.

You should also only use Salofalk suppositories during breast-feeding if your doctor tells you to, as this medicine and its metabolites may pass into breast milk.

#### **Driving and using machines**

There are no effects on the ability to drive and use machines.

#### **Salofalk suppositories 500mg contain cetyl alcohol**

Cetyl alcohol may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis).

### **3. How to use Salofalk suppositories 500mg**

Always use this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

#### **Method of administration**

This medicine may only be used rectally, so it has to be inserted through the anus. Do NOT take by mouth.

#### **Dosage**

##### **Adults and elderly:**

The recommended dose is one or two suppositories two to three times daily.

#### **Use in children**

There is little experience and only limited documentation for an effect in children.

#### **Duration of treatment**

Your doctor will decide how long you need to continue the treatment with this medicine. This will depend on your condition.

To obtain the maximum benefit from this medicine, you should use Salofalk suppositories regularly and consistently, as directed.

If you think your Salofalk suppositories are too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor.

**If you use more Salofalk suppositories than you should**

Contact a doctor if you are in doubt, so he or she can decide what to do.

If you use too many suppositories on one occasion, just use your next dose as prescribed. Do not use a smaller amount.

**If you forget to use Salofalk suppositories**

Do not use a larger than normal dose of Salofalk suppositories next time, but continue treatment at the prescribed dosage.

**If you stop using Salofalk suppositories**

Do not stop using this product until you have talked to your doctor.

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

#### **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

**All medicines can cause allergic reactions although serious allergic reactions are very rare. If you get any of the following symptoms after taking this medicine, you should contact your doctor immediately:**

- **Allergic skin rash**
- **Fever**
- **Breathing difficulties**

*If you experience a marked reduction of your general health, especially if accompanied by fever, and/or a sore throat and mouth, stop using the suppositories and contact your doctor immediately.*

These symptoms can, very rarely, be due to a fall in the number of white cells in your blood (a condition called agranulocytosis) which may make you more prone to developing a serious infection. A blood test can confirm whether your symptoms are due to an effect of this medicine on your blood.

Stop using mesalazine and seek medical attention immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- reddish non-elevated, target-like or circular patches on the trunk, often with central blisters, skin peeling, ulcers of mouth, throat, nose, genitals and eyes. These serious skin rashes can be preceded by fever and flu-like symptoms.

The following side effects have also been reported by patients using mesalazine:

**Rare side effects** (that affect less than 1 in 1,000 patients)

- Abdominal pain, diarrhoea, wind (flatulence), nausea and vomiting, constipation
- Headache, dizziness
- Chest pain, breathlessness or swollen limbs because of an effect on your heart
- Increased sensitivity of your skin to sun and ultraviolet light (photosensitivity)

**Very rare side effects** (that affect less than 1 in 10,000 patients)

- Changes in kidney function, sometimes with swollen limbs or flank pain
- Severe abdominal pain because of acute inflammation of the pancreas

- Fever, sore throat or malaise because of blood count changes
- Shortness of breath, cough, wheezing, lung shadow on x-ray due to allergic and/or inflammatory lung conditions
- Severe diarrhoea and abdominal pain because of an allergic reaction to this medicine within the bowel
- Skin rash or inflammation
- Muscle and joint pain
- Jaundice or abdominal pain because of liver or bile flow disorders
- Hair loss and the development of baldness
- Numbness and tingling in the hands and feet (peripheral neuropathy)
- Reversible decrease in semen production

**Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- Kidney stones and associated kidney pain (see also section 2)

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme Website: <https://yellowcard.mhra.gov.uk> or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. How to store Salofalk suppositories 500mg**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the blister strip and on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

Store in the original container in order to protect contents from light.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Salofalk suppositories contain**

The active substance is mesalazine and one suppository contains 500mg mesalazine.

### **The other ingredients are**

Hard fat, docusate sodium, cetyl alcohol.

### **What Salofalk suppositories look like and contents of the pack**

Salofalk suppositories are in white opaque PVC/PE strips of 5.

Available in packs of 10 or 30 suppositories.

Not all packs may be marketed.

**Marketing Authorisation Holder**

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**Manufacturer**

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