1. What Esomeprazole is and what it is used for

Esomeprazole contains a medicine called esomeprazole magnesium. Esomeprazole belongs to a group of medicines called "proton pump inhibitors". They work by reducing the amount of acid that your stomach produces.

Esomeprazole is used to treat the following conditions:
- 1. Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- 2. Heartburn associated with a small increased risk of infectious diseases.
- 3. Stomach ulcers caused by H. pylori (used to treat infections caused by a fungus).
- 4. Ulcers caused by stress (used to treat conditions caused by a fungus).

2. What you need to know before you take Esomeprazole

Please read the leaflet that your doctor or pharmacist gave you before you start taking Esomeprazole. If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist. The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

Children under the age of 12 years
Esomeprazole should not be used in children under 12 years of age. There is not enough data on the safety and effectiveness of this medicine for this age group.

Other medicines and Esomeprazole
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have taken, or might take any of the following medicines:
- 1. Antibiotics (used to treat infections caused by a fungus).
- 2. Anticoagulants (used to prevent blood clots).
- 3. Antidepressants (used to treat depression).
- 4. Anticonvulsants (used to treat epilepsy).
- 5. Antimalarial medicines (used to treat malaria).
- 6. Antipsychotics (used to treat schizophrenia).
- 7. Antithyroid medicines (used to treat thyroid problems).
- 8. Antiviral medicines (used to treat HIV infection).

Do not take Esomeprazole if you are taking a medicine containing rifampicin (used to treat HIV infection).

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:
- 1. Amoxicillin (used to treat infections caused by a fungus).
- 2. Anticoagulants (used to prevent blood clots).
- 3. Anticonvulsants (used to treat epilepsy).
- 4. Antimycotics (used to treat infections caused by a fungus).
- 5. Antipsychotics (used to treat schizophrenia).
- 6. Antithyroid medicines (used to treat thyroid problems).
- 7. Antiviral medicines (used to treat HIV infection).

3. How to take Esomeprazole

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist tells you. The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only:

- 1. Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GERD)
- 2. Heartburn associated with a small increased risk of infectious diseases.
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You may have to take your medicine before a meal or at bedtime. This will depend on your condition, how old you are and how well your stomach works. The recommended dose is one tablet of Esomeprazole 20mg once daily for 4 weeks. Your doctor may tell you to take the same dose for 4 to 8 weeks if you get better. If you have been prescribed Esomeprazole 40mg, you must take 30mg of this medicine each day.

4. Possible side effects

The following are some of the common side effects that may be associated with Esomeprazole. A side effect may occur in several patients but only a few represent a serious problem. If you are troubled by any of these side effects, tell your doctor.

5. How to store Esomeprazole

Esomeprazole should be stored in a cool, dry place, away from strong light and heat. It must not be stored in the bathroom. The packed tablets should not be taken off the shelf.
If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, do not double the dose (two doses at the same time) to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you take more Esomeprazole than prescribed by your doctor, talk to your doctor or pharmacist straight away.

Older people

- Advice on adjusting the dose is not required in the elderly.

If you are more Esomeprazole than you should

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If you forget to take Esomeprazole

- If you forget to take the tablets, please store them in a cool place (not in the fridge). Do not store above 30°C. If you are taking multiple tablets, you can store some and take them later in the same week. However, if you are taking tablets that should be taken only once a day (for example, for ulcers) you should take all of the tablets you have in a week at once. This will avoid missing a dose.

If you take too much Esomeprazole

- You should make sure that you have drunk all of the tablets you take and drink a glass of water. The tablets contain coated pellets which stop the medicine from being broken down by the acid in your stomach. If you have taken more than the recommended dose, you should consult your doctor or pharmacist.

Other side effects

- Allergic reactions, including rash.
- Severe reaction that affects the skin or other body parts (erythema multiforme).
- Swelling of the body (anaaphylaxis).
- Reddening of the skin with blisters or peeling.
- Sudden wheezing, swelling of your lips, tongue or throat.
- Seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations).
- Hair loss (alopecia).

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

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