Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking 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. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms 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 Carbimazole is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Carbimazole
3. How to take Carbimazole
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Carbimazole
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. WHAT CARBIMAZOLE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

The name of your medicine is Carbimazole 5 mg tablets or Carbimazole 20 mg tablets (called Carbimazole in this leaflet). This belongs to a group of medicines called 'anti-thyroid' medicines. Carbimazole is used for adults and children with an over-active thyroid gland (called 'hyper-thyroidism').

- It works by reducing the amount of thyroid hormones made in your thyroid gland
- It can be used on its own, or with other treatments for an over-active thyroid gland
- It can also be used after part of the thyroid gland has been removed by surgery. It helps the thyroid gland work properly before the surgery.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE CARBIMAZOLE

Do not take Carbimazole If:
- You are allergic (hypersensitive) to Carbimazole or any of the other ingredients of Carbimazole tablets (listed in Section 6).
- You are allergic (hypersensitive) to other anti-thyroid medicines such as thiamazole, methimazole or propylthiouracil
- You are breast-feeding
- You have a severe liver disorder
- You have a serious blood disorder.

Carbimazole tablets contain lactose
If you have been told by your doctor that you cannot tolerate or digest some sugars (have an intolerance to some sugars), talk to your doctor before taking this medicine.

3. HOW TO TAKE CARBIMAZOLE

Always take Carbimazole exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Taking this medicine
- Take this medicine by mouth
- Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water
- You can take the tablets before, during or after meals
- The tablets you take each day may be split into two (morning and evening) or three (morning, afternoon and night). Ask your pharmacist if you are not sure.

How much to take at the start
The doctor will decide on a starting dose, and then see how well it works:
- If needed, he or she will then change the dose
- This is to find a dose that suits you best.
Adults
The recommended starting dose for the 5 mg tablets is between 4 and 12 tablets each day. The recommended starting dose for the 20 mg tablets is between 1 and 3 tablets each day.

Use in children
The recommended starting dose is three 5 mg tablets each day.

How much to take after the starting dose
Your illness will usually start to improve within one to three weeks. However, it usually takes four to eight weeks to have full benefit from your treatment.
- When your illness is controlled, your doctor will gradually lower your dose to one to three 5 mg tablets each day
- Do not change your dose without talking to your doctor first.

You may need to keep taking Carbimazole for several months to keep control of your thyroid gland. Your doctor will decide when treatment can be stopped. Your doctor may ask you to have occasional blood tests to see how well your treatment is working.

Your doctor may decide to add an additional tablet (t-thyroxine), to help control your condition.

Radio-iodine
Another treatment for an over-active thyroid is called “radio-iodine”. If you need radio-iodine treatment your doctor will tell you to stop taking Carabimazole tablets for a while.

If you take more Carbimazole than you should
If you take more Carbimazole than you should, talk to a doctor or go to a hospital straight away. Take the medicine pack or this leaflet and any remaining tablets with you.

If you forget to take Carabimazole
If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is time for your next dose, take both doses together.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
Like all medicines, Carbimazole can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. The side effects usually happen in the first eight weeks of your treatment. Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not get any of them.

Allergic reactions
If you have an allergic reaction, stop taking Carbimazole and see a doctor straight away. The signs may include: sudden rash, swelling or difficulty breathing.

Stop taking Carbimazole and see a doctor straight away, if you notice any of the following side effects:
- Any infection such as a sore throat or mouth ulcers
- Fever
- Unusual bruising or bleeding
- Feeling unusually tired
- You are feeling generally unwell or think that you may have an infection.

Your doctor may need to do some tests to check for something called ‘bone marrow depression’ before you start your treatment again.

Tell your doctor if you get any of the following side effects:
- Liver problems such as yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice)
- Muscle pain or weakness
- Nerve pain
- Swelling of lymph nodes
- Swelling of glands in your mouth
- Feeling faint (low blood sugar).

Other side effects include:
If you get any of the following side effects, they normally go away while you keep taking your medicine:
- Feeling sick (nausea)
- Headache or feeling dizzy
- Skin rashes
- Itching
- Stomach upset
- Painful joints
- Hair thinning
- Changes to your taste.

The following side effects have also been reported:
- Angioedema, a serious allergic reaction with symptoms that may include swollen tongue, lips, face or throat
- Lung problems, with symptoms that include shortness of breath or a cough
- Kidney problems, with symptoms that include a reduction in the amount of urine passed, fluid retention and blood in the urine.

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: 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 CARBIMAZOLE
- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children
- Do not use Carbimazole after the expiry date which is stated on the label. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month
- Do not store above 25°C
- Store Carbimazole in the original packaging. 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. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION
What Carbimazole 5 mg and 20 mg tablets contain
- The active ingredient is carbimazole. Two tablet strengths are available. Each Carbimazole 5 mg tablet contains 5 mg of carbimazole. Each Carbimazole 20 mg tablet contains 20 mg of carbimazole.
- The other ingredients are anhydrous lactose, magnesium stearate, croscarmellose sodium and the colourant red iron oxide (E172).

What Carbimazole 5 mg and 20 mg tablets look like and contents of the pack
- The Carbimazole 5 mg tablets are round, pale pink and marked with Link C5 on one side and have a scoreline on the reverse side.
- The Carbimazole 20 mg tablets are round, pink and marked with Link C20 on one side and have a scoreline on the reverse side.
- Each carton contains 28, 56, 100 or 112 tablets in a blister pack (not all pack sizes will be marketed).

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