

Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Dipentum[®] 500 mg Tablets Olsalazine Sodium

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 only. 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.
- In this leaflet, Dipentum 500 mg Tablets will be called Dipentum tablets.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Dipentum tablets is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Dipentum tablets
3. How to take Dipentum tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Dipentum tablets
6. Content of the pack and further information

1. What Dipentum tablets is and what it is used for

Dipentum tablets belongs to a group of medicines called aminosaliclates. Dipentum tablets works by reducing pain and swelling (inflammation) in the intestine. It reduces the actions of substances in the body that cause inflammation. Dipentum tablets is used to treat an inflammation of your large intestine (colon) called ulcerative colitis. It is used for short-term (acute) attacks (called "flare-ups"), and at a lower dose to maintain the improvement (maintenance treatment) and keep away further "flare-ups".

If untreated, a severe attack of ulcerative colitis may cause death due to dehydration and bursting of the colon (peritonitis).

2. What you need to know before you take Dipentum tablets

Do not take Dipentum tablets:

- if you are allergic to olsalazine sodium or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- If you have ever had an allergic reaction to any salicylates (e.g. aspirin and aspirin-containing products, including those bought over the counter)
- If you have severe kidney disease

If any of the above apply to you talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Warning and Precautions

Before you start taking Dipentum tablets your doctor will do a blood test. This will be repeated every three months for the first year, every six months for the next four years and then once a year. This is to see how well your liver and kidneys are functioning.

You should also check for signs of worsening of allergies such as asthma.

Tell your doctor immediately if you develop unexplained bruising or bleeding accompanied with fever, dizziness, sore throat and mouth ulcers. You could have developed a blood disorder.

Children and adolescents

Do not take Dipentum tablets if you are under 12 years of age.

Other medicines and Dipentum tablets

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might have taken any of the following medicines:

- Aspirin or any other aspirin-containing medicines or salicylates
- Other drugs to treat ulcerative colitis
- Blood thinning agents such as warfarin or heparin or heparinoids
- Drugs that treat irritable bowel syndrome and cancer such as thioguanine and 6 mercaptopurine
- If you have recently had chickenpox vaccination (taking Dipentum tablets may cause a greater risk of Reye's syndrome; a life threatening condition)
- Any other medicine, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Dipentum tablets with food and drink

Always take Dipentum tablets with a glass of water **after** food.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant, or trying to become pregnant or breastfeeding, talk to your doctor before taking Dipentum tablets.

Driving and using machines

If you experience dizziness and/or blurred vision whilst taking Dipentum tablets do not drive or use machinery.

3. How to take Dipentum tablets

Always use this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.

Important: Your doctor will choose the dose that is right for you. Your dose will be shown clearly on the label that your pharmacist puts on your medicine. If it does not, or you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Remember: Your medicine should always be taken **after** food.

Adults, children over 12 and the elderly Acute flare-ups

- The usual starting dose is two tablets a day (one in the morning, one in the evening at the end of a meal).
- Your doctor may increase your dose until your condition improves.
- You must not take more than six tablets a day or more than two tablets at a time.
- If a "flare-up" is severe you are likely to be given additional medicines.

Maintenance treatment

- Once the "flare-up" is controlled your doctor may gradually reduce your dose to one tablet twice a day (one in the morning, one in the evening at the end of a meal).
- This is to prevent further "flare-ups"
- You may remain on this treatment, provided it remains effective, for a long period of time.

If you take more Dipentum tablets than you should

Do not take more Olsalazine Sodium tablets than you should. If you have taken too much, immediately go to the nearest hospital casualty department or your doctor.

Take your tablets and this leaflet with you.

Signs of taking too much Dipentum tablets include nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

If you forget to take Dipentum tablets

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. If you forget a dose take the next one as usual.

If you stop taking Dipentum tablets

Do not stop taking Dipentum tablets without first talking to your doctor even if your symptoms have improved.

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

Information about the ingredients

This medicine contains small amounts of ethanol (alcohol), less than 100 mg per tablet.

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

4. Possible side effects

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

Seek immediate medical help if you have any of the following symptoms (the frequency of these side effects is unknown):

- Swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing/breathing
- Blood disorders (reduced number of blood cells) where you could have the following symptoms: bruise or bleed easily, have a persistent sore throat, mouth ulcers, dizziness and feeling tired and feverish
- Pancreatitis where you could have the following symptoms: severe stomach pain, fever, feeling sick/being sick
- Liver disease where you could have the following symptoms: feeling sick/being sick, loss of appetite, feeling generally unwell, itching and the whites of the eyes may become yellow.

Other possible side effects:

Common: affects less than 1 in 10 people

- Headache
- Diarrhoea. It does not usually last very long, but taking your medicine at the end of a meal helps to reduce diarrhoea.
- Feeling sick
- Rash
- Joint pain

Uncommon: affects less than 1 in 100 people

- Fever
- Being sick
- Indigestion
- Raised liver enzymes (tests your doctor may perform will show changed liver function)
- Itching and/or hives, a nettle-like rash
- Unusual hair loss
- Light sensitivity.
- Increased heart rate
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle pain
- Pins and needles
- Depression
- Dizziness

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data:

- Altered breakdown of blood cells in the liver which could result in jaundice (yellowing of skin/eyes)
- Stomach pain
- Inflammation of heart muscle
- Awareness of your heartbeat
- Inflammation of sac around heart muscle
- Pain in passing urine or blood in the urine
- Difficulty in breathing
- Blurred vision
- Loss of touch sensation/numbness

If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

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 at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard 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 Dipentum tablets

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 carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a dry place.

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. Content of the pack and other information

What Dipentum tablets contains

The active substance is Olsalazine Sodium 500 mg.

The other ingredients are magnesium stearate, colloidal silicon dioxide, polyvidone 30, crospovidone and ethanol.

What Dipentum tablets looks like and content of the pack

Dipentum tablets are yellow, capsule-shaped tablets debossed with 'D500' on one side and scored on the other side.

Dipentum tablets comes in plastic bottles containing 60 and 100 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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**If this leaflet is difficult to see or read or you would like it in a different format,
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