Naproxen 250mg and 500mg tablets

Read this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

1. What Naproxen tablets are and what they are used for

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

3. How to store

4. Content of the pack and other information

What Naproxen tablets contain

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Naproxen tablets are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Naproxen tablets
3. How to take Naproxen tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Naproxen tablets
6. Content of the pack and other information

What Naproxen tablets are and what they are used for

Naproxen belongs to a group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), which are used to reduce inflammation and pain in joints and muscles. Naproxen tablets are used to treat:

- diseases of joints such as rheumatoid arthritis (including in children), osteoarthritis, ankyllosing spondylitis. Naproxen cannot cure arthritis but is used to give relief of some symptoms such as inflammation, swelling, stiffness and joint pain

- attacks of gout

- muscle and bone disorders
- painful periods.

What you need to know before you take Naproxen tablets

Do not take Naproxen tablets if you:

- are in the last three months of pregnancy or if you are breast-feeding
- are allergic to naproxen or to any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- are allergic to aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs), or you have developed signs of asthma ( wheezing), runny nose, swelling of the skin or rash when taking these medicines
- have or have had stomach or duodenum (gut) ulcers, bleeding in the stomach or intestines (gastrointestinal bleeding) or have had two or more episodes of peptic ulcers, stomach bleeding or perforation
- have severe liver, kidney or heart failure.

If you are not sure about any of the above conditions, please ask your doctor.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Naproxen tablets if you:

- use other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory medicines (NSAIDs) or any medication which may cause bleeding or ulcers in the stomach
- have a history of gastrointestinal disease e.g. ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease
- smoke
- drink alcohol
- are elderly
- have or have had high blood pressure or any liver, kidney or heart problems
- have or have had bronchial asthma, other breathing problems or nasal polyps
- have systemic lupus erythematosus or other connective tissue disorders
- have a blood clotting disorder
- are a women trying to become pregnant or undergoing investigation of infertility.
Other warnings
- Medicines such as naproxen may be associated with a small increased risk of heart attack (myocardial infarction) or stroke. Any risk is more likely with high doses and prolonged treatment. Do not exceed the recommended dose or duration of treatment.
- If you have heart problems, previous stroke or think that you might be at risk of these conditions (for example if you have high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol or are a smoker) you should discuss your treatment with your doctor or pharmacist.
- If you are elderly or frail, you have a higher risk of getting side effects, especially from the stomach. If you experience any unusual symptoms from the stomach you must tell your doctor about it.
- Taking a painkiller for headaches too often or for too long can make them worse.
- Naproxen tablets may hide the symptoms of an infection.
- If you need any blood or urine tests tell your doctor you are taking Naproxen tablets. The tests may need to be stopped 48 hours before a test, as they may interfere with the results.

Children
Do not give this medicine to children under 5 years old.

Other medicines and Naproxen tablets. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. Especially:
- aspirin/acylsalicylic acid to prevent blood clots
- other NSAIDs such as COX II inhibitors
- medicines which thin the blood or which prevent blood clotting (e.g. heparin or warfarin)
- corticosteroids (e.g. prednisolone), if needed the doctor will reduce the dose of the steroid slowly and monitor for side effects
diuretics ("water tablets") (e.g. furosemide)
- medicines to treat high blood pressure (e.g. captopril, ramipril or propranolol, losartan or candesartan)
- ciclosporin or tacrolimus
- mifepristone – do not take NSAIDs 8-12 days after mifepristone
- SSRI antidepressants

Naproxen tablets with food and alcohol Naproxen tablets should preferably be taken with or after food.

You should refrain from alcohol consumption while taking NSAIDs.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility
If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, you should not take Naproxen tablets.

Fertility
Naproxen may make it more difficult to become pregnant.

Driving and using machinery
Naproxen may make you feel dizzy, drowsy or tired and may cause blurred vision. Make sure you are not affected before you drive or operate machinery.

Naproxen tablets contain lactose
If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

3 How to take Naproxen tablets
Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Swallow with or after food.

Recommended dose:
Your doctor should prescribe as low a dose as possible. This will reduce any side effects you may experience.

Adults
- Rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and ankylosing spondylitis
  500mg-1g a day in two doses at twelve hour intervals. If 1g is needed this can be given as two 500mg doses or as a single dose.
- Attack of gout
  Initially 750mg as a single dose then 250mg every 8 hours until the attack has passed.
- Muscle, bone disorders and painful periods
  Initially 500mg as a single dose then 250mg every 6-8 hours as necessary. Up to a maximum of 1250mg a day may be given after the first day.

Elderly
Dosage may be reduced in the elderly.

Use in children and adolescents
Children over 5 years for juvenile rheumatoid arthritis
10mg per kg of body weight a day, taken in two doses at twelve hourly intervals.

If you take more Naproxen tablets than you should
It is important not to take too many tablets. Contact your doctor, pharmacist or nearest hospital casualty department immediately if you have taken more tablets than you should.

Symptoms of overdose are headache, feeling or being sick, heartburn, diarrhoea, disorientation, bleeding of the stomach or intestines, unconsciousness, drowsiness, dizziness, ringing or buzzing in the ears, fainting, fits and excitation.

If you forget to take Naproxen tablets
If you forget to take your tablets, your forgotten dose as soon as you remember, unless it is nearly time for your next dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for one you have missed.

If you have any further questions on 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. If any of the side effects get worse, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Stop taking Naproxen tablets and contact your doctor immediately if you:
- have indigestion, heartburn, pains in your stomach or other abnormal stomach symptoms, feeling or being sick, diarrhoea, worsening of colitis and Crohn's disease (you may have an ulcer or inflammation in the stomach or gut)
- pass blood in your faeces (stools/motions) or black tarry looking stools (signs of bleeding and perforation of the stomach and intestines)
- vomit any blood or dark particles that look like coffee grounds
- have an allergic reaction:
  - swelling of the face, mouth, tongue, airways or body
  - skin reactions including: hives (pale/red raised skin with severe itching), blistered skin, itchy skin rash, blood spots, bruising or discolouring of the skin, raised purple rashes, red skin patches, a severe rash with reddening, peeling and swelling of the skin that resembles burns, bumpy, rashes, blisters, dermatitis (skin shedding, itching, swelling)
  - difficulty breathing or wheezing, coughing up blood

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following side effects
Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)
confusion, headache, ringing in the ears, changes in vision (you should go for an eye test if you notice changes in vision), tiredness, drowsiness, dizziness, rashes.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
epileptic fits, allergic reaction:
- swellings of the face, mouth, tongue, airways or body
- skin reactions including: hives (pale/red raised skin with severe itching), blistered skin, itchy skin rash, blood spots, bruising or discolouring of the skin, raised purple rashes, red skin patches, a severe rash with reddening, peeling and swelling of the skin that resembles burns, bumpy, rashes, blisters, dermatitis (skin shedding, itching, swelling)
- difficulty breathing or wheezing, coughing up blood.