

Cimetidine (sim-ET-ID-eeen)

What is this medication used for

Cimetidine is used to treat ulcers in the stomach or intestines and treat hypersecretory conditions (stomach producing too much acid) that can cause stomach and throat problems.

Cimetidine belongs to a group of medicines called histamine type-2 (H₂) receptor antagonists or H₂ blockers. H₂ blockers work by reducing the amount of acid produced in the stomach.

How to use this medication

Adults 18 years old and above

100 - 200 mg to be taken once a day (as a single night-time dose) when needed, for up to 14 days.

This medicine can be taken with or without food. If you are also taking over-the-counter antacids to relieve stomach pain, take at least 1 hour apart from this medicine.

Before you use this medication

Medical advice should be sought before use if you have any of the following conditions or symptoms: heartburn for over 3 months, chest pain or shoulder pain with shortness of breath, pain spreading to arms, neck of shoulders or light-headedness, frequent wheezing, particularly with heartburn, unexplained weight loss, nausea or vomiting, stomach pain when swallowing food, vomiting with blood, bloody or black stools and history of peptic ulcer, especially if you are taking a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID) (e.g. aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen, diclofenac).

This medicine should be avoided if you have a known history of hypersensitivity (allergy) to cimetidine or any of the other listed ingredients in the product.

You should also seek medical advice if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, as its safety profile in either situation has not been clearly established.

Interactions with other medications

Cimetidine can interact with other medicines, nutritional supplements, or herbal products that you may be taking. Medicine interactions can change the way a medicine works. This may decrease or increase the effects of the medicine and it may also lead to other harmful effects.

Examples of some medicines that can interact with cimetidine include medications for heart problems (e.g. amiodarone, flecainide), anxiety (e.g. diazepam), respiratory problems (e.g. theophylline), seizures (e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin), blood-thinning (e.g. warfarin), immune suppression (e.g. tacrolimus, cyclosporine, hydroxychloroquine), migraine (e.g. cafergot) and fungal infections (e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole).

Do inform your doctor and/or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or plan to take other medications, nutritional supplements or herbal products.

Side effects

Common side effects: headache, diarrhoea, dizziness.

Rare side effects: mood changes (e.g. agitation, confusion, low mood), severe stomach pain, yellowing of the skin and eyes and breast swelling and/or soreness (for males).

When to seek further medical advice

If the symptoms do not get better or worsen while taking this medicine or if you experience any allergic symptoms or symptoms of serious side effects (e.g. swelling of eyes and/or lips, rashes and difficulty in breathing), consult your doctor.

How should this medicine be kept

Keep out of reach and sight from children.

Store in a cool dry place.

Avoid direct exposure to sunlight.

