

Famotidine (fam-OH-TID-eeen)

What is this medication used for

Famotidine is used for the short term relief of heartburn, indigestion and hyperacidity (excess acid). Famotidine belongs to a group of medicines called histamine type-2 (H₂) receptor antagonists or H₂ blockers. Famotidine works by reducing the amount of acid produced in the stomach.

How to use this medication

Adults

The recommended dose is 20mg (one tablet) to be taken once a day when needed, for up to 14 days. This medicine can be taken with or without food.

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 famotidine or any of the other listed ingredients in the product.

You should also seek medical advice before using this medication if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Interactions with other medications

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.

Examples of some medicines that can interact with famotidine include medications for fungal infections (e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole), gout (e.g. probenecid), brain disorder (e.g. clozapine) and viral infections (e.g. atazanavir).

Side effects

Common side effects: constipation, headache, diarrhoea, dizziness.

Rare side effects: Stevens-Johnson syndrome, seizures, rhabdomyolysis.

When to seek further medical advice

Inform your doctor and/or pharmacist if you experience any allergic symptoms (e.g. swelling of eyes and/or lips, rashes and difficulty in breathing) or symptoms of serious side effects such as severe stomach pain, yellowing of the skin or eyes and confusion.

Consult a doctor if your condition does not improve or worsens after 14 days of use.

Do not use this medication for more than 14 days without medical supervision.

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.



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