



MEDICINE TO TREAT: PARKINSON'S DISEASE

Levodopa Preparations

1. What is the medicine used for?

This medicine is used in the treatment of Parkinson's disease. It helps to improve muscle control and allows more normal movements of the body. Levodopa preparations are combined with either Benserazide or Carbidopa.

2. How should I take the medicine?

- Do not stop taking your medicines without checking with your doctors.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double your dose or use extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.
- Levodopa preparations are given at low doses in the beginning and increased slowly to achieve good results. It is important to follow regular dosing times and intervals in order to maintain the effects of the medicine.
- Your doctor will decide on the amount of medicine you should take based on how severe your condition is. Take this medicine in the dose prescribed by your doctor.
- You may have to take the medicine for several weeks or months before your symptoms improve. Do not stop taking it even if you feel that it is not working.
- You should take Levodopa preparations on an empty stomach. However, it may be taken with food if your stomach becomes irritated.
- Always take note of the name and strength of the preparation that you are currently taking. This is because your doctor may change it from time to time according to your needs.
- Special instructions for dispersible tablets:
 - Put your dispersible tablets in water and drink it within half an hour of dissolving the tablet. You should stir the mixture before drinking.
- Special instructions for controlled-release tablets:
 - Controlled-release tablets should be swallowed whole without chewing or crushing.

3. What are the possible side effects of the medicine?

Some common side effects include:

Gastrointestinal (stomach and mouth): Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, taste changes, excessive drooling of the mouth and difficulty in swallowing

Cardiovascular (heart): Low blood pressure (resulting in dizziness, light-headedness or fainting when getting up from a lying, sitting or squatting position) and irregular heartbeat

Central nervous system: Agitation, anxiety, confusion, nightmares, hallucination, mood and mental changes

Neuromuscular and skeletal: More hand tremors, clumsiness or unsteadiness, uncontrolled movements of the body (including face, tongue, arms, hands, head and upper body), tiredness/weakness and numbness that cannot be explained.

Eye: Blurred vision

Others: May cause sweat, urine and saliva to appear dark in colour and difficulty in urination

4. How do I know if I am allergic to this medicine?

The symptoms of a drug allergy include one or more of the following:

- Swollen face/eyes/lips
- Difficulty in breathing
- Itchy skin rashes over your whole body

If you experience any of these symptoms, you should stop your medicine immediately and see your doctor.

5. What precautions should I follow when taking the medicine?

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if you are taking other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements.

You must tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine.

Be careful when driving or operating machinery as these medicines may cause drowsiness and blurred vision. To reduce chances of dizziness, light-headedness or fainting, you should get up slowly from a sitting or lying position.

You should go back to your physical activities slowly even if you notice improvements in your symptoms. This is to allow your body to adjust to the changing balance and coordination.

Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant during the course of this treatment.

6. How should I store the medicine?

- Keep your medicines in the original container or packaging, tightly closed or sealed in a cool and dry place, away from direct sunlight.
- Keep the medicine out of reach of children.
- Throw away all expired medicines.

This leaflet answers some common questions about this medicine. It does not contain all the available information. It also does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.