



MEDICINE TO TREAT: GOUT

Probenecid

1. What is the medicine used for?

Probenecid is used to treat gout, gouty arthritis or other problems caused by too much uric acid in your body.

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.
- Follow the dose given by your doctor. The doctor will decide on the amount of medicine to give to you based on your condition.
- You should continue taking probenecid even if you feel it is not working for you or if you are taking other medicines for gout. The gout attacks should be less painful and last for a shorter time after a few weeks or months of using probenecid.
- You should drink 10-12 glasses of water each day unless your doctor gives you instructions not to do so. This prevents the medicine from building up in your kidneys.
- You can take your medicine with food to prevent stomach discomfort.

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

The common side effects of probenecid include:

- Headache or dizziness
- Nausea or vomiting
- Loss of appetite
- Flushing (redness) of your face

If you cannot tolerate the above side effects, do check with your doctor.

Some serious side effects of probenecid include:

- Fast or irregular heart beat
- Chest pain that lasts longer than 15 minutes
- Wheezing or trouble breathing
- Swelling around the eyes or eyelids
- Skin rash, severe itching or hives
- Unexplained fever or sore throat
- Blood in your urine or pain when urinating

If you experience any of these serious side effects, you should see your doctor immediately.

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?

Check with your doctor before taking this medicine if you:

- Are currently being treated for cancer
- Have blood or kidney disease
- Have stomach ulcers

If you have diabetes, probenecid may affect some tests which are used to check for sugar in your urine.

Inform your doctor and pharmacist if you are already taking some other medicines, herbal preparations, nutritional products or vitamin supplements as these may interact with probenecid.

Inform your doctor if you have any allergies or if you develop an allergy while taking this medicine.

Inform your doctor if you are breast-feeding, pregnant or likely to become pregnant when you are taking probenecid.

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