



## MEDICINE TO TREAT: MYASTHENIA GRAVIS

Pyridostigmine

### 1. What is the medicine used for?

This medicine is used to treat the symptoms of myasthenia gravis, which is a disease that causes muscle weakness. It is not a cure for this disease.

### 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.
- When you are first given this medicine, your doctor may want you to keep a record of:
  - When you take each dose of the medicine
  - How long you feel better after taking each dose of medicine
  - How long you feel worse after taking each dose of medicine
  - Any side effects you experience
- The record helps your doctor decide if the medicine dose needs to be increased or decreased for it to work best for you.
- You can take the medicine with food to reduce any side effects you might experience.

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

This medicine may cause blurred vision, stomach upset, diarrhoea, headache, sweating, flushing (redness), muscle twitching or increased tears and saliva. These side-effects should become less as your body adjusts to the medicine. If they continue or become troublesome, you should inform your doctor.

Inform your doctor if you develop these serious side-effects: an abnormal heart rate, fainting, skin rash, hair loss, severe diarrhoea, severe muscle weakness, trouble breathing or swallowing, difficulty urinating, trouble speaking or confusion.

#### **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 already taking some 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.

This medicine may cause blurred vision, dizziness, or drowsiness. Do not drive or operate machinery unless you are fully alert and can see clearly.

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

#### **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.