

# Package leaflet: Information for the patient

## Questran™ 4g/sachet Powder for Oral Suspension, Colestyramine

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

### What is in this leaflet

1. What Questran is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Questran
3. How to take Questran
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Questran
6. Contents of the pack and other information

### 1. What Questran is and what it is used for

Questran is supplied as sachets. Each sachet contains 4g of the active substance colestyramine.

Colestyramine belongs to a group of medicines called bile acid binding resins.

Questran is used to lower your body's level of cholesterol (a type of fat) which can cause heart disease.

This medicine works in the digestive system and absorbs the cholesterol-containing bile acids, which then pass out through the body in the faeces.

Questran may also be used to help stop some types of diarrhoea or itching.

### 2. What you need to know before you take Questran

#### Do not take Questran if:

- You have ever had an **allergic reaction** to any of the ingredients of Questran, or a similar medicine.
- You have an illness which results in your **bile duct being completely blocked** (e.g. gall stones). Check with your doctor if you are unsure.

#### Children

This medicine is **not suitable** for children **under 6 years** of age.

#### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Questran if you are concerned about any of the following:

Long-term treatment with high doses of Questran may reduce the body's ability to absorb fat-soluble vitamins from the diet. These include vitamins A, D and K. Therefore your doctor may suggest you take a vitamin supplement.

If this medicine is being given to a child where there is a family history of high blood cholesterol levels, an additional supplement of folic acid may be advised.

#### Other medicines and Questran

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

If you are taking any other medicines it is **important** that they are taken at a different time to your dose of Questran.

Any other medicines should be taken **at least 1 hour before** you take your dose of Questran or **4 – 6 hours after** you have taken your dose of Questran.

This is because Questran may change the effects of other medicines by stopping them from working so well and Questran preparations can stay in the digestive system and can stop other medicines from being absorbed by the body.

#### Questran with food, drink and alcohol

It is recommended that your **alcohol** intake is kept within the recommended guidelines as advised by your doctor, as alcohol can increase your cholesterol level.

If you have been prescribed this medicine to reduce your cholesterol levels, it is recommended that you follow a low fat diet as advised by your doctor.

#### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

You should not take this medicine if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant or are breastfeeding, unless your doctor recommends it.

#### Driving and using machines

Questran has not been shown to impair your ability to drive or use machines.

**Questran contains sucrose** (3.79g sucrose per sachet). This should be taken into account by patients with diabetes mellitus. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

### 3. How to take Questran

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

#### To lower cholesterol levels

The usual dose is 3 – 6 sachets a day. This can be taken as a single dose or divided doses up to 4 times a day.

#### To relieve itching

The usual dose is one or two sachets each day.

#### To manage diarrhoea

The usual dose is 3-6 sachets a day. This can be taken as a single dose or divided doses up to 4 times a day.

#### Children (6 - 12 years)

The dose to be given to children will depend on the child's weight, which the doctor will work out for you.

#### Children under 6 years

This medicine is not recommended for children under the age of 6.



#### How to make up the sachets

1. The contents of one sachet should be sprinkled evenly on to 150ml (4-6 fluid oz) of water or fruit juice.
2. Allow to stand for 1 or 2 minutes.
3. Once the powder has soaked into the liquid, stir or shake it to mix in thoroughly.

**Do not take this medicine in its dry form as it may cause you to choke.**

Questran can be mixed with water, fruit juice, skimmed milk, thin soups or fruit smoothies or sauces (e.g. apple sauce).

Keep taking your medicine until your doctor tells you to stop. Your doctor will want you to have regular check-ups whilst you are taking this medicine.

#### **If you take more Questran than you should**

Go to your nearest hospital Casualty Department or tell your doctor immediately. Take the empty container and any remaining sachets with you.

#### **If you forget to take a dose**

If you miss a dose do not worry. Take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue as before.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

The most frequent side effect seen is constipation. To minimise this effect you will usually start with a low dose and increase it slowly until you are taking the full number of sachets as prescribed by your doctor. This side effect usually reduces over time.

Other side effects include bloatedness, wind (flatulence), feeling sick (nausea) or vomiting, diarrhoea, heartburn, anorexia, indigestion (dyspepsia), problems with your body's ability to absorb food correctly leading to grey, bulky or smelly stools (steatorrhea). An increased tendency to bleed, which may also be seen with vitamin D, vitamin K or vitamin A deficiency. Vitamin A deficiency may rarely result in night blindness. An increased level of chloride in the blood (hyperchloremic acidosis) especially in children, thin or brittle bones (osteoporosis). Rash, itching, irritation of skin, tongue or around the anus, problems with swallowing or taste, rectal pain, belching, problems with liver function, shortness of breath, muscle and joint pains, headache, dizziness, tiredness, drowsiness, tingling or numbness, weight loss or gain and tooth decay.

Rare reports of obstruction of the intestine have been seen.

#### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via

HPRA Pharmacovigilance

Earlsfort Terrace

IRL - Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 6764971

Fax: +353 1 6762517

Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)

E-mail: [medsafety@hpra.ie](mailto:medsafety@hpra.ie)

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

#### **5. How to store Questran**

**Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.**

Do not store Questran above 30°C.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and sachet after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

#### **6. Contents of the pack and other information**

##### **What Questran contains**

The active substance in this medicine is colestyramine. Questran sachets each contain 4 grams colestyramine.

The other ingredients in Questran are: acacia, citric acid anhydrous, orange juice flavour, polysorbate 80, propylene glycol alginate, sucrose.

##### **What Questran looks like and contents of the pack**

Questran comes in the form of a powder and is supplied in packs of 50 sachets.

This medicine is orange-flavoured.

##### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

###### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

Bristol-Myers Pharmaceuticals

Swords

County Dublin

Ireland

Tel: 1 800 749 749

###### **Manufacturer**

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