

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER
FLAGYL™ 200MG TABLETS
FLAGYL™ 400MG TABLETS
Metronidazole

Is this leaflet hard to see or read? Phone 01 403 5600 for help

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 any side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effect not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

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

1. What Flagyl is and what it is used for

Flagyl belongs to a group of medicines called anti-microbials. Flagyl is used in the treatment and prevention of severe infections that are caused by anaerobic bacteria, particularly species of *Bacteroides*, anaerobic *Streptococci*, *Fusobacteria*, *Clostridia*, etc

It works by killing bacteria and parasites that cause infections in your body.

It can be used to:

- Treat infections of the blood, brain, lung, bones, genital tract, pelvic area, stomach and intestines.
- Treat gum ulcers and other dental infections.
- Treat infected leg ulcers and pressure sores.
- Prevent infections after surgery.
- In the prevention and treatment of infections due to anaerobic bacteria (bacteria that are able to survive in the absence of oxygen)

If you need any further information on your illness, speak to your doctor.

2. What you need to know before you take Flagyl

Do not take Flagyl:

- If you are allergic (hypersensitive) to metronidazole or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6). Signs of an allergic reaction include: a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue.
- If you are pregnant or breast feeding or think you might be pregnant.
- If you are suffering or have ever suffered from any liver or kidney disease.
- If you are suffering or have ever suffered from any diseases of the nervous system

Warnings and precautions

Cases of severe liver toxicity/acute liver failure, including cases with a fatal outcome, in patients with Cockayne syndrome have been reported with product containing metronidazole. If you are affected by Cockayne syndrome, your doctor should also monitor your liver function frequently while you are being treated with metronidazole and afterwards.

Tell your doctor immediately and stop taking metronidazole if you develop stomach pain, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, fever, malaise, vertigo (spinning sensation), fatigue, jaundice, dark urine, putty or mastic-coloured stools or itching.

There have been rare reports of potentially life-threatening skin rashes (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome, Toxic Epidermal Necrolysis, Acute Generalised Exanthematous Pustulosis) with the use of Flagyl. Symptoms of these may include: flu-like symptoms, a painful red or purplish rash that spreads and blisters or a rash of pustules which may be accompanied by a fever. You may also have ulcers in your mouth, throat, nose or genitals. If you develop any of these you should stop taking your medicine and inform your doctor straight away (see Section 4).

Other medicines and Flagyl

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained without a prescription, including herbal medicines. This is because Flagyl can affect the way some medicines work. Also, some other medicines can affect the way Flagyl works.

In particular tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Medicines used to thin the blood, such as warfarin
- Lithium (used to treat depression)
- Disulfiram (used to treat alcoholism)
- Phenobarbital or Phenytoin (used to treat epilepsy)
- Cyclosporin (used to treat arthritis and some skin conditions)
- 5-flourouracil (used in the treatment of cancer).
- Busulfan (used in the treatment of leukaemia).
- Any medicine that may cause heart rhythm disturbances (so called QT prolongation which can be seen on ECG) such as certain anti-arrhythmics (medicines for heart rhythm disorders), certain antibiotics and medication primarily used to manage psychosis (including delusions, hallucinations, paranoia or disordered thought).

Flagyl with alcohol

Do not drink any alcohol while you are taking Flagyl and for 48 hours after finishing your course. Drinking alcohol while using Flagyl might cause unpleasant side effects, such as feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting), stomach pain, hot flushes, very fast or uneven heart-beat (palpitations) and headache.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Tell your doctor before using Flagyl if:

- You are pregnant, might become pregnant or think you may be pregnant. Flagyl should not be taken during pregnancy unless considered absolutely necessary.
- If you are breast-feeding. It is better not to use Flagyl if you are breast-feeding. This is because small amounts may pass into the mother's milk.

Driving and using machines

Whilst taking Flagyl you may feel sleepy, dizzy or experience vertigo (spinning sensation), be confused, see or hear things that are not there (hallucinations), have fits (convulsions) or temporary eyesight problems (such as blurred or double vision). If this happens, do not drive or use any machinery or tools.

Tests

Your doctor may wish to carry out some tests if you have been using this medicine for more than 10 days. If you are going to have a blood test, tell the doctor or nurse performing the test that you are taking Flagyl. Flagyl can affect the results of some blood tests.

3. How to take Flagyl

Taking this medicine

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. It is important to finish a full course of treatment. The length of a course will depend on your needs and the illness being treated.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- Swallow the tablets whole with a drink of water.
- Do not crush or chew the tablets.
- Take these tablets during or just after a meal.
- The dose of Flagyl will depend on your needs and the illness being treated.
- The length of your treatment will depend on the type of illness you have and how bad it is.

The usual dose for adults and children is given below:

To treat bacterial infection

Adults

- The initial dose is 800mg.
- After 8 hours take another dose of 400mg and repeat this dose every 8 hours.

Children

- Your doctor will work out how much your child should take depending on their weight.
- Repeat the dose every 8 hours.
- If your child is a baby under 8 weeks of age, your doctor will give them one daily dose or two separate doses 12 hourly.

To prevent infections from happening after surgery

Adults

- Start taking Flagyl Tablets 24 hours before your operation.
- Take 400mg of Flagyl every 8 hours.
- After the operation you may be given Flagyl either through a drip into a vein or rectally as a suppository until you are able to take tablets again.

Children

- Give your child Flagyl Tablets 1-2 hours before their operation.
- Your doctor will work out how much your child should take depending on their weight.
- After the operation your child may be given Flagyl either through a drip into a vein or rectally as a suppository until they are able to take tablets again.

Other types of infections

For treatment of other infections caused by parasites and some bacteria your doctor will decide how much Flagyl you need to take and how often. This will depend on your illness and how bad it is. The pharmacist's label on the packaging will tell you how many tablets to take and how often to take them.

People having kidney dialysis

Kidney dialysis removes Flagyl from your blood. If you are having kidney dialysis you must take this medicine after your dialysis treatment.

People with liver problems

Your doctor may tell you to take a lower dose or to use the medicine less often.

If you take more Flagyl than you should

If you take more Flagyl than you should, tell your doctor or go to your nearest hospital casualty department straight away. Take the pack and any tablets left with you. This is so the doctor knows what you have taken.

If you forget to take Flagyl

If you forget to take Flagyl, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. **Do not** take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Flagyl

You should only stop taking Flagyl if your doctor tells you to. It is essential to take the medicine and not to stop and start as this could cause unwanted side effects.

4. Possible side effects

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

Tell your doctor or pharmacist straight away if you notice any of the following side effects:

- You get swelling of the hands, feet, ankles, face, lips or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing. You could also notice an itchy, lumpy rash (hives) or nettle rash (urticaria). This may mean you are having an allergic reaction to Flagyl.
- You experience blistering or bleeding of the skin around the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals. Also, flu-like symptoms and fever, this may be something called 'Stevens-Johnson syndrome'.
- You have a severe blistering rash where layers of the skin may peel off to leave large areas of raw exposed skin over the body. Also, a feeling of being generally unwell, fever, chills and aching muscles. This may be something called 'Toxic epidermal necrolysis'.
- Your skin is red and swollen and you have a skin rash of small pustules, you may also have a fever and swelling of the face. This may be something called 'Acute Generalised Exanthematous Pustulosis'.
- A serious but very rare side effect is a brain disease (encephalopathy). Symptoms vary but you might get a fever, stiff neck, headache, see or hear things that aren't there. You might also have problems using your arms and legs, problems with speaking or feel confused.
- You develop symptoms such as abnormal sensitivity to light, abdominal pain, fever these could be symptoms of meningitis.
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes. This could be due to a liver problem (jaundice).
- Unexpected infections, mouth ulcers, bruising, bleeding gums, severe tiredness or weakness. This could be caused by a blood problem.
- Severe stomach pain which may reach through to your back (pancreatitis).

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following side effects:

- Fits (convulsions)
- Mental problems such as feeling confused or seeing or hearing things that are not there (hallucinations)
- Problems with your eyesight such as blurred or double vision, changes in colour vision
- Tingling or burning pain in your eye
- Hearing problems, ringing in ears (tinnitus)
- Skin rash, urushing, itching
- Headache
- Darkening of the urine
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sleepy or dizzy
- Vertigo (spinning sensation)

- Pains in the muscles or joints
- Numbness, tingling, pain or a feeling of weakness in the arms or legs
- Unpleasant taste in the mouth
- Furred tongue, dry mouth
- Feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting), upset stomach, stomach pain or diarrhoea
- Loss of appetite, anorexia
- Depression
- Fever
- Heart rhythm disturbances (so called QT prolongation which can be seen on ECG), particularly when Flagyl was used with other medicines that may cause heart rhythm disturbances.
- Acute liver failure in patients with Cockayne Syndrome (see section 2 “Warnings and precautions”)

All medicines may have unwanted effects which are not mentioned in the product leaflet. If you notice any other changes in your health whilst taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

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 Website: www.hpra.ie.

5. How to store Flagyl

Keep your tablets in a safe place, out of the sight and reach of children.

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

Store below 30°C in the original packaging (protect from light).

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 Flagyl Tablets contains

Flagyl 200mg Tablets contain 200mg metronidazole as the active ingredient.

Flagyl 400mg Tablets contain 400mg metronidazole as the active ingredient.

The tablets contain the following inactive ingredients: maize starch, macrogol 400, calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate (E341), hypromellose (E464), magnesium stearate (E572) and povidone (E1201).

Flagyl 400mg Tablets also contain trace amounts of talc.

What Flagyl Tablets look like and contents of the pack

Flagyl 200mg tablets are white-off white, circular biconvex, film-coated tablets impressed ‘FLAGYL 200’ on one side. Plain reverse.

Flagyl 200mg Tablets are available in blister packs, containing 21 tablets and securitainers of 250 tablets.

Flagyl 400mg tablets are white-off white, capsule shaped film-coated tablets marked ‘FLAGYL 400’ on one side. Plain reverse.

Flagyl 400mg Tablets are available in blister packs, containing 14 tablets and securitainers of 100 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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This leaflet does not contain all the information about your medicine. If you have any questions or are not sure about anything, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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