

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Nolpaza 40 mg gastro-resistant tablets

Pantoprazole

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

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2. What you need to know before you take Nolpaza
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1. What Nolpaza is and what it is used for

Nolpaza is a selective “proton pump inhibitor”, a medicine which reduces the amount of acid produced in your stomach. It is used for treating acid-related diseases of the stomach and intestine.

Nolpaza is used for treating:

Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and above:

- Reflux oesophagitis. An inflammation of your oesophagus (the tube which connects your throat to your stomach) accompanied by the regurgitation of stomach acid.

Adults:

- An infection with a bacterium called *Helicobacter pylori* in patients with duodenal ulcers and stomach ulcers in combination with two antibiotics (Eradication therapy). The aim is to get rid of the bacteria and so reduce the likelihood of these ulcers returning.
- Stomach and duodenal ulcers.
- Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrome and other conditions producing too much acid in the stomach.

2. What you need to know before you take Nolpaza

Do not take Nolpaza

- if you are allergic to pantoprazole, sorbitol or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6);
- if you are allergic to medicines containing other proton pump inhibitors.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Nolpaza.

- If you have severe liver problems. Please tell your doctor if you ever had problems with your liver in the past. He will check your liver enzymes more frequently, especially when you are taking Nolpaza as a long-term treatment. In the case of a rise of liver enzymes the treatment should be stopped.
- If you have reduced body stores or risk factors for reduced vitamin B12 and receive pantoprazole long-term treatment. As with all acid reducing agents, pantoprazole may lead to a reduced absorption of vitamin B12.
- If you are taking a medicine containing atazanavir (for the treatment of HIV-infection) at the same time as pantoprazole, ask your doctor for specific advice.
- If you have ever had a skin reaction after treatment with a medicine similar to Nolpaza that reduces stomach acid.
- If you are due to have a specific blood test (Chromogranin A).

If you get a rash on your skin, especially in areas exposed to the sun tell your doctor as soon as you can, as you may need to stop your treatment with Nolpaza. Remember to also mention any other ill-effects like pain in your joints.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following symptoms:

- an unintentional loss of weight
- repeated vomiting
- difficulty in swallowing
- vomiting blood
- you look pale and feel weak (anaemia)
- you notice blood in your stools
- severe and/or persistent diarrhoea, as Nolpaza has been associated with a small increase in infectious diarrhoea.

Your doctor may decide that you need some tests to rule out malignant disease because pantoprazole also alleviates the symptoms of cancer and could cause delay in diagnosing it. If your symptoms continue in spite of your treatment, further investigations will be considered.

If you take Nolpaza on a long-term basis (longer than 1 year) your doctor will probably keep you under regular surveillance. You should report any new and exceptional symptoms and circumstances whenever you see your doctor.

Taking a proton pump inhibitor like Nolpaza especially over a period of more than one year, may slightly increase your risk of fracture in the hip, wrist or spine. Tell your doctor if you have osteoporosis or if you are taking corticosteroids (which can increase the risk of osteoporosis).

Children and adolescents

These tablets are not recommended for use in children below 12 years.

Other medicines and Nalpaza

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

Nalpaza may influence the effectiveness of other medicines, so tell you doctor if you are taking

- Medicines such as ketoconazole, itraconazole and posaconazole (used to treat fungal infections) or erlotinib (used for certain types of cancer) because Nalpaza may stop these and other medicines from working properly.
- Warfarin and phenprocoumon, which affect the thickening, or thinning of the blood. You may need further checks.
- Atazanavir (used to treat HIV-infection).
- Methotrexate (a chemotherapy medicine used in high doses to treat cancer).

Nalpaza with food and drink

Take the tablets 1 hour before a meal without chewing or breaking them and swallow them whole with some water.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

There are no adequate data from the use of pantoprazole in pregnant women. Excretion into human milk has been reported. If you are pregnant, or think you may be pregnant, or if you are breast-feeding, you should use this medicine only if your doctor considers the benefit for you greater than the potential risk for your unborn child or baby.

Driving and using machines

If you experience side effects like dizziness or disturbed vision, you should not drive or operate machines.

Nalpaza contains sorbitol.

If you have been told by your doctor that you have intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3. How to take Nalpaza

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

When and how should you take Nalpaza?

Take the tablets 1 hour before a meal without chewing or breaking them and swallow them whole with some water.

Unless told otherwise by your doctor, the usual dose is:

Adults and adolescents 12 years of age and above:

To treat reflux oesophagitis

The usual dose is one tablet a day. Your doctor may tell you to increase to 2 tablets daily. The treatment period for reflux oesophagitis is usually between 4 and 8 weeks. Your doctor will tell you how long to take your medicine.

Adults:

For the treatment of an infection with a bacterium called *Helicobacter pylori* in patients with duodenal ulcers and stomach ulcers in combination with two antibiotics (Eradication therapy).

One tablet, two times a day plus two antibiotic tablets of either amoxicillin, clarithromycin and metronidazole (or tinidazole), each to be taken two times a day with your pantoprazole tablet. Take the first pantoprazole tablet 1 hour before breakfast and the second pantoprazole tablet 1 hour before your evening meal. Follow your doctor's instructions and make sure you read the package leaflets for these antibiotics. The usual treatment period is one to two weeks.

For the treatment of stomach and duodenal ulcers.

The usual dose is one tablet a day. After consultation with your doctor, the dose may be doubled.

Your doctor will tell you how long to take your medicine. The treatment period for stomach ulcers is usually between 4 and 8 weeks. The treatment period for duodenal ulcers is usually between 2 and 4 weeks.

For the long-term treatment of Zollinger-Ellison-Syndrome and of other conditions in which too much stomach acid is produced.

The recommended starting dose is usually two tablets a day.

Take the two tablets 1 hour before a meal. Your doctor may later adjust the dose, depending on the amount of stomach acid you produce. If prescribed more than two tablets a day, the tablets should be taken twice daily.

If your doctor prescribes a daily dose of more than four tablets a day, you will be told exactly when to stop taking the medicine.

Special patient groups:

- If you have kidney problems, moderate or severe liver problems, you should not take Nolpaza for eradication of *Helicobacter pylori*.
- If you suffer from severe liver problems, you should not take more than one tablet 20 mg pantoprazole a day (for this purpose tablets containing 20 mg pantoprazole are available).

Use in children and adolescents

Children below 12 years.

These tablets are not recommended for use in children below 12 years.

If you take more Nolpaza than you should

Tell your doctor or pharmacist. There are no known symptoms of overdose.

If you forget to take Nolpaza

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose. Take your next normal dose at the usual time.

If you stop taking Nolpaza

Do not stop taking these tablets without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

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 frequency of possible side effects listed below is defined using the following convention:

Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

If you get any of the following side effects, stop taking these tablets and tell your doctor immediately, or contact the casualty department at your nearest hospital:

- **Serious allergic reactions (frequency rare):** swelling of the tongue and/or throat, difficulty in swallowing, hives (nettle rash), difficulties in breathing, allergic facial swelling (Quincke's oedema / angioedema), severe dizziness with very fast heartbeat and heavy sweating.
- **Serious skin conditions (frequency not known):** blistering of the skin and rapid deterioration of your general condition, erosion (including slight bleeding) of eyes, nose, mouth/lips or genitals (Stevens-Johnson-Syndrome, Lyell-Syndrome, Erythema multiforme) and sensitivity to light.
- **Other serious conditions (frequency not known):** yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes (severe damage to liver cells, jaundice) or fever, rash, and enlarged kidneys sometimes with painful urination and lower back pain (serious inflammation of the kidneys).

If you are on pantoprazole for more than three months it is possible that the levels of magnesium in your blood may fall. Low levels of magnesium can be seen as fatigue, involuntary muscle contractions, disorientation, convulsions, dizziness, increased heart rate. If you get any of these symptoms, please tell your doctor promptly. Low levels of magnesium can also lead to a reduction in potassium or calcium levels in the blood. Your doctor may decide to perform regular blood tests to monitor your levels of magnesium.

Other side effects are:

- **Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
Headache; dizziness; diarrhoea; feeling sick, vomiting; bloating and flatulence (wind); constipation; dry mouth; abdominal pain and discomfort; skin rash, exanthema, eruption;

- itching; fracture of the hip, wrist or spine; feeling weak, exhausted or generally unwell; sleep disorders.
- **Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)
Disturbances in vision such as blurred vision; hives; pain in the joints; muscle pains; weight changes; raised body temperature; swelling of the extremities (peripheral oedema); allergic reactions; depression; breast enlargement in males; taste disorders.
 - **Very Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)
Disorientation.
 - **Not known** (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)
Hallucination, confusion (especially in patients with a history of these symptoms); decreased sodium level in blood; decreased calcium level in blood; decreased potassium level in blood; tingling or numbness in the hands or feet; muscle spasm; rash, possibly with pain in the joints.

Side effects identified through blood tests:

- **Uncommon** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)
An increase in liver enzymes.
- **Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)
An increase in bilirubin; increased fats in the blood; severe reduction in number of white blood cells which makes infections more likely.
- **Very Rare** (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)
A reduction in the number of blood platelets, which may cause you to bleed or bruise more than normal; a reduction in the number of white blood cells, which may lead to more frequent infections; severe reduction in blood cells which can cause weakness, bruising or make infections more likely.

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; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Nolpaza

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

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

Blister pack: Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Container: Keep the container tightly closed in order to protect from moisture. After first opening of the container, the product should be used within 3 months.

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 Nolpaza contains

- Each gastro-resistant tablet contains 40 mg pantoprazole (as pantoprazole sodium sesquihydrate).
- The other ingredients are mannitol, crospovidone (type B), anhydrous sodium carbonate, sorbitol (E420), calcium stearate in the tablet core and hypromellose, povidone (K25), titanium dioxide (E171), yellow iron oxide (E172), propylene glycol, methacrylic acid - ethyl acrylate copolymer, sodium lauryl sulphate, polysorbate 80, macrogol 6000 and talc in the film-coating.

What Nolpaza looks like and contents of the pack

The 40 mg gastro-resistant tablets are light brownish yellow, oval, slightly biconvex tablets.

Pack sizes:

Boxes of 7, 14, 15, 28, 30, 56, 60, 84, 100, 100 x 1, 112 and 140 gastro-resistant tablets in blister packs.

A plastic container of 250 gastro-resistant tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

KRKA, d.d., Novo mesto, Šmarješka cesta 6, 8501 Novo mesto, Slovenia

This medicinal product is authorised in the Member States of the EEA under the following names:

Name of the Member State	Name of the medicinal product
United Kingdom	Pantoprazole
Italy	Nolpaza
Ireland	Nolpaza
Spain	Nolpaza
Bulgaria	Nolpaza
Slovak Republic	Pantoprazol Krka
Poland	Pantoprazol Krka
Czech Republic	Pantoprazol Krka
Hungary	Pantoprazol Krka
Slovenia	Pantoprazol Krka

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