

Diclofenac/Misoprostol

50mg/200microgram modified release Tablets

Diclofenac sodium/misoprostol

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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1. What Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets are and what they are used for

Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets help to relieve the pain and swelling of rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis, and may help to protect patients at risk of irritation or ulceration of the stomach or intestines.

Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets contain diclofenac and misoprostol. Diclofenac belongs to a group of medicinal products called Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs).

Although NSAIDs relieve the pain, they can reduce the amount of natural protective substances called prostaglandins in the stomach lining.

This means that NSAIDs can lead to stomach upsets or stomach ulcers. Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets also contain misoprostol which is very similar to these prostaglandins and may help protect your stomach.

2. What you need to know before you take Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

Do not take Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

- if you have had an allergic reaction such as a skin rash, swelling or itchiness of the skin, severe nasal congestion, asthma or wheezing after taking diclofenac or other NSAIDs such as aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid), misoprostol or another prostaglandin medicine, or any of the other ingredients in Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets (see Further Information section 6),
- if you currently have an ulcer or perforation (hole) in your stomach or intestines,
- if you currently suffer from bleeding in your stomach, intestines or brain,
- if you are undergoing or you have just had coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgery,
- if you have severe kidney or liver failure,
- if you have established heart disease and/or cerebrovascular disease e.g. if you have had a heart attack, stroke, mini-stroke (TIA) or blockages to blood vessels to the heart or brain or an operation to clear or bypass blockages,
- if you have or have had problems with your blood circulation (peripheral arterial disease),
- if you are a woman of childbearing age and you are not using an effective contraceptive method to avoid becoming pregnant (see Section 'Pregnancy' for further information).
- if you are pregnant, or trying to become pregnant or do not have a negative pregnancy test because it may cause a miscarriage (see Section 'Pregnancy' for further information). Women who have not reached the menopause should use reliable contraception while they are taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets,
- if you are allergic to diclofenac sodium and/or misoprostol or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets:

- if you have any heart problems, previous stroke or think you might be at risk of these conditions,
- if you smoke,
- if you have diabetes,
- if you have angina, blood clots, high blood pressure, raised cholesterol or raised triglycerides,
- if you have other health problems such as a disease of the liver or kidneys. **Do not take** Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets if you have severe kidney or liver failure,
- if you have previously had an ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestines. **Do not take** Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets if you currently have an ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestines,
- if you bleed or bruise easily,
- if you have inflammation of the intestines (ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease),
- if you have, or have ever had asthma or an allergic disease,
- if you have an infection, as Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets may mask a fever or other signs of infection,
- if you are dehydrated,
- if you are over the age of 65 as your doctor may want to keep a regular check on you.
- if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant (see subsection "pregnancy" below). Due to the risk for the foetus, your treatment with Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets must be discontinued immediately.
- if you are a woman of childbearing age (see subsection "pregnancy" below). It is important to use effective contraception while you are taking this medicine.

NSAID medicines such as Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets can cause bleeding or ulceration. If this occurs, treatment should be stopped.

Medicines such as Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets may be associated with a small increased risk of heart attack (myocardial infarction) or stroke. Any risk is more likely with high doses and prolonged treatment. Do not exceed the recommended dose or duration of treatment.

As with other NSAIDs (e.g. ibuprofen) Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets may lead to an increase in blood pressure, and so your doctor may ask to monitor your blood pressure on a regular basis.

If you have heart, liver or kidney problems, your doctor will want to monitor you regularly.

Side effects may be minimised by using the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration necessary.

Vision disorders: If symptoms of vision disorders occur during treatment with Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets, contact your doctor as an eye examination may be considered to exclude other causes.

Other medicines and Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription or herbal medicines.

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

- Aspirin (acetylsalicylic acid) or other NSAIDs (e.g. ibuprofen),
- Medicines used to treat osteoarthritis or rheumatoid arthritis known as cyclo-oxygenase-2 (COX-2) inhibitors,
- Diuretics (used to treat excess fluid in the body),
- Ciclosporin or tacrolimus (used for immune system suppression e.g. after transplants),
- Lithium (used to treat some types of depression),
- Digoxin (a medicine for an irregular heart beat and/or heart failure),
- Warfarin or other oral anticoagulants (blood-thinning agents that reduce blood clotting),
- Medicines used to treat anxiety and depression known as Serotonin Selective Re-uptake Inhibitors (SSRIs),
- Medicines (such as metformin) used to control your blood sugar (oral hypoglycaemics for diabetes) except insulin,
- Methotrexate (used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and leukaemia),
- Steroid medications (e.g. corticosteroids, which are often used as anti-inflammatory medicines),
- Medicines for high blood pressure (anti-hypertensives),
- Magnesium containing antacids (used to treat heartburn, indigestion),
- Quinolone antibiotics (used to treat some infections),
- Ketoconazole (used to treat some fungal infections),
- If you have taken a medicine called mifepristone within the last 12 days. Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets should not be taken within 8-12 days of taking mifepristone.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Pregnancy

Do not take Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets if you are pregnant or trying to become pregnant. Due to the possible risk of damage to the foetus, you must make sure you are not pregnant before starting treatment. Women who have not reached the menopause must use reliable contraception while they are taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets.

Your doctor will make you aware of the risks if you do become pregnant while taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets as it may cause a miscarriage, premature birth abnormal formation of the foetus (birth defects). Pregnancies exposed to misoprostol during the first trimester have been associated with approximately a 3-fold increased risk of birth defects, in particular facial paralysis, limbs defects, cerebral and cranial anomalies.

You should NEVER take this medicine if you are pregnant, as it can also have severe consequences on your child, especially on the heart, lungs and/or kidneys, including death. If you have received treatment with this medicine during pregnancy, talk with your doctor. If you decide to continue with the pregnancy, careful ultrasound scan monitoring of the pregnancy, with special attention to the limbs and head must be carried out.

Breast-feeding

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine if you are breast-feeding.

Do not use Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets while you are breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

If you feel dizzy or drowsy after taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets, do not drive and do not use any tools or machines until these effects have worn off.

Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets contain lactose

Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets contain lactose. If your doctor has told you that you are **intolerant of some sugars**, discuss it with them before taking this medicine.

3. How to take Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

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

The recommended dose is one tablet two or three times a day, or as directed by your doctor.

Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets should be swallowed whole with a drink of water (not chewed), taken during or after mealtimes. Do not take if the tablet is broken or damaged.

In the elderly and patients with liver or kidney disorders, your doctor may want to monitor you more closely. No change in dose is needed.

Use in Children and adolescents: Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets are for adults only; they are not for use in children (under 18 years).

If you take more Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets than you should

You should not take more tablets than your doctor tells you to. If you take too many tablets contact your doctor, pharmacist or hospital as soon as possible, and take your medicine with you.

If you forget to take Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

If you forget to take a tablet, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

Do not stop taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets unless your doctor tells you to.

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. If you are worried about side effects, ask your doctor. It is important that you know what can happen, so that you can take action if Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets does have a side effect. Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets sometimes cause side effects but these usually go away during treatment as your body gets used to the medicine.

If any of the following happen, stop taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets and tell your doctor immediately:

Serious side effects

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Abnormal formation of foetus.
If you become pregnant during treatment, stop taking Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets immediately and seek medical advice.

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Tearing of the womb (uterine rupture) after administration of prostaglandins in the second or third trimester of pregnancy, mainly in women with previous deliveries of a child or with a scar of a caesarean section. Seek urgent medical attention.

If you have

- severe stomach pain or any sign of bleeding or rupture in the stomach or intestines, such as passing black or bloodstained stools, or vomiting blood – this occurs **very rarely**,
- a serious skin reaction such as rash, blistering or peeling of the skin (Stevens-Johnson syndrome, exfoliative dermatitis and toxic epidermal necrolysis) – this occurs **very rarely**,
- a serious allergic reaction such as skin rash, swelling of the face, wheezing or difficulty breathing (anaphylactic shock) – this occurs **rarely**,
- jaundice (your skin or the whites of your eyes look yellow) this occurs **rarely**.

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

- Stomach pain, passage of dark brownish red or bright red blood or blood clots in the stool (signs of gastrointestinal ulcer with bleeding or perforation),
- Rapid onset of mild cramping abdominal pain and tenderness over the affected bowel. Mild to moderate amounts of rectal bleeding or bloody diarrhoea usually develop within 24 hours of the onset of abdominal pain, though bleeding without prior abdominal pain also occurs frequently (signs of ischemic colitis).

Additionally, if any of the following side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- Stomach ache, diarrhoea, nausea (feeling sick), indigestion.

Diarrhoea is the most common problem and is occasionally severe. You have less chance of getting diarrhoea if you take Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets with food. If you use an antacid (something to reduce acid in the stomach) you should avoid antacids with magnesium in them as these may make diarrhoea worse. Your pharmacist can help you choose a suitable antacid. If this diarrhoea continues and is severe tell your doctor.

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Rash, itching,
- Vomiting, wind, constipation, burping, gastritis (indigestion, stomach ache, vomiting),
- Ulcers in the stomach or intestines,
- Headache, dizziness,
- Difficulty sleeping,
- Changes in blood tests relating to the liver.

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Swelling of the mouth,
- Abnormal or unexpected bleeding from the vagina, menstrual disturbances,
- Reduction in the number of blood platelets (increased chance of bleeding or bruising),
- Purpura (purple spots on the skin),
- Urticaria (raised itchy rash).

Rare (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Inflammation of the liver (possible yellow discoloration of skin, headache, fever, chills, general weakness).

Additional side effects experienced in actual use (post-marketing experience, frequency unknown):

- Heart failure, chest pain, palpitations (awareness of your heartbeat),
- Damage to the gullet,
- Worsening of ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease (inflammation of the intestines),
- Kidney or liver problems,
- Shortness of breath,
- Seizures,
- Allergic reaction, [including asthma, breathing problems, itching, hair loss, inflamed blood vessels (can cause fever, aches, purple blotches)],
- Symptoms of meningitis (stiff neck, headache, nausea (feeling sick), vomiting, fever or loss of consciousness),
- Fluid build-up in the body that can cause swollen ankles and legs,
- Vomiting blood,
- Psychotic reactions (mental disorder that features loss of contact with reality),
- Swelling of the tongue, mouth ulcers, dry mouth,
- Depression, feeling anxious, mood swings, irritability, memory problems, feeling confused, feeling shaky, nightmares, drowsiness, tiredness,
- Difficulty seeing, impaired or blurred vision, ringing in the ears, changes in the way things taste,
- Chills, fever, increased sensitivity to light, inflammation,
- Loss of appetite,
- Abnormal contractions of the womb, retained placenta after giving birth, clotting in the amniotic fluid (fluid covering the foetus), bleeding in the womb, miscarriage, death of the unborn baby, premature birth,
- Low blood pressure, high blood pressure,
- Reduction in the number of white blood cells (these help protect the body from infection and disease),
- Anaemia (low number of red blood cells) which can lead to pale skin and cause weakness or breathlessness.

Medicines such as Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets may be associated with a small increased risk of heart attack or stroke.

Reporting of side effects

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

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 Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children. This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the blister and carton, after the 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 Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets contain

The active substances are Diclofenac sodium and misoprostol, each tablet contains 50 mg diclofenac sodium and 200 micrograms misoprostol.

Other ingredients:

Core:

lactose monohydrate, microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, povidone K-30, magnesium stearate and purified talc.

Mantle/Coat:

hypromellose, methylacrylic acid copolymer type C, purified talc, triethylcitrate, sodium starch glycolate, hydrogenated castor oil and microcrystalline cellulose.

What Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets look like and contents of the pack

White circular, uncoated tablets plain on one side and embossed with "DM2" on the other side.

Diclofenac/Misoprostol Tablets are available in blister packs of 6, 7, 56, 60, 84, 100, 120 and 140.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Morningside Healthcare Ltd.
115 Narborough Road,
Leicester, LE3 0PA,
UK

Manufacturer:

Morningside Pharmaceuticals Ltd
5 Pavilion Way,
Loughborough, LE11 5GW,
UK

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

Ireland: Diclofenac/Misoprostol modified release tablets
UK: Misofen

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