

## **Solpadol® 500mg/30mg Effervescent Tablets**

*Paracetamol*

*Codeine Phosphate Hemihydrate*

**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.**

- 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. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effect not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

### **In this leaflet:**

1. What Solpadol is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Solpadol
3. How to take Solpadol
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## **1. WHAT SOLPADOL IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

The name of this medicine is Solpadol 500mg/30mg Effervescent Tablets.

Solpadol belongs to a group of medicines called analgesics (painkillers) and is used to treat severe pain. Solpadol can be used in children over 12 years of age for the short-term relief of moderate pain that is not relieved by other painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen alone.

This product contains codeine. Codeine belongs to a group of medicines called opioid analgesics which act to relieve pain. It can be used on its own or in combination with other pain killers such as paracetamol.

## **2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE SOLPADOL**

### **Do not take Solpadol:**

- For pain relief in children and adolescents (0-18 years of age) after removal of their tonsils or adenoids due to obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome
- If you know that you metabolise very rapidly codeine into morphine
- If you are pregnant or are breastfeeding
- If you are allergic to codeine, paracetamol or any of the other ingredients
- If you have asthma or severe breathing problems
- If you have recently had a head injury
- If you have recently had gall bladder surgery or a similar operation
- If you have raised pressure in the brain
- If you are taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (used to treat depression) or have taken them in the last 14 days
- If you are an alcoholic or have recently consumed a large amount of alcohol
- If the person going to take the medicine is under 12 years of age.

## **Warnings and precautions**

Codeine is transformed to morphine in the liver by an enzyme. Morphine is the substance that produces pain relief. Some people have a variation of this enzyme and this can affect people in different ways. In some people, morphine is not produced or produced in very small quantities, and it will not provide enough pain relief.

Other people are more likely to get serious side effects because a very high amount of morphine is produced. If you notice any of the following side effects, you must stop taking this medicine and seek immediate medical advice: slow or shallow breathing, confusion, sleepiness, small pupils, feeling or being sick, constipation, lack of appetite.

**Do not take with any other paracetamol containing products. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Solpadol:**

- If you have prostate problems (e.g. difficulty in passing water)
- If you have bowel problems
- If you have kidney or liver problems including alcoholic liver disease
- If you have low blood pressure (hypotension)
- If you have multiple sclerosis
- If you have a history of drug or alcohol abuse
- If you have a condition known as glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency because of the risk of a particular form of anaemia (low number of red blood cells)
- If you have glutathione deficiency
- If you have Gilbert's syndrome (familial non-haemolytic jaundice)
- If you have chronic malnutrition or dehydration
- If you weigh less than 50 kg• If you are elderly

Prolonged regular use, except under medical supervision, may lead to physical and psychological dependence (addiction) and result in withdrawal symptoms such as restlessness and irritability, once the drug is stopped. If you find you need to use this product all the time, it is important to consult your doctor.

## **Other medicines and Solpadol**

Please 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 Solpadol can affect the way some medicines work. Also, some medicines can affect the way Solpadol works.

Please check with your doctor if you are taking any of the following:-

- Metoclopramide (used to treat nausea and vomiting)
- Domperidone
- Buprenorphine
- Nalbuphine
- Pentazocine
- Naltrexone
- Quinidine, used to treat irregular heartbeat
- Fluoxetine, paroxetine, bupropion, used to treat depression
- Cinacalcet, used to treat hyperparathyroidism

- Colestyramine (used to treat high blood cholesterol (fat) levels)
- Chloramphenicol, flucloxacillin, rifampin, antibiotics used to treat infection • Benzodiazepines, used to treat anxiety, due to an increased risk of sedation, breathing difficulties or even coma, when both are taken together.
- Morphine products, used to treat severe pain
- Methadone, used to treat opioid addiction and also severe pain
- Certain cough medicines
- Oral contraceptives (“the pill”)
- Drugs which make you sleepy, including alcohol and barbiturates
- Drugs used to thin the blood (e.g. warfarin)
- Flucloxacillin (antibiotic), due to a serious risk of blood and fluid abnormality (high anion gap metabolic acidosis) that must have urgent treatment and which may occur particularly in case of severe renal impairment, sepsis (when bacteria and their toxins circulate in the blood leading to organ damage), malnutrition, chronic alcoholism, and if the maximum daily doses of paracetamol are used.

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking this medicine.

### **Taking Solpadol with food and drink**

You should not drink alcohol while you are taking Solpadol. This is due to an increased risk of sedation, breathing difficulties or even coma, when both are taken together.

### **Use in Children and adolescents**

#### **Use in children and adolescents after surgery**

Solpadol should not be used for pain relief in children and adolescents after removal of their tonsils or adenoids due to Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome.

#### **Use in children and adolescents with breathing problems**

Solpadol is not recommended in children with breathing problems, since the symptoms of morphine toxicity may be worse in these children.

Children 12 to 18 years of age who have breathing problems should not take this product. This includes breathing problems while sleeping or other lung problems.

### **Pregnancy, breastfeeding and fertility**

Do not take Solpadol if you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant without first talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take Solpadol during the last three months of pregnancy or during labour.

Do not take Solpadol while you are breastfeeding. Codeine and morphine passes into breast milk.

### **Driving and using machines**

You may feel dizzy or sleepy while taking Solpadol. You may also have problems with your vision. If this happens, do not drive or use any tools or machines.

### **Important information about some of the ingredients of Solpadol**

This medicine contains 388mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each tablet. This is equivalent to 19% of the recommended maximum daily dietary

intake of sodium for an adult. This should be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

These tablets also contain sorbitol. If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking Solpadol 500mg/30mg Effervescent Tablets.

### **3. HOW TO TAKE SOLPADOL**

#### Adults (18 years and over):

Take two tablets every 4-6 hours. Do not take more than 8 tablets in 24 hours. Elderly patients may be prescribed a lower dose.

#### Children aged 16 to 18 years:

One to two tablets every 6 hours to a maximum of four doses in any 24 hours. Do not exceed 8 tablets in 24 hours.

#### Children (12-15 years):

Take one tablet every 6 hours. Do not take more than 4 tablets in 24 hours.

Solpadol should not be taken by children below the age of 12 years, due to the risk of severe breathing problems.

In patients with impaired liver function or Gilbert's syndrome, the dose must be reduced or the dosing interval prolonged.

The maximum daily dose of paracetamol should not exceed 2g/day unless your doctor gives you different advice if:

- You weigh less than 50 kg
- You suffer from mild to moderate liver or kidney disease
- You have Gilbert's syndrome (familial non-haemolytic jaundice)
- You suffer from chronic alcoholism, malnutrition or dehydration

Dissolve the effervescent tablets in at least half a tumbler of water before taking.

This medicine should not be taken for more than 3 days. If the pain does not improve after 3 days, talk to your doctor for advice.

If you have kidney failure, leave at least 8 hours between doses.

Whilst taking Solpadol you should not take any other medicines which contain paracetamol.

Do not exceed the recommended dose. Do not take for longer than your doctor tells you to.

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

Immediate medical advice should be sought in the event of overdose, even if you feel well, because of the risk of irreversible liver damage.

#### **If you forget to take Solpadol**

If you forget to take a dose at the right time, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses at or near the same time. Remember to leave at least 6 hours between doses.

#### **If you stop taking Solpadol**

Long term usage of Solpadol may lead to tolerance and dependence. If you have taken regular daily doses of Solpadol for a long time, do not increase the dose or suddenly stop treatment without discussing this with your doctor.

#### 4. POSSIBLE SIDE-EFFECTS

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

##### **Important side-effects you should know about Solpadol**

- Taking a painkiller for headaches too often or for too long can make them worse.
- Taking codeine regularly for a long time can lead to addiction, which might cause you to feel restless and irritable when you stop the tablets.

##### **Stop taking Solpadol and see a doctor or go to a hospital straight away if:**

- Skin rash, swelling or itching, difficulty in breathing, feeling dizzy. These symptoms could be signs of an allergic reaction.
  - 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'.
- Very rare cases of serious skin reactions have been reported.

##### **Talk to your doctor straight away if you notice the following serious side effect:**

- Stomach pain, which may reach to your back. This could be a sign of inflammation of the pancreas (pancreatitis). This is a very rare side effect.

##### **Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following side effects get serious or lasts longer than a few days:**

- You become constipated
- You feel sick (nauseous) or start being sick (vomiting)
- You have dizziness, light headedness, drowsiness, confusion
- You have difficulty in passing water (urine)
- You have a seizure
- You have dry mouth
- You have an itchy skin rash (pruritus)
- You have a ringing in your ears (tinnitus)
- You get infections or bruise more easily than usual. This could be because of a blood problem (such as agranulocytosis, neutropenia or thrombocytopenia)
- You have difficulty breathing, wheezing, tightness in the chest (bronchospasm)
- You have extreme feelings of joy and happiness (euphoria)
- You have extreme feelings of sadness and depression (dysphoria)
- You have blurred vision due to the pupil of the eye becoming smaller (miosis)
- You start breathing more quickly than normal and the skin around your mouth is a blue colour. This could be symptoms of respiratory depression.
- You feel more tired than usual, your skin and/or whites of your eyes are a yellowish colour. These could be symptoms of haemolytic anaemia
- You have no appetite, have abdominal pain and feel generally unwell and your skin and/or whites of your eyes are a yellowish colour. These could be symptoms of cytolytic hepatitis, a serious liver disease.
- Excess acid in the blood caused by too much pyroglutamic acid due to low glutathione levels.

##### **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](http://www.hpra.ie).

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

## **5. HOW TO STORE SOLPADOL**

Solpadol 500mg/30mg Effervescent Tablets should not be stored above 25°C. Store in the original package in order to protect the product from moisture.

Do not use Solpadol 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.

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

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## **6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

### **What Solpadol contains**

Each Solpadol 500mg/30mg Effervescent Tablet contains 500mg Paracetamol and 30mg Codeine Phosphate Hemihydrate.

The tablets also contain sodium hydrogen carbonate, anhydrous citric acid, anhydrous sodium carbonate, sorbitol (E420), saccharin sodium, povidone, dimeticone and sodium lauryl sulfate.

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

Solpadol 500mg/30mg Effervescent Tablets are white bevelled-edged tablet, scored on one face and plain on the reverse.

The tablets are supplied in cartons of 4, 10, 60 and 100. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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

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

Opella Healthcare France SAS, T/A Sanofi, 82

Avenue Raspail,

94250 Gentilly, France.

Tel: 01 403 5600

Email: [Imedinfo@sanofi.com](mailto:Imedinfo@sanofi.com)

#### **Manufacturer:**

A Nattermann & Cie, GmbH, Nattermannallee 1

D-50829 Cologne Germany

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