

## PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

### ANTACIDS

#### ABOUT your medicine

Antacids are taken by mouth to relieve heartburn, stomach irritation or indigestion. Antacids alone or in combination with other medicine may also be used to treat the symptoms of stomach or duodenal ulcers.

This medication is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Medicine	Its Functions
*Magnesium carbonate *Magnesium trisilicate *Aluminium hydroxide *Sodium bicarbonate *Alginates *Calcium carbonate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• It works by neutralizing excess stomach acid.</li></ul>

\* Most antacids come in combination form. Some of the branded antacids are: Mylanta®, Gaviscon®, Mucaine®, and Gelusil®

#### HOW should I take the medicine?

The medication comes as a chewable tablet or liquid taken by mouth. Chew the tablets thoroughly; do not swallow them whole. Drink a full glass of water after taking the tablets.

Shake the oral liquid well before each dose so that the medicine is mixed evenly.

Generally, do not take other oral drugs or meals within 1-2 hours of administration of antacids.

Follow the directions on the package label or on your prescription label carefully. Consult your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure of the correct way of taking your medicine.

Do not take antacids for more than 1-2 weeks unless prescribed by your doctor. You may need a stronger medicine if your symptoms persist for too long.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

If you are taking scheduled doses of antacids, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to make up for a missed dose.

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

Although side-effects are not common, they can occur. These side-effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. However, check with your doctor if any of the following side-effects continue or are bothersome.

Medicine	Side Effects
Antacids	Diarrhoea (for magnesium-based antacid) Constipation (for aluminium-based antacid) Loss of appetite

Consult your doctor if you experience any unusual side-effects when taking your medication

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- Difficulty in breathing
- Swelling of lower legs or feet
- Bloody, black or tarry stools
- Weakness

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Before taking the medicine,

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to any drugs
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what medications you are taking, especially medications for depression, heart disease, colds, muscle relaxation, antibiotics or vitamins. If your doctor tells you to take antacids while taking these medications, do not take them within 2 hours of taking antacids.
- Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had kidney diseases.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.
- Antacids may contain large amounts of salt. Talk to your doctor before taking this medicine if you are on a low-sodium diet.

How should I **STORE** the medicine?

Keep the medication in an airtight container. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.