

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

ANTI-THYROID MEDICINE

ABOUT your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed anti-thyroid tablets for you. This could be either Carbimazole or Propylthiouracil. Anti-thyroid agents are used to reduce the formation of thyroid hormones in people with an overactive thyroid gland (a condition called hyperthyroidism).

HOW should I take the medicine?

Carbimazole and propylthiouracil tablets are to be taken by mouth. The dose you need will be decided by your doctor, according to your individual needs and may be changed at intervals during your treatment.

The usual starting dose of carbimazole is 20mg to 60mg daily, given in single or divided doses. Once control of the thyroid gland is achieved, your dose may be reduced to 5mg to 15mg daily.

The initial dose of propylthiouracil is usually 300mg to 600mg daily, given in divided doses. Once control is achieved, your dose may be reduced to between 50mg and 150mg daily.

Always take the tablets as your doctor has instructed.

Some improvement is usually felt within one to three weeks. However, full beneficial effects usually take four to eight weeks. In order to maintain control of the thyroid gland, you may need to continue to take your tablets for several months. Your doctor will decide when treatment can be stopped. He may ask you to have occasional blood tests to help him determine how you are responding to treatment.

Radio-iodine and surgery are other treatments for hyperthyroidism. If you need radio-iodine treatment, your doctor will tell you to stop taking your tablets temporarily.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

IMPORTANT

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

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then. Do not double the dose.

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Let your doctor know if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant while taking the tablets. Although these medicines may be used in pregnancy, they should be used with caution as they may cross the placenta. To reduce the possibility of any effects on your baby, your doctor should prescribe the lowest dose possible. Your treatment may be discontinued 3 to 4 weeks before you are due to give birth. Inform your doctor if you intend to or are currently breastfeeding so that your baby development is monitored and the lowest effective dose is used.

Also let your doctor know if you have any liver problems before starting to take the tablets.

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

You may have some unwanted reactions which usually occur in the first eight weeks of your treatment. The most common minor reactions are nausea, headache, skin rashes and itchiness, stomach upset and painful joints. In rare cases hair thinning, muscle and liver disorders such as jaundice, have been reported.

If you experience muscle aches or pains or notice yellowing of your skin or the whites of your eyes, or are concerned about these or any other unwanted effects, talk to your doctor.

Keep all medication out of reach of children

If you suffer from any infection, especially a sore throat or mouth ulcers or develop a fever during treatment, stop taking the tablets and report this **immediately** to your doctor. Some blood tests should be performed to check for bone marrow depression before restarting your treatment.

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store in the original container in a cool, dry place. Protect from moisture, heat and direct sunlight.

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Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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