

Cafergot (Ergotamine tartrate/Caffeine)

Active Ingredient

- Ergotamine tartrate
- Caffeine

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet contains some information about your medication. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medication against the positive benefits they expect it will have for you. **If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, please contact us again or speak with your doctor or pharmacist for more information.** Keep this leaflet with the medicine as you may need to read it again in the future.

What it is used for

This medication contains the active ingredient ergotamine tartrate and caffeine. Cafergot is used for migraine attacks. Ergotamine in Cafergot relieves migraine symptoms by constricting the dilated blood vessels that carry blood to your brain. Caffeine speeds up and increases the absorption of ergotamine. Cafergot comes in either capsule form or suppository. Cafergot is **only used for migraine attacks** and should not be used long-term as a preventative medication.

Before you take Cafergot

When you must NOT take it:

- If you are allergic to the active ingredient
- If the medication is expired or has not been stored correctly

Let us know if you are:

- Pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or breastfeeding
- Suffer from any other medical conditions or take any other medications – Cafergot interacts with many medications and food including grapefruit juice, ask our pharmacist for a full list of drug interaction

How to take Cafergot

How much to take

Please take this medication as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. Refer to the directions on the product label if required. The normal dose of:

Cafergot capsule (ergotamine 1mg + caffeine 100mg) is two capsules at the first sign of attack, followed by one capsule every half an hour until the headache is relieved. The **maximum** daily dose is SIX capsules or TEN capsules per week.

Cafergot suppository (ergotamine 2mg + caffeine 100mg) is one suppository when required. The **maximum** daily dose is THREE or FIVE per week.

How to take it

Cafergot capsule can be taken with or without food. Cafergot should be taken upon the first symptom of the attack. If you take it 10 or more days each month, it may actually make your headaches worse (medication overuse headache). Do not use medication more often or for longer than directed.

How to insert suppositories

1. Wash your hands with soap.
2. Unwrap the suppository.
3. Rub a water-based lubricant over the tip or dip it in water if needed. It will help you slide it in smoothly.
4. Get in a comfortable position. You can stand with one leg up on a chair or lie on your side with one leg straight and the other bent in toward your stomach.
5. Gently spread your buttocks open.
6. Carefully push the suppository, pointy end first, as far as you can insert.
7. Close your legs and sit or lie still for about 15 minutes to let it dissolve.
8. Wash your hands again.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately contact your doctor, the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) or go to the Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital.

Signs of overdose include numbness and/or tingling in the fingers and toes, non-migraine related nausea and vomiting, diarrhoea, thirst, coldness of the skin, chest

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pain, weak or absent pulses, faster heartbeat, high or low blood pressure, drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, convulsion, shock, and symptoms of ergotism.

Ergotism is an intense arterial vasoconstriction, producing symptoms of numbness, tingling and pain in the extremities, blue discolouration of hands and feet, absence of pulse. If the condition is allowed to progress untreated, gangrene (tissue death) may result. Most cases of ergotism are associated with chronic intoxication and/or overdose.

How to report side effects

If you experience any adverse experiences from this medication, you should report it via:

- Visiting www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems
- Call Adverse Medicine Events Line on 1300 134 237

If it is an EMERGENCY call the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 or call 000.

Side effects

Please let us or your doctor know as soon as possible if you do not feel well while taking this medication.

Some side effects you may experience include:

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Upset stomach
- Restlessness
- Trouble sleeping
- Dizziness – *do not drive if affected*

For a full list of possible side effects please contact us.

Storage

Products expire 6 months after preparation. Keep in the original packaging until you need to take your next dose.

Store **Cafergot capsules** in a cool, dry place that is below 25°C and away from sunlight.

Store **Cafergot suppositories** in the fridge (2°C-8°C).

