

## Disulfiram

### Active Ingredient

- Disulfiram

### 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 disulfiram. Disulfiram is used as a deterrent in alcohol dependence. Disulfiram prevents the usual metabolism of alcohol, which causes unpleasant, potentially serious side effects if alcohol is consumed, e.g. flushing, sweating, nausea, vomiting, palpitations, headache, shortness of breath, chest pain, low blood pressure, cardiovascular collapse, seizures, arrhythmias.

### Before you take Disulfiram

#### 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
- **If you have taken any alcohol in 24 hours**

#### Let us know if you are:

- Pregnant, planning on becoming pregnant, or breastfeeding
- Suffer from any other medical conditions such as diabetes, epilepsy, thyroid problems, mental illness with abnormal thoughts etc
- Take any other medications such as metronidazole, phenytoin, isoniazid, sleeping tablets (Valium etc), medicines which stop blood clotting (warfarin) etc

For a full list of interactions, please contact our pharmacy

### How to take Disulfiram

#### 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 disulfiram is initially 100mg once daily for 1-2 weeks then maintain on 200mg once daily. Maximum dose is 300mg daily.

#### How to take it

Take the capsules in the morning when you wake up. However, if you find the capsules make you sleepy, you can take them before bedtime. If you are taking disulfiram for a long time, then your doctor will need to do a regular check-up. This may include a blood test.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Under all circumstances when taking disulfiram, you **MUST NOT** take alcohol or alcohol-containing preparations e.g. certain cough syrups, sauces, vinegar, tonics, food prepared with wine. You should even avoid the use of after-shave lotions and alcoholic back rubs.

If you stop taking disulfiram, you should wait at least one week before consuming alcohol. Reactions may still occur for up to three weeks after taking disulfiram.

#### If you forget to take it

If you forget to take disulfiram, take it as soon as you remember, and go back to taking it as you would normally. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose as normal. **Do not take two doses to make up for a dose you missed.**

#### 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. If you have taken too much disulfiram you may get drowsy, experience some pain or numbness in the hands and feet which may get worse if untreated.

#### 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](http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems)
- Call Adverse Medicine Events Line on 1300 134 237

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

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## Side effects

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**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:

- Drowsiness
- Nausea
- Headache
- Fatigue
- Taste disturbance (metallic or garlic-like)
- Jaundice, hepatitis (rare) – if you notice yellowing of the whites of your eyes, dark urine or pale bowel motions, stop taking disulfiram and tell your doctor immediately.
- Numbness, tingling, pain or weakness in hands or feet (rare)

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

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## Storage

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

Store your medication in a cool, dry place that is below 25°C and away from sunlight.



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