

Important information continued

Some generic products come as a coated tablet, rather than a multi-pellet system and are difficult to disperse. Multi-pellet brands include Losec®, Acimax® & Omepral®

Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

Tablets: 10mg and 20mg

Capsules: 20mg

How is omeprazole stored?

It is important to keep omeprazole locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near a sink or in other damp warm places because this may make it less effective.

General information

In case of overdose or poisoning, contact the Poison Information Centre on telephone 131 126.

The information in this brochure has been put together by the Children, Youth and Women's Health Service to help you understand more about this type of medicine and its effects.

This information is general only; it has not been tailored to your specific condition or needs, and does not contain all the information that is available about this medicine. The

information is accurate and up to date at the time it was written, but you are responsible for seeking more detailed information, available from your doctor, pharmacist and the product manufacturer, about this medicine and how you should use it.

For more information

Pharmacy Drug Information

Women's and Children's Hospital

72 King William Road

North Adelaide 5006

Telephone: (08) 8161 7222

Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm

www.wch.sa.gov.au

Non-English speaking: for information in languages other than English, call the interpreting and Translating Centre and ask them to call Department of Health. This service is available at no cost to you, contact (08) 8226 1990.

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What is omeprazole?

Omeprazole is a medication called a proton pump inhibitor. It is used to reduce the amount of acid made by the stomach. In reflux, the contents of the stomach flow backwards up into the oesophagus (food pipe). Acid in the stomach contents can irritate the oesophagus.

What is omeprazole used for?

Taking omeprazole can be an important part of the treatment of reflux by helping to reduce irritation. It is also used for the treatment of stomach ulcers

How is omeprazole given?

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people.

Omeprazole is taken one or two times a day. It does not matter whether it is given with food or on an empty stomach.

Giving omeprazole to small children or babies

At the Women's and Children's Hospital (WCH), omeprazole mixture is available only to children with small naso-gastric feeding tubes in place.

If you are using tablets (which contain pellets in a tablet base) you may need to break it in half. The pellets contain the medication. It is important that they are not crushed before taking. This may stop the medication working properly.

To give a dose:

Tablets

- > Put the tablets in non-fizzy water or acidic fruit juice (eg orange juice). Do not use milk.
- > Stir until the tablet falls apart (note that it is not a clear solution).
- > Drink immediately or within 30 minutes. Make sure you stir the suspension again just before drinking.
- > To ensure that all the medication has been taken, rinse the glass with some more fluid and drink.

Giving omeprazole tablet using an oral syringe

- > Remove the plunger from the syringe.
- > Put the tablet (or part of the tablet) in the syringe.
- > Replace the plunger.
- > Draw up a small amount of water (1½ to 2mL) and allow the tablet to fall apart.
- > Give immediately.

Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you if your dose needs to be given in another way.

What to do if a dose is missed

If you miss a dose of omeprazole it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take the dose if there is less than six hours before the next dose – just take the next dose as normal. Do not double-up on any doses.

What are the possible side effects?

All medicines can cause some side effects. Most are likely to be mild and temporary, however, check with your doctor if you think your child is experiencing side effects from this medicine that are troubling or ongoing.

Not all possible side effects are listed in this pamphlet, for further information ask your pharmacist or doctor.

Some side effects that may occur include:

- > nausea and/or vomiting
- > diarrhoea or constipation
- > skin rashes.

Can this medicine be taken with other medicines?

As with all medicines, care must be taken when using omeprazole with some other medicines and foods. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicine, including those you buy without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Important information

If you are using parts of tablets please keep the remainder for your next dose stored back in the foil packet.

Omeprazole is a prescription only medicine available from your local pharmacy. If giving omeprazole to small children or babies it is important to tell your pharmacist that you need a multi-pellet system so you can disperse the tablet.