SPACE FOR PHARMACODES

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Package Leaflet: Information for the User

FUROSEMIDE

40mg Tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.
- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you need more information or advice.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Furosemide is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Furosemide Tablets
3. How to take Furosemide Tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Furosemide Tablets
6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. WHAT FUROSEMIDE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Furosemide belongs to group of medicines known as diuretics, these work on your kidneys to remove excess water from the body. Furosemide tablets are used for the treatment of water retention (oedema) caused by heart failure, cirrhosis of the liver or certain kidney diseases. They may also be used to treat water retention due to mild to moderate high blood pressure and in the management of reduced urine production due to kidney failure.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE FUROSEMIDE TABLETS

Do NOT take this medicine if you:
- are allergic (hypersensitive) to furosemide, other sulphonamide related drugs or any of the other ingredients in Furosemide tablets (see section 6)
- have severe kidney damage which has stopped them from working properly and producing urine (anuria) or impaired kidney function or kidney failure resulting from poisoning by nephrotoxic and/or hepatotoxic agents
- have very low levels of potassium, sodium or other electrolytes in your blood or low blood volume (your doctor will be able to advise you)
- are dehydrated
- have low blood pressure
- take potassium supplements or potassium sparing diuretics for high blood pressure (e.g. amiloride or spironolactone)
- have liver cirrhosis (tiredness, weakness, water retention, feeling or being sick, loss of weight or appetite, yellowing skin or eyes, itch) or liver encephalopathy (confusion, altered levels of consciousness and coma as a result of liver failure)
- have Addison's disease (low levels of corticosteroid hormones secreted)
- have digitalis poisoning (feeling or being sick, high levels of potassium in the blood, slow, fast or irregular heartbeats).
- are breast-feeding

Warnings and precautions

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking Furosemide tablets if you :
- have low blood volume (**hypovolaemia**) or are at risk of developing **low blood pressure**
- have **low levels of protein in** the blood (hypoproteinaemia) as a result of kidney damage
- have **liver congestion** (slowed blood flow through the vessels) or other **liver problems**
- have **kidney problems**
- have or may have **diabetes**. If you are taking insulin, your doctor may need to adjust your insulin dosage
- are **elderly** or if you are on other medications which can cause the **drop of blood pressure** or if you have other medical conditions that are risks for the drop of blood pressure
- have **prostate** trouble or difficulty passing urine
- have or have had **gout**
- have an abnormal **blood condition**
- are about to undergo any **blood or urine tests**

Your doctor will want to monitor you, and may take blood for testing while you are taking this medicine.

Other medicines and Furosemide Tablets

Please **tell your doctor or pharmacist** if you are taking, have recently taken, or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription, especially:
- **medicines to lower blood pressure**, such as **angiotensin converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors** (e.g. enalapril, captopril), **angiotensin receptor blockers (ARBs)** (e.g. losartan, valsartan), **renin inhibitors, calcium channel blockers** and **phenothiazines**
- medicines to treat high blood pressure, angina and heart failure known as **beta blockers** e.g. propranolol, atenolol, sotalol
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure or prostate problems known as **alpha blockers** e.g. prazosin
- medicines to treat high blood pressure and other medicines used to remove water from the body known as **diuretics** e.g. acetazolamide and metolazone
- **antipsychotics to treat mental illnesses** e.g. risperidone, chlorpromazine, pimozide, amisulpride, sertindole
- **medicines for arrhythmias** e.g. sotalol, amiodarone, flecainide, disopyramide, lidocaine and mexiletine
- **digoxin** used to treat heart failure and unusual heart rhythms
- **warfarin** to prevent blood clots and stroke
- **moxisylyte** for Raynaud's syndrome
- **nitrates** (for angina)
- **lithium** for depression and/or mania
- **sucralfate** for stomach ulcers
- **colestyramine, colestipol or clofibrate** for high cholesterol
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (**NSAIDs**) e.g. ibuprofen, naproxen
- **aspirin** for pain
- **antibiotics** for infections that affect your kidneys e.g. cefaclor, colistin, gentamicin, vancomycin, ceftriaxone, colistimethate
- **amphotericin** (to treat fungal infections)
- **antivirals** for treating infections caused by a virus e.g. ritonavir, nelfinavir and saquinavir
- **immunosuppressants** to prevent rejection after transplants e.g. tacrolimus, ciclosporin
- **chloral hydrate** (to treat insomnia)
- **antidepressants** such as monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) (e.g. phenelzine), tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline) and selective noradrenaline reuptake inhibitors (NRIs) (e.g. Reboxetine)
- **medicines to control diabetes** such as insulin
- **antiepileptics** e.g. phenytoin, carbamazepine, phenobarbital
- **corticosteroids** to treat inflammation e.g. prednisolone and dexamethasone
- **antihistamines** (to treat allergic reactions)
- **medicines for ADHD** e.g. atomoxetine
- **medicines treating cancer** e.g. aldesleukin, cisplatin, methotrexate
- **levodopa** (for Parkinson's disease)
- **oral contraceptives**
- **alprostadil** for erectile dysfunction
- certain **treatments for asthma** or **chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)** such as salmeterol, theophylline and salbutamol
- **nasal decongestants** such as ephedrine and xylometazoline
- **probenecid** to prevent gout
- **carbenoxolone** for the treatment of mouth ulcers and problems with the digestive area of the stomach (the upper gastrointestinal area)
- **laxatives** used over long period of time
- medicines or foods containing **liquorice**
- **potassium salts** used to treat low potassium in the blood
- **contrast media** e.g. radiocontrast agents as injections used before x-rays
- if you are about to undergo a procedure where **curariform muscle relaxants** (e.g. vercuronium) anaesthetics may be used, tell your anaesthetist/dentist or healthcare professional

Furosemide and alcohol

You should avoid drinking alcohol while taking Furosemide tablets as this may lower your blood pressure further.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Speak to your doctor before you take Furosemide tablets if you are pregnant, thinking of getting pregnant or breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

Do not drive or operate machinery if you feel less alert after taking Furosemide tablets.

Important information about some of the ingredients in Furosemide tablets

Your medicine contains lactose; do not take Furosemide tablets if you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to a sugar called lactose.

3. HOW TO TAKE FUROSEMIDE TABLETS

Always take Furosemide tablets exactly as your doctor has told you. If you not sure, check with your doctor or pharmacist. Swallow the tablets with a glass of water.

Doses

Adults and children over 12 years:
- Water retention: the usual starting dose is 40mg in the morning, then 20mg a day or 40mg on alternate days. Up to 80mg a day may be given.
- High blood pressure: 20-40mg twice a day.

Elderly: may be reduced in this age group.
Children under 12 years: a more suitable dosage form is used in this age group.

Dosage adjustment may be necessary in patients with:
- Hypoproteinaemia (low level of protein in the blood)
- liver congestion/dysfunction

235 mm

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Component Leaflet	Code	Version
Dimension: L-235mm, H-355mm		

Colour: Black, Die-line

Printed in 1 colour

Product: Furosemide 40mg Tablets

16-10-2025

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If you take more than you should
If you (or someone else) accidentally has taken more than your prescribed dose, contact a doctor or your nearest hospital immediately. Take this leaflet and any remaining tablets and the container with you. Symptoms of an overdose include dehydration and changes in the levels of certain chemicals in the blood.

If you forget to take a tablet
Take it as soon as you remember, unless it is nearly time to take the next dose. Do not take double the dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Furosemide
Speak to your doctor before you stop taking Furosemide

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS
Like all medicines, Furosemide Tablets can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you have any of the following side effects while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately or go to the hospital straight away:
- Severe allergic reaction which may include a skin rash, itching, dermatitis, peeling skin, sensitivity to sunlight or sun lamps or fever, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, or difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Blistering or peeling of the skin around the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals, flu-like symptoms and fever could be signs of a condition called Stevens-Johnson syndrome.
- Inflammation of blood vessels (vasculitis, which may cause rash, fever and joint or muscle pains) or kidney inflammation, this may change the number of times you pass urine or you may see blood in your urine. You may have a fever, feel drowsy, or notice swelling e.g. of the ankles
- Blood clot (causing pain, swelling or tenderness in the legs)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following side effects:
Very common: may affect more than 1 in 10 people
- Dehydration
- Altered balance of fluid or chemicals in the body (e.g. sodium, potassium, chlorine, calcium and magnesium) causing a dry mouth, weakness, tiredness or drowsiness, restlessness, fits, muscle pain, fatigue or cramps, low blood pressure causing loss of concentration and slowed reactions, difficulty passing urine, fast or irregular heart rate and feeling or being sick.

Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people
- Low blood volume (hypovolaemia)
- Increased creatinine and blood urea (seen in blood tests)

Uncommon: may affect up to 1 in 100 people
- Anaemia causing tiredness, breathlessness, unusual bleeding or bruising,
- Changes in the body seen in tests such as levels of cholesterol, glucose, uric acid
- Gout
- Changes in vision including blurred or yellow vision
- Light-headedness, sensations of pressure in the head, headache, drowsiness, weakness, changes in vision, dry mouth, dizziness when standing.
- Irregular heartbeat
- Muscle cramps or weakness
- Changes in the amount or need to urinate
- Tiredness
- Dry mouth, thirst feeling or being sick changes in bowel movements including diarrhoea and constipation
- Deafness (sometimes irreversible)

Rare: may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people
- Changes in blood cells such as amount of white blood cells, reduction of platelets causing a rash, fever, sweating, tiredness, and weight loss. Your doctor will perform regular blood tests to ensure no changes have occurred.
- Psychiatric disorder NOC causing delusions, hallucinations, disorganized speech
- Feeling 'pins and needles' or a tingling sensation
- Confusion, headache, tiredness, generally feeling unwell, fever
- 'Ringing' in the ears, loss of hearing usually reversible
- Symptoms of shock such as changes in heart rate, breathlessness, cool clammy skin
- Inflammation of the pancreas causing pains in your abdomen or back and nausea
- Changes in the liver causing yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes
- Skin rashes

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people
- Involuntary movements of the muscle
- Inflammation or failure of the kidney which may cause back pain or changes in the amount or need to urinate

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data
- Worsening of conditions where there is already balances of fluid or chemicals in the body
- Acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (AGEP) (acute febrile drug eruption)
- Dizziness, fainting and loss of consciousness (caused by symptomatic hypotension)
- Decreased levels of potassium in the body

Additional side effects in children
- Increased risk or persistence of patent ductus arteriosus in premature infants (problem in the structure of the heart that is present at birth).
- Kidney stones in infants

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE FUROSEMIDE TABLETS
Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
Do not store above 25°C and protect from light.
Store in a cool dry place, in the original container.
Do not use the tablets after the expiry date shown on the label. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION
What these tablets contain:
The active ingredient in each tablet is furosemide 40mg.
The other ingredients are lactose, maize starch, magnesium stearate and povidone.

What these tablets look like and contents of the pack:
Furosemide 40mg tablets are flat, round and white, plain on one side and a breakline on the reverse. They are available in blister packs of 28, 30 and 100 tablets and in plastic tubs of 250, 500 and 1000 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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This leaflet was last revised in October 2025.

Other sources of information:
To request a copy of this leaflet in braille or large print, please call 01442953207 (UK Only)

Space for Inventory Code xxx/xxx/xx

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