

Package leaflet: Information for the user
CHLORPROMAZINE 25 mg / 5 ml SOLUTION
Chlorpromazine hydrochloride

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.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

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

1. WHAT CHLORPROMAZINE IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Chlorpromazine 25 mg / 5 ml Solution belongs to a group of medicines called phenothiazine neuroleptics. It works by blocking the effect of a chemical in the brain.

Chlorpromazine can be used for:

- Schizophrenia in adults and children
- Short term treatment of anxiety
- Hiccups
- Feeling or being sick (where other anti-sickness medicines have not worked)
- Autism

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE CHLORPROMAZINE

Do not take Chlorpromazine

- if you are allergic to chlorpromazine or any of the other ingredients in the product (*listed in Section 6*).
- if you have a low number of blood cells (bone marrow depression)
- if you have increased pressure in the eye (glaucoma)
- if you are taking a dopaminergic antiparkinsonism drug
- if you are breast-feeding
- if you are taking citalopram or escitalopram
- if you have a history of a low white blood cell count
- if you have urine retention due to a prostate disorder.

Do not have this medicine if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor before taking Chlorpromazine.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor before taking Chlorpromazine:

- if you have liver or kidney problems
- if you have thyroid problems
- if you have heart problems or a family history of heart problems
- if you have ever had a stroke
- if you have Parkinson’s disease or dementia
- if you have epilepsy or have had fits (seizures)
- if you have depression
- if you have ever had alcohol problems
- if you have an enlarged prostate gland
- if you have had glaucoma (painful eyes with blurred vision)
- if you have a tumour on the adrenal gland called ‘pheochromocytoma’
- if you have a form of muscle weakness called ‘myasthenia gravis’
- if you have a low number of white blood cells (agranulocytosis). This means you may get infections more easily than usual
- if you have low blood levels of potassium, calcium and magnesium. Your doctor may do blood tests to check on these
- if you or someone else in your family has a history of blood clots, as medicines like these have been associated with formation of blood clots
- if you are not eating properly
- if you are allergic to other phenothiazine medicines such as prochlorperazine
- if you are elderly (65 years of age or older)
- if you are elderly, and the weather is very hot or very cold. In these conditions, you could be at risk of hyperthermia or hypothermia
- if you have low blood pressure or feel dizzy when you stand up
- if you are diabetic or have high levels of sugar in your blood (hyperglycaemia). Your doctor may want to monitor you more closely.

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Chlorpromazine.

Other medicines and Chlorpromazine

Tell your doctor if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

In particular, check with your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

- medicines for indigestion and heartburn (antacids)
- medicines for diabetes
- medicines for high blood pressure or prostate problems such as doxazosin and terazosin
- medicines for Parkinson’s disease such as levodopa
- medicines for fits (epilepsy) such as carbamazepine or phenobarbital
- medicines to control your heartbeat such as amiodarone, disopyramide or quinidine
- medicines to help you sleep (sedatives)
- medicines for depression
- other medicines used to calm emotional and mental problems such as olanzapine or prochlorperazine
- some medicines used for high blood pressure such as guanethidine, clonidine or propranolol
- some medicines used for infections (antibiotics) such as moxifloxacin
- some medicines used for cancer (cytotoxics)
- medicines which can alter electrolytes (salt levels) in your blood
- amphetamines – used for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- anticholinergic medicines – includes some medicines used for irritable bowel syndrome, asthma or incontinence
- adrenaline – used for life threatening allergic reactions
- deferoxamine – used when you have too much iron in your blood
- lithium – used for some types of mental illness.

Warning: Avoid direct contact with the skin as it may cause dermatitis. If in contact, wash the area thoroughly.

Chlorpromazine with alcohol

Do not drink alcohol whilst being treated with Chlorpromazine. This is because alcohol can increase the effects of Chlorpromazine and cause serious breathing problems.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before taking this medicine. The following symptoms may occur in newborn babies, of mothers that have used Chlorpromazine in the last trimester (last three months of their pregnancy): shaking, muscle stiffness and/or weakness, sleepiness, agitation, breathing problems and difficulty in feeding. If your baby develops any of these symptoms you may need to contact your doctor.

Do not breast-feed if you are being given Chlorpromazine. This is because small amounts may pass into mothers’ milk. If you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed talk to your doctor before taking this medicine.

Chlorpromazine may make it more difficult for a woman to get pregnant due to it reducing her fertility.

Driving and using machines

You may feel sleepy after having this medicine.

If this happens, do not drive or use any tools or machines.

Chlorpromazine contains ethanol, sorbitol, aspartame and colour sunset yellow

- **Ethanol:** Each 5 ml dose contains 0.02 g of ethanol, equivalent to 0.48 ml beer, 0.2 ml wine. Harmful for those suffering from alcoholism. To be taken into account in pregnant or breast-feeding women, children and high risk groups such as patients with liver disease, or epilepsy.
- **Sorbitol (E420):** If you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this product.
- **Aspartame (E951):** Contains a source of phenylalanine. May be harmful for people with phenylketonuria.
- **Colour Sunset Yellow (E110):** May cause an allergic reaction, and this is more common in people who are also allergic to aspirin.

3. HOW TO TAKE CHLORPROMAZINE

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor if you are not sure.

Your doctor will advise you, as the dosage is likely to be increased from the initial dose. You should check with your doctor if you are not sure about the dose you should take.

This medicine should only be taken by mouth. Shake well before use.

The recommended doses are:

Adults	Children under 1 year	Children 1-5 years	Children 6-12 years	Elderly or debilitated patients
For schizophrenia, other psychoses, anxiety, childhood schizophrenia and autism:				
Initially, 25 mg three times a day or 75 mg at bedtime, increasing to a dose effective for you, (usually 75 mg to 300 mg, but could be up to 1 g daily).	Do not use unless the need is life-saving.	0.5 mg per kg bodyweight every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum of 40 mg daily.	Initially one-third to half the adult dose to a maximum of 75 mg daily.	Initially one-third to one half the adult dose with a gradual increase in the dose.
Hiccup:				
25-50 mg three or four times a day.	Your doctor will advise.	Your doctor will advise.	Your doctor will advise.	Your doctor will advise.
Nausea and Vomiting in Serious illness:				
10-25 mg every 4 to 6 hours.	Do not use unless the need is life-saving.	0.5 mg per kg bodyweight every 4 to 6 hours (up to 40 mg daily).	0.5 mg per kg bodyweight every 4 to 6 hours (up to 75 mg daily).	Initially one-third to one half the adult dose. The doctor will judge the amount needed for you.

