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### Pharmacode Information

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# Solpadeine<sup>®</sup> PLUS CAPSULES

## Paracetamol, Codeine, Caffeine

- This medicine is for the short term treatment of acute moderate pain when other painkillers have not worked.
  - This medicine has been provided to you and should not be given to anyone else.
  - You should only take this product for a **maximum of 3 days** at a time. If you need to take it for longer than 3 days you should **see your doctor or pharmacist** for advice.
  - This medicine **contains codeine** which can cause **addiction** if you take it continuously for **more than 3 days**. This can give you **withdrawal symptoms** from the medicine when you stop taking it.
  - If you take this medicine for headaches for **more than 3 days** it can **make them worse**.
- Please read right through this leaflet before you start using this medicine.**
- This medicine is available without prescription, but you still need to use Solpadeine Plus Capsules carefully to get the best results from them.
- Keep this leaflet you may need to read it again.
  - If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand, ask your pharmacist.

- In this leaflet:**
1. What Solpadeine Plus Capsules do
  2. Check before you take Solpadeine Plus Capsules
  3. How to take Solpadeine Plus Capsules
  4. Possible side effects
  5. How to store Solpadeine Plus Capsules
  6. Further information

**1. What Solpadeine Plus Capsules do**

Solpadeine Plus Capsules can be used in patients **over 12 years** of age for the **short-term relief of moderate pain that is not relieved by other painkillers** such as paracetamol or ibuprofen alone.

They can be used for migraine, headache, dental pain, period pain, strains & sprains, backache, rheumatic pain and sciatica. The capsules contain three active ingredients; paracetamol, codeine and caffeine. Codeine belongs to a group of medicines called opioid analgesics which act to relieve pain. Paracetamol is another analgesic to relieve pain. Caffeine acts to further help the effectiveness of paracetamol.

**2. Check before you take Solpadeine Plus Capsules**

This medicine **contains codeine** which can cause **addiction** if you take it continuously for **more than 3 days**. This can give you **withdrawal symptoms** from the medicine when you stop taking it.

This medicine contains paracetamol. Do not take anything else containing paracetamol while taking this medicine.

If you take a painkiller for headaches for **more than 3 days** it can **make them worse**.

- Do not take Solpadeine Plus Capsules:**
- **If you have ever had an allergic reaction** to paracetamol, caffeine, codeine, other opioid painkillers or to any of the other ingredients (listed in Section 6)
  - **If you are taking other medicines containing paracetamol or codeine**
  - If you are under 12 years:
  - For pain relief in children and adolescents (0-18 years of age) **after removal of their tonsils or adenoids** due to **obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome**
  - If you know that you **metabolise very rapidly codeine into morphine**
  - If you are **pregnant or breastfeeding**.
  - If you have **respiratory depression or chronic constipation**

**If you are taking other medicines**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking these capsules if you are taking any prescribed medicines; particularly **metoclopramide** or **domperidone** (for **nausea** [feeling sick] or **vomiting** [being sick]); **colestyramine** (to lower **blood cholesterol**); **monoamine oxidase inhibitors** (MAOIs) prescribed for depression in the last 2 weeks or substances that make you **drowsy** (e.g. sedatives, antidepressants or alcohol) **or sedated** (e.g. **benzodiazepines** or related medicines). If you take **blood thinning drugs** (anticoagulants e.g. **warfarin**) and you need to take a pain reliever on a daily basis, **talk to your doctor** because of the risk of bleeding. But you can still take **occasional** doses of Solpadeine Plus Capsules at the same time as anticoagulants. If you take medicine treat **gout and hyperuricemia** (e.g. **probenecid**). **Fludoxacillin** (antibiotic), due to a serious risk of blood and fluid abnormality (called metabolic acidosis) that must have urgent treatment (see section 2). **Pregabalin** and **gabapentin** as there is an increased risk of **respiratory depression**.

- Warnings and precautions:**
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking this medicine
- If you have **liver or kidney disease**, including **alcoholic liver disease**
  - If you have **bowel problems** including blockage of your bowel
  - If you have had an **operation to remove your gall bladder**.
  - If you have **hypotension or hypothyroidism**
  - If you have experienced a recent **head injury** or **raised intracranial pressure**.
  - If you have **asthma** and have been told by your doctor that you are **sensitive to aspirin**.
  - If you have **Gilbert's Syndrome** (familial non-haemolytic jaundice)
  - **If you are taking other medicines that can affect liver function**
  - If you have **glucose-6-phosphatase dehydrogenase deficiency**
  - If you have **haemolytic anaemia**
  - If you have **glutathione deficiency**
  - If you are **dehydrated**
  - If you have a **poor diet** such that the diet causes health problems
  - If you **weigh less than 50kg**
  - If you are **elderly**
  - If you have a condition called **myasthenia gravis** which weakens the muscles.

They may reduce your dose or increase the time interval between doses of your medicine.

During treatment with Solpadeine Plus Capsules, tell your doctor straight away if you have severe illnesses, including severe renal impairment or sepsis (when bacteria and their toxins circulate in the blood leading to organ damage), or you suffer from malnutrition, chronic alcoholism or if you are also taking flucloxacillin (an antibiotic). A serious condition called metabolic acidosis (a blood and fluid abnormality) has been reported in patients in these situations when paracetamol is used at regular doses for a prolonged period or when paracetamol is taken together with flucloxacillin. Symptoms of metabolic acidosis may include: serious breathing difficulties with deep rapid breathing, drowsiness, feeling sick (nausea) and being sick (vomiting).

Codeine is transformed to morphine in the liver by an enzyme. Morphine is the substance that produces pain relief. Some people have a variation of this enzyme, and this can affect people in different ways. In some people, morphine is not produced or produced in very small quantities, and it will not provide enough pain relief. Other people are more likely to get serious side effects because a very high amount of morphine is produced. If you notice any of the following side effects, you must **stop taking** this medicine and seek **immediate medical advice: slow or shallow breathing, confusion, sleepiness, small pupils, feeling or being sick, constipation, lack of appetite**.

- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Solpadeine Plus Capsules:
- If you are or have ever been addicted to opioids, alcohol, prescription medicines, or illegal substances.
  - If you have previously suffered from withdrawal symptoms such as agitation, anxiety, shaking or sweating, when you have stopped taking alcohol or drugs
  - If you feel you need to take more of Solpadeine Plus Capsules to get the same level of pain relief, this may mean you are becoming tolerant to the effects of this medicine or are becoming addicted to it.

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Taking higher doses or more frequent doses of opioids, such as codeine (an active ingredient of this medicine), may increase the risk of addiction. Overuse and misuse can lead to overdose and/or death.

Rarely, increasing the dose of this medicine can make you more sensitive to pain. If this happens, you need to speak to your doctor or pharmacist about your treatment. Please refer Section 3 'How to take Solpadeine Plus Capsules' for information on correct dosages and time intervals.

**Do not take this medicine continuously for longer than 3 days.**

**Possible withdrawal effect:**

This medicine **contains codeine** and can cause **addiction** if you take it continuously for **more than 3 days**. If you become addicted, when you stop taking it you may get **withdrawal symptoms**. Withdrawal symptoms can include **restlessness, difficulty sleeping, irritability, agitation, anxiety**, feeling your heartbeat (palpitations), **increased blood pressure, feeling of being sick, diarrhoea, loss of appetite, shaking, shivering or sweating**. You should **talk to your doctor** if you think you are suffering from withdrawal symptoms.

**Children and adolescents**

Use in children and adolescents **after surgery**: Codeine should not be used for pain relief in children and adolescents after removal of their tonsils or adenoids due to Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome.

Use in children with **breathing problems**: Codeine is not recommended in children with **breathing problems**, since the symptoms of morphine toxicity may be worse in these children.

**Pregnancy and breast feeding:**

Do not take Solpadeine Plus Capsules if you are pregnant or think you might be pregnant unless you have discussed this with your doctor and the benefits of treatment are considered to outweigh the potential harm to the baby.

If you use Solpadeine Plus Capsules during pregnancy, your baby may become dependent and experience withdrawal symptoms after the birth which may need to be treated.

**Do not take Solpadeine Plus Capsules** while you are **breastfeeding**. Codeine and morphine passes into breast milk and will affect your baby.

**Driving and using machines**

This medicine can affect your ability to drive as it may make you **sleepy or dizzy**.

**Do not drive** while taking this medicine **until you know how it affects you**. It is an **offence** to drive if this medicine affects your ability to drive.

- However, you would **not** be committing an offence if:
- The medicine has been taken to treat a **medical or dental** problem and
  - You have taken it **according to the information provided** with the medicine and
  - It was **not affecting** your ability to drive safely.

**Talk to your doctor or pharmacist** if you are not sure whether it is safe for you to drive while taking this medicine.

Details regarding a **new driving offence** concerning driving after drugs have been taken in the **UK** may be found here: [www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law](http://www.gov.uk/drug-driving-law)

**3. How to take Solpadeine Plus Capsules**

**Adults:**

**Swallow 2 capsules every 4-6 hours as needed.**

**Do not take more frequently than every 4 hours.**

**Do not take more than 8 capsules in 24 hours.**

**A reduced maximum daily dose should be considered if you are underweight (under 50kg)**

**For the elderly a reduced dose may be required.**

**Adolescents aged 16 – 18 years:**

**Swallow 1-2 capsules every 6 hours as needed.**

**Do not take more frequently than every 6 hours.**

**Do not take more than 8 capsules in 24 hours.**

**Adolescents aged 12-15 years:**

**Swallow 1 capsule every 6 hours as needed.**

**Do not take more frequently than every 6 hours.**

**Do not take more than 4 capsules in 24 hours.**

- **Do not take more than the recommended dose**
- **Avoid too much caffeine in drinks like coffee and tea.** High caffeine intake can cause **difficulty sleeping, shaking and an uncomfortable feeling in the chest**
- Solpadeine Plus Capsules should not be taken by children **below the age of 12 years**, due to the risk of severe breathing problems
- This medicine should not be taken for more than **3 days**. If the pain does not improve after 3 days, **talk to your doctor** for advice.

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**Talk to a doctor at once** if you take too much of this medicine, even if you feel well. This is because too much paracetamol can cause delayed, serious liver damage. If your symptoms continue or your headache becomes persistent, **see your doctor**.

**4. Possible side effects**

Some people may have side effects when using this medicine. If you have any unwanted side effects you should seek advice from your doctor, pharmacist or other healthcare professional.

- When using this product you may experience:**
- Constipation
- Stop taking** this medicine and **tell your doctor immediately** if you experience:
- Severe **abdominal pain, dry mouth, nausea and vomiting** if you have recently had your gall bladder removed
  - Nervousness, dizziness, irritability, drowsiness or restlessness
  - **Allergic reactions** which may be severe such as skin rash and itching
  - **Skin rash or peeling** or **mouth ulcers; itching or sweating**
  - **Breathing problems**. These are more likely if you have experienced them before when taking other painkillers such as ibuprofen and aspirin
  - Unexplained **bruising or bleeding**
  - **Nausea, upset stomach, sudden weight loss, loss of appetite and yellowing of the eyes and skin**
  - **Cloudy urine or difficulties urinating**.

Frequency "Not known" (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data): A serious condition that can make blood more acidic (called metabolic acidosis), in patients with severe illness using paracetamol (see section 2).

**Reporting of side effects:** If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. 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](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**How do I know if I am addicted?**

If you take this medicine according to the instructions on the pack, it is unlikely you will become addicted to the medicine. However, if you notice any of the following signs it is important that you **talk to your doctor**:

- You need to take the medicine for **longer periods of time**.
- You need to take **more than the recommended dose**.
- **You are using the medicines for reasons other than instructed**.
- When you stop taking the medicine you feel very unwell, but you **feel better if you start taking the medicine again**.

**5. How to store Solpadeine Plus Capsules**

**Keep out of the reach and sight of children.**

Do not use this medicine after the 'EXP' date shown on the pack. Store below 25°C.

**6. Further information**

**Active ingredients** Each capsule contains Paracetamol 500 mg, Codeine Phosphate Hemihydrate 8 mg and Caffeine 30 mg.

**Other ingredients** Maize starch, magnesium stearate, titanium dioxide (E 171), erythrosine (E 127), patent blue V (E 131), quinoline yellow (E 104), gelatin.

Packs of Solpadeine Plus Capsules contain 24 capsules, they have an opaque red cap and opaque white body, plain on both halves.

**The marketing authorisation holder** is Omega Pharma Ltd., Wrafton, Braunton, Devon, EX33 2DL, United Kingdom and all enquiries should be sent to this address.

**The manufacturer** is Wrafton Laboratories Limited, Exeter Road, Wrafton, Braunton, EX33 2DL, United Kingdom or Swiss Caps GmbH Grassingerstraße 9 83043 Bad Aibling, Germany (Aenova Group). This leaflet was last revised in February 2025.

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