

CARBIMAZOLE

Other names: Neo-Mercazole®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

How does carbimazole work?

Carbimazole is used to treat an overactive thyroid gland, a condition known as hyperthyroidism. It works by reducing the amount of hormone your thyroid gland produces. Carbimazole may be used alone or together with other treatments for hyperthyroidism.

An overactive thyroid can cause some of your body's function to speed up and this can lead to losing weight, sweating, shakes, irritability, diarrhoea, tiredness, and in females it can cause menstrual problems. Taking carbimazole can help improve these symptoms.

When to take this medicine

- Take carbimazole exactly as your doctor prescribes.
- Make sure you know exactly how many tablets to take each day.
- Carbimazole can be taken before, during or after food. Take with a glass of water.
- The dosage or the number of tablets taken daily will be decided according to the severity of your condition and could be adjusted during the course of your treatment. Your doctor will decide if and when your carbimazole is to be stopped.

DO NOT STOP taking carbimazole without your doctor's permission, even if you feel well.

While taking carbimazole

Your doctor may carry out regular blood tests while on this treatment. **Do not miss these appointments.**

If you miss a dose

Take your dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to your regular dosing schedule. You should not take two doses at the same time.

Side Effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- an infection, sore throat or high temperature
- unusual bruising or bleeding
- mouth ulcers
- flu-like symptoms, feeling generally unwell
- yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice)
- aching muscles, muscle tenderness or weakness not caused by exercise

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- feeling sick or an upset stomach
- headache
- skin rash, itching of the skin
- loss or changes of tastes
- tiredness
- hair loss

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you.

Other Medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines including those available to buy without a prescription (e.g. herbal or complementary medicines).

If carbimazole is prescribed while you are taking theophylline, close monitoring of theophylline blood level is required – you may need to reduce the theophylline dose.

Also when used in combination with anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin) – careful monitoring of the INR (International Normalising Ratio) is required (usually an increase in warfarin dose is required).

Pregnancy

Talk to your doctor straight away if you become pregnant while taking carbimazole, or if you plan on becoming pregnant.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.