

## LOOP DIURETICS

**Other names:** frusemide / furosemide, Lasix®, Diurin®, Urex Forte®, bumetanide, Burinex®



**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.

### Why you are taking this medicine

A diuretic is a type of medicine that removes excess water from the body in the form of urine. They are sometimes called 'water tablets'.

Loop diuretics are a type of diuretic that are often used for treating heart failure and hypertension (high blood pressure). Removing excess water reduces the volume of your blood, which decreases the workload on the heart allowing your heart to work better.

### When to take this medicine

Loop diuretics are normally taken once a day in the morning with or without food.

The effect of taking the tablets generally starts within half an hour and wears off within a few hours of taking the tablet.

If you are required to take a second dose it is recommended to take it later in the morning, so that the increased urine production doesn't interfere with your night time sleep.

### If you miss a dose

Take 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** and stop taking this medicine if you have any of these side effects:

- rapid, excessive weight loss
- sore throat with fever
- ringing in ears, loss of hearing
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- Signs of jaundice (e.g. yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes)
- severe rash with peeling skin
- difficulty breathing or swallowing

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- vomiting or diarrhoea
- stomach upset
- painful or stiff joints
- dizziness, light-headedness, faintness or headache
- dry mouth, excessive thirst
- muscle cramps or pain
- unusual tiredness or weakness
- irregular heartbeat (weak pulse)
- mood changes
- loss of appetite

This medicine may cause a loss of **potassium** from your body. You may need to eat or drink foods containing potassium (fresh fruit especially citrus fruit, bananas, tomatoes). Some symptoms of low potassium are muscle weakness and an irregular heartbeat (weak pulse). Consult your doctor before taking potassium supplements.

Vomiting and diarrhoea may cause potassium or sodium loss from the body. If you experience this contact your doctor or pharmacist for advice **as soon as possible**.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any other side effect(s) from your medicine that are not mentioned here.

### **Other Medication**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicine including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

### **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.**