

SOLIFENACIN

Other names: Vesicare®



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

Solifenacin works by reducing the activity of the muscles around the bladder. This helps control unnecessary urges or urgency of your bladder and the release of urine.

Solifenacin is used to treat urinary *frequency* (a need to pass urine often), urinary *urgency* (a need to pass urine urgently), and urinary *incontinence* (lack of control over passing urine). It is more selective than other medications used to treat urinary problems, which means it is less likely to cause side effects.

When to take this medicine

The usual dose for this medicine is one or two tablets taken **once** a day. Try to take your medication at the same time every day. Swallow the tablets whole with half a glass of water. Solifenacin may be taken with or without food, whichever is convenient.

If you miss a dose

Take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for your 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:

- a burning sensation in the chest rising up to the throat, also known as heartburn
- difficulty in passing urine or unable to pass urine
- fast heart beat
- confusion
- rash, itching or hives, difficulty breathing, swelling of lips, tongue or throat
- swelling of the feet or legs

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects that are causing you concern:

- dry mouth or dry throat
- constipation
- nausea (feeling sick)
- indigestion
- abdominal or stomach pain
- blurred vision
- dry skin
- dry eyes
- dry nasal passages
- tiredness
- dizziness
- headache
- abnormal or impaired sense of taste

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

As this medicine can make you feel dizzy, tired and can affect your vision, avoid driving or using heavy machinery until you know the affect it has on you.

Other Medicines

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

If you are taking antifungals (e.g. ketoconazole, itraconazole, fluconazole) or erythromycin (antibiotic) with solifenacin, then the lowest dose should be taken.

Some medicines (e.g. carbamazepine, phenytoin, phenobarbitone, rifampicin, St John's Wort) may reduce the effectiveness solifenacin and should be monitored for loss of bladder control.

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.