

MIDODRINE

Other names: Gutron®



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

Midodrine is used where patients have low blood pressure when standing. It is used when other treatments have not increased your blood pressure enough or when the low blood pressure is associated with other medical conditions such as diabetes or Parkinson's disease.

Midodrine works to increase the blood pressure in the body by tightening the wall of the blood vessels. This also prevents pooling of blood in the lower legs when standing up and reduces symptoms such as dizziness, fainting and blurred vision.

When to take this medicine

- Take midodrine at regular intervals as directed by your doctor.
- The dose is usually titrated upward every few days with monitoring of your blood pressure.
- The last dose **must not** be taken after the evening meal.

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 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:

- headaches
- fast heart beat or slowing heart beat
- pounding in the ears
- increased dizziness or fainting
- decreased urinary output (peeing) or difficulty or pain on peeing
- numbness or pins and needles in the arms or legs
- blurred vision

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

- nausea or heartburn
- chills or “goose bumps”
- rash
- flushed skin
- trouble sleeping
- restlessness, irritability

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.

Other medication taken with midodrine can have its effect increased, for example:

- Antidepressants e.g. amitriptyline
- Antihistamines
- Decongestants e.g. phenylephrine which is used in cough and cold remedies
- Fludrocortisone (salt retaining properties)
- Levothyroxine

These medicine combinations may either require regular blood pressure monitoring or a reduction of midodrine dose.

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.