

PRODUCT MONOGRAPH

FLUNARIZINE

Flunarizine Hydrochloride Capsules

5 mg Flunarizine/Capsule

THERAPEUTIC CLASSIFICATION

Selective Calcium-Entry Blocker

INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

Please read this Information Summary carefully before taking FLUNARIZINE. You may need to read it again, so do not throw it out until you have finished your medicine.

THE NAME OF YOUR MEDICINE:

The name of your medicine is FLUNARIZINE (flunarizine hydrochloride) capsules.

FLUNARIZINE can only be obtained with a prescription from your doctor.

1) WHAT IS FLUNARIZINE FOR?

FLUNARIZINE helps prevent migraine attacks.

2) IMPORTANT POINTS TO NOTE BEFORE TAKING YOUR MEDICINE:

As with all medicines, there are important issues to consider before using FLUNARIZINE.

When not to take FLUNARIZINE

Do not take FLUNARIZINE if you have suffered or are now suffering from:

- depression;
- Parkinson's disease.

Do not take this product if you know you are allergic to the product or its ingredients. If you suspect you are allergic to this product or any of its ingredients consult your doctor or

pharmacist and ask for a complete list of ingredients. If in doubt, check with your doctor before taking FLUNARIZINE.

Warnings

In a small proportion of patients, depression may occur during treatment with FLUNARIZINE, especially in younger patients who have experienced depression previously. Older people may experience slow movements, stiffness and other symptoms similar to those of Parkinson's disease. If you experience any of these, consult with your doctor. Although it seldom happens, you may experience a tired feeling that increases as the treatment with FLUNARIZINE continues. If so, contact your doctor.

Pregnancy

If you are pregnant, or think you are, you should tell your doctor, who will decide if you can take FLUNARIZINE.

Breastfeeding

Do not breastfeed if you are taking FLUNARIZINE. Consult your doctor in that case.

Other conditions

If you ever had a disease of the liver, discuss with your doctor before taking FLUNARIZINE.

Driving and operating machinery

You may get sleepy with FLUNARIZINE, especially at the beginning of treatment. Do not drive or operate machinery until you are sure that you are not drowsy.

Other medicines and alcohol

If you are taking FLUNARIZINE, alcohol, sleeping pills and tranquilizers can make you sleepy and drowsy faster. You should limit the amount of alcohol you drink and only take sleeping pills or tranquilizers if your doctor prescribes them along with FLUNARIZINE.

Medical supervision

While you are taking FLUNARIZINE, stay in touch with your doctor.

3) HOW TO TAKE FLUNARIZINE AND HOW MUCH

It may take FLUNARIZINE some time to work, often several weeks. Your doctor will tell you how long you need to take FLUNARIZINE.

Swallow the capsules with water.

Never take more than the number of capsules you are supposed to.

- Starting FLUNARIZINE treatment: If you are under 65 years of age, take 2 capsules (10 mg) every day before going to bed. - Continuing with FLUNARIZINE: After 3 months, your doctor will tell you whether you should continue with FLUNARIZINE. If you take FLUNARIZINE for more than 6 months, you should pay periodic visits to your doctor.

4) UNDESIRE EFFECTS

Some patients may feel sleepy or tired, but these effects generally go away spontaneously. If they do not, and they give you a lot of trouble, contact your doctor.

Weight gain (and/or increased appetite) is sometimes experienced, so try not to eat more than you usually do.

During treatment, depression sometimes occurs, especially in women who have experienced depression previously. Older people may experience slow movements or stiffness. Also, restlessness, trembling or uncontrolled movements of the face or the arms and legs may occur. If any of these happen, check with your doctor.

Inform your doctor or pharmacist promptly about any other unwanted effects that you experience.

5) OVERDOSE

Contact either your doctor, hospital emergency department or the nearest poison centre immediately if you have taken too much FLUNARIZINE. You may experience sleepiness, tiredness or, with very large amounts, agitation or a fast heartbeat.

6) HOW TO STORE FLUNARIZINE

Keep FLUNARIZINE at room temperature (between 15 and 30°C), protected from light and moisture (do not store it in the bathroom, for example).

Do not use FLUNARIZINE after it has expired (as indicated in the label), even if it has been stored properly. (It is a good idea to return old medicine to your pharmacist.)

7) WHAT IS IN FLUNARIZINE?

The active ingredient in FLUNARIZINE is flunarizine. FLUNARIZINE comes as red-and-grey capsules. One capsule contains 5 milligrams of flunarizine (as flunarizine hydrochloride).

8) A REMINDER

This medicine has been prescribed by your doctor for you. Use it only as directed. Do not give FLUNARIZINE to someone else, even if his/her symptoms are similar to yours. Keep this and other medications out of the reach of children.

9) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you have additional questions on your medication, consult with your doctor or pharmacist. Always inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are using other medicines because some drugs should not be taken together.