

# Omeprazole

*Losec, Acimax, Meprazole 10mg and 20mg tablets*

*Probitor 20mg Capsules*

*Other brands may be available. If dispersing a tablet, ensure the brand you are given is appropriate for dispersing.*

## What does it do?

A proton pump inhibitor that decreases the amount of acid produced by the stomach reducing the symptoms of reflux and preventing or treating gastric ulcers. It may also improve dietary fat absorption.

## How is it taken?

**Omeprazole is usually taken once or twice a day, swallowed whole with a glass of water.** Alternatively the tablets may be *dispersed* in a small volume of water. It is very important that the tablet is not crushed as it contains tiny beads with a special coating. Do not use anything other than cold water to disperse the omeprazole unless you have been advised to do so by your pharmacist.

Your doctor will decide how long you or your child should continue omeprazole.  
If you forget to give a dose, give the missed dose as soon as you remember, then give the next dose at the time it is normally due. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Do not try to make up for missed doses by giving more than one dose at a time.

## Where do I get it?

May be dispensed by your **local pharmacy** on presentation of a valid PBS prescription written by your local doctor or a doctor at RCH.

May be dispensed at the **RCH Pharmacy** department on presentation of a valid RCH PBS prescription written by a doctor at RCH.

Please note: Talk to the RCH Pharmacy department if you or your child has a nasogastric tube or a PEG tube and is unable to swallow tablets even when they are dispersed in water.

## How do I store it?

All medicines should be stored out of the reach of children.  
Tablets should be stored at room temperature (below 25° C) away from humidity.  
Tablets should be kept in the pack until it is time to take them.

## What side effects may I experience?

All medicines can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may be serious. Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you think you or your child is experiencing any side effects or allergic reactions from this medicine that are troublesome or ongoing, even if the problem is not listed below.

### Some of the side effects that may occur include:

Diarrhoea, constipation, abdominal pain, nausea/vomiting, flatulence, headache, rash.

### Stop giving omeprazole and tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

Muscle pain or weakness, joint pain, tingling or numbness of the hands or feet, vomiting or indigestion while having omeprazole, changes in sleep patterns, mood changes, hallucinations, confusion, bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, signs of frequent infections (such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers).

### Stop using this medicine and contact a doctor or emergency department if signs of an allergic reaction occur. These may include:

An unexplained increase in wheezing, difficulty breathing or swallowing, fainting, swelling or bleeding of the lips or tongue, severe itchy or blistering rash (hives).

The information contained in this leaflet is intended to support not replace discussion with your doctor or health care professionals.

ASK YOUR PHARMACIST ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE ABOUT THIS MEDICINE

For further information, contact The Royal Children's Hospital Drug Information Centre on 03 9345 5208.

The authors of these medicine information handouts have made considerable effort to ensure the information is accurate, up to date and easily understood.

The Royal Children's Hospital accepts no responsibility for any inaccuracies, information perceived as misleading, or the success of any treatment regimen detailed in the handouts.