

# Ursodeoxycholic acid

*Ursofalk 250mg capsules*

*Ursofalk 50mg/mL mixture*

## What does it do?

Ursodeoxycholic acid is a bile acid that may have a protective effect on the liver in cystic fibrosis-related liver disease.

## How is it taken?

**Ursodeoxycholic acid is usually given between two and four times per day.** It is available as capsules and as a mixture. When starting ursodeoxycholic acid, keep in mind that it may take many months before it begins to work. Your doctor will decide how long you or child should continue taking ursodeoxycholic acid.

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.

The mixture should be shaken well before being given.

## Where do I get it?

Capsules and mixture may be dispensed at the **RCH pharmacy** department on presentation of a valid prescription written by a doctor at RCH.

**Please note:** Some patients may be eligible for a special authority prescription. This depends on what ursodeoxycholic acid is being used for. Your doctor will need to arrange this. If this is the case it may be dispensed by your local pharmacy on presentation of a valid PBS Authority prescription written by your local doctor or a doctor at RCH.

## How do I store it?

All medicines should be stored out of the reach of children

The capsules and mixture should be stored at room temperature (below 25°C) away from humidity.

Capsules should be kept in the pack until it is time to take them.

The mixture expires 4 months after opening the bottle and any remaining mixture should be discarded.

## 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 side effects can occur if you take this medicine with certain other medicines

**If your child experiences the following side effects, stop taking ursodeoxycholic acid and tell your doctor immediately:**

Diarrhoea, itching, allergic reactions, nausea/vomiting, or sleep disturbance.

**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.