About your medicine

CELECOXIB

CELEBREX®
100mg AND 200mg CAPSULES

CELECOXIB
10mg / mL MIXTURE

Other brands may be available

This Patient Information Leaflet has been produced by the Royal Children’s Hospital Pharmacy Department. It is intended to provide information for parents or carers on the use of medicines to treat children. It does not contain all available information or take the place of talking to your child’s doctor or pharmacist. Some children and young adults may administer their own medicines. Reference to “your child” can mean “you” if you are taking the medicine without help.

The information may differ from that provided by manufacturers as their information is usually aimed at adults – for more information see the leaflet “Medicines for Children”.

Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of the Royal Children’s Hospital. This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – Nov 2014.
WHAT IS CELECOXIB?

Celecoxib is a pain relieving (analgesic) anti-inflammatory medication. It is only available on a doctor’s prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

Celecoxib is used to treat pain and inflammation in both adults and children. It is used to treat a variety of painful conditions, such as arthritis and pain after surgery.

CELECOXIB FORMULATIONS

The Royal Children’s Hospital (RCH) Pharmacy provides celecoxib capsules and a mixture. Celecoxib capsules may be obtained from your local pharmacy, but the mixture is only available from the RCH Pharmacy and some compounding pharmacies. This pamphlet applies to both the capsules and the mixture.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

• Give celecoxib only as your doctor has prescribed.
• Depending on your child’s condition, you might need to give celecoxib for a few days or for a longer time.
• This medication is best given with or soon after food to prevent stomach upset.

WHAT IF MY CHILD CANNOT SWALLOW CAPSULES?

• Celecoxib capsules can be opened and the contents emptied onto a teaspoon of applesauce.
• Capsules can be opened and dispersed in water – see ‘What if the mixture is unavailable’ section, below.
• The RCH Pharmacy and some compounding pharmacies may prepare a celecoxib mixture. Shake the bottle before each use and measure the dose accurately using an oral dosing syringe or dispenser.
• Please note that this mixture may not be readily available from your local pharmacy.

WHAT IF THE MIXTURE IS UNAVAILABLE?

• If instructed by your pharmacist, celecoxib capsules may be opened and dispersed in water.
• Open one capsule and empty the entire contents into an empty measuring cup, then add water measured out accurately using an oral dosing syringe or dispenser:
  o The contents of one 100 mg capsule should be mixed with 10 mL of water.
  o The contents of one 200 mg capsule should be mixed with 20 mL of water.
• Stir well to provide a 10 mg/mL dispersion.
• Measure the required dose using an oral dosing syringe or dispenser and give immediately.
• Discard any remaining dispersion and use a new capsule to prepare the dispersion for each dose.

Your pharmacist will advise which product is best to use for your child.
WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you forget to give a dose you can give it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and give your child the next dose when you are meant to.

Do not give double the dose to make up for the dose that was missed.

STORING THE MEDICINE

- It is important to keep celecoxib locked away out of the reach of children.
- Do not keep the capsules or mixture in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective.
- The mixture does NOT need to be stored in the fridge. Store at room temperature in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.
- Throw out any mixture left after the expiry date by pouring it down the sink.
- Return any expired or unused capsules to your local pharmacy for destruction.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using celecoxib with some other medicines. This is especially important for:

- Certain medicines used to treat pain and inflammation called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), and corticosteroids. Ask your pharmacist or doctor before giving any other medicines to treat pain, inflammation or fever, including over-the-counter medicines and medicines purchased from a supermarket.
- Certain medicines used to treat high blood pressure and some other heart problems, and diuretics (also called fluid or water tablets)
- Fluconazole, an antifungal agent
- Lithium, a medicine used to treat some types of mood disorders
- Warfarin, a medicine used to stop blood clots
- Antacids, medicines used to treat indigestion

This list is not complete. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if your child takes any of the above medicines before giving celecoxib. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Do not give celecoxib to your child if he/she is allergic to celecoxib, sulphonamides, aspirin or any other NSAIDs.
- Speak to your doctor if your child has asthma or a history of heart problems or stroke before giving celecoxib.
- Make sure your child drinks lots of water while being treated with celecoxib.
- If your child is still complaining of pain following use of celecoxib, please contact the hospital or your local doctor.
- Please note that celecoxib capsules and mixture may be obtained from the RCH Pharmacy only on presentation of a valid RCH prescription written by a doctor practicing at the RCH.
POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, side effects can occur while taking celecoxib. Some of these are not serious. Others are more serious and require you to check with your child’s doctor. Do not be alarmed by the list of side effects, as your child may not experience any of them.

Less serious side effects include:
- Upset stomach or feeling of wanting to throw up
- Reflux or indigestion
- Diarrhoea (loose stools)
- Dizziness
- Headache

More serious side effects (Contact a doctor as soon as possible if any of the following occur):
- Unusual bruising or bleeding
- Black or bloody stools
- Blood in the urine
- Vomiting blood or something that looks like coffee grounds
- Chest pain
- Swollen ankles
- Shortness of breath
- Weakness in arms or legs

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):
- Skin rash, itching
- Swelling or puffiness of the eyelids, face or lips that causes difficulty swallowing or breathing
- Wheezing, pain in the chest or shortness of breath
- Fainting

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people. Tell your child’s doctor if you notice anything else that is making your child feel unwell.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT

The Royal Children’s Hospital Melbourne

Your or Your Child’s Doctor via the RCH Switchboard on 03 9345 5522
OR
Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5491
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)