About your medication

FRUSEMIDE

(Lasix® 10mg/mL mixture Lasix®, Urex®, Uremide® 20mg, 40mg and 500mg tablets)

Other brands may be available
**WHAT IS FRUSEMIDE?**
Frusemide belongs to a group of medications known as loop diuretics. Loop diuretics increase the volume of urine output and therefore remove extra fluid from the body. It is only available with a doctor’s prescription.

**WHAT IS IT FOR?**
It is used to help relieve fluid retention (oedema) and also to lower blood pressure. It does this by making your child go to the toilet more often, and passing more urine. Sometimes it is used to treat high calcium levels in the blood.

**HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE**
It is important that this medicine is given only as directed and not given to other people.

Take this medicine exactly as your doctor ordered. Even if your child feels fine their fluid retention or high blood pressure may still need treatment.

If your child is no longer in nappies to avoid going to the toilet too often during the night, the frusemide can be given in the morning. If more than one dose a day is required, give the last dose before 6 p.m. (unless your child’s doctor tells you differently).

Frusemide may be taken on an empty stomach or with a meal. Tablets may be crushed if necessary. Solution should be measured accurately using a syringe. Pay careful attention to the directions on the label.

Your child’s doctor may periodically require your child to have regular blood tests to measure the levels of salts in the blood. This is done to achieve the best dosage and to help prevent side effects.

**WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED**
If you miss a dose of the medication it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take the missed dose if it is close to the next one; just take the next dose as normal. Do not double-up on any doses.

**STORING THE MEDICINE**
It is important to keep frusemide locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the (tablets/mixture) in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective.

The solution should be stored in the refrigerator, and any solution remaining 5 weeks (35 days) after opening the bottle should be discarded.

**USE OF OTHER MEDICINES**
Care must be taken when using frusemide with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop. This is important for
- digoxin or lithium
- aspirin or non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs taken for arthritis
- blood pressure lowering drugs
- corticosteroids
- other diuretics
- theophylline
- Strong pain relievers, sedatives, anti-depressants and major tranquillisers can worsen the dizziness that may occur with frusemide.

This list is not complete. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

- Frusemide may cause your skin to become more sensitive to the sun. Adequate skin protection is necessary using at least SPF 15 sunscreen and protective clothing.
- A diet rich in potassium is advisable e.g. potatoes and bananas.
- Do not suddenly stop taking this medicine without first checking with your doctor.
- Dizziness or fainting may occur especially when your child gets up from a lying or sitting position. This is due to a drop in blood pressure when rising. Getting up slowly may help.

**POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Side effects can occur while taking frusemide. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

**Less serious side effects include:**
- Fatigue, dizziness or weakness
- Diarrhoea, nausea, poor appetite, upset stomach
- Headache
- Dry mouth, increased thirst

**More Serious** (Contact doctor as soon as possible if any of the following occur):
- Dehydration (decreased urination, sunken eyes)
- Fast heart beat
- Hearing difficulties or ringing in the ears
- Severe dizziness or spinning sensation
- Unexplained sore throat or fever
- Abnormal bleeding or bruising
- Persistent infection
- Painful or swollen joints

**Allergic reaction** (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):
- Skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing
This leaflet answers some common questions about your child’s medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child’s doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer’s Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children’s Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "Medicines for Children". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.