

About your medicine

OMEPRAZOLE

**LOSEC®
10mg AND 20mg TABLETS**

**ACIMAX®, OMEPRAL®
20mg TABLETS**

**PROBITOR®, PEMZO®, MAXOR®
20mg CAPSULES**

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 – October 2015.

WHAT IS OMEPRAZOLE?

Omeprazole is a medication called a proton pump inhibitor. It is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

Omeprazole is used in the treatment of reflux oesophagitis (discomfort caused when stomach contents are brought up after feeding) and stomach ulcers. During reflux the stomach acid causes irritation of the food pipe (oesophagus). Omeprazole is used to reduce the amount of acid made by the stomach, which helps to reduce the irritation.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

- Give omeprazole only as your doctor has prescribed.
- Omeprazole is usually taken once or twice a day.
- Omeprazole can be given with food or on an empty stomach.
- Each tablet or capsule is made of compressed beads which have a special coating to protect the medicine from the stomach acid. **It is very important that the beads are not crushed or chewed as this stops the medicine from working properly.**

WHAT IF MY CHILD CANNOT SWALLOW TABLETS OR CAPSULES?

To give a dose using Losec®, Acimax®, or Omepral® tablets:

You will need:

- a medicine cup
 - a 10mL oral dosing syringe
 - a syringe cap
1. Prepare a cup of fresh drinking water. For infants less than 12 months of age, use freshly boiled and cooled water. Do not use warm or hot water.
 2. Pull the plunger out of the 10mL oral dosing syringe and place half or one tablet (depending on the dose) into the barrel of the syringe.
 3. Replace the plunger, then draw up 5mL of water from the cup. Ensure that there is some air space in the syringe before placing a syringe cap on the end.
 4. Shake the syringe thoroughly so that the tablet disperses in the water. This will take a few minutes and the suspension will be a milky light pink colour. Small beads will be visible. **Do not crush or chew the beads as this stops the medicine from working properly.**
 5. Immediately after shaking the syringe, give the suspension directly into the mouth. The dose must be given within 30 minutes after dispersing.
 6. If any beads are left in the syringe, add more water and give the remaining beads.

To give a dose using omeprazole capsules:

1. Open the capsule and estimate the required amount of beads for the dose (either a quarter, half or the whole contents of the capsule as directed by your pharmacist or doctor).
 2. Mix the beads with a small amount of soft food such as fruit pulp or other pureed food.
 3. Give the dose immediately after mixing in food. **Do not crush or chew the beads as this stops the medication from working properly.**
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Is there a mixture available?

Omeprazole is not available as a commercial mixture. Your doctor may prescribe a mixture to be made by a compounding pharmacy, but the mixture is not as effective as the tablets and capsules. The compounded mixture is generally only used when omeprazole needs to be given by a feeding tube to prevent tube blockages.

Your pharmacist or doctor 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 omeprazole locked away out of the reach of children.
- Do not keep the capsules or tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective.
- The mixture should be stored in the fridge and away from direct light.
- Throw out any mixture left after the expiry date by pouring it down the sink.
- Return any expired or unused tablets or capsules to your local pharmacy for destruction.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

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

- phenytoin - a medicine used to treat epilepsy or fits
- warfarin or clopidogrel - medicines used to prevent blood clots
- clarithromycin or rifampicin – medicines used to treat infections
- ketoconazole, itraconazole, voriconazole - medicines used to treat fungal infections
- tacrolimus or mycophenolate - medicines used to assist in organ transplants
- methotrexate - when used in high doses to treat certain cancers
- some antidepressants

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Do not give omeprazole to your child if he/she is allergic to omeprazole or other proton pump inhibitors.
 - Please note that omeprazole tablets and capsules may be obtained from the RCH Pharmacy only on presentation of a valid RCH prescription written by a doctor practicing at the RCH.
 - The RCH pharmacy may prepare the omeprazole mixture for a select group of neonatal patients only if you have a prescription written by a doctor practicing at the RCH. The mixture will take time to prepare, so **please notify the RCH pharmacy 5 working days** in advance.
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POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, side effects can occur while taking omeprazole. 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:

- nausea and/or vomiting
- diarrhoea or constipation
- headache
- abdominal pain
- flatulence

More serious side effects (Contact doctor as soon as possible if any of the following occur):

- muscle pain or weakness, 'pins and needles'
- dizziness
- changes in sleep patterns
- mood changes
- increase in breast size (males)
- fever
- increased bruising
- black stools or vomit that looks like coffee grounds
- signs of liver inflammation including yellowing of the skin or eyes, feeling generally unwell, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite

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:



Your or your child's doctor via the RCH Switchboard: 03 9345 5522

or

Pharmacy Department: 03 9345 5492

In case of poisoning or overdose, contact:

Poisons Information Centre: 13 11 26 (24 hour service)