

About your medication

URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID

(URSOFALK® 250mg capsules,
50mg/mL suspension)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS URSODEOXYCHOLIC ACID?

Ursodeoxycholic acid is a naturally occurring bile acid. It is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

It is used for the treatment of some liver conditions. This may include diseases such as biliary atresia (blockage of the bile duct) and cholestasis of cystic fibrosis (occurs when bile flow is restricted). It is also used in the treatment of gallstones.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people.

The dose is best given with food as this improves the absorption of the medication. It may be given up to three times a day.

If using the suspension, shake the bottle well before use.

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 ursodeoxycholic acid locked away out of the reach of children.

Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

Do not use the suspension after 4 months of opening the bottle. Write the date of opening on the bottle to help remind yourself.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using ursodeoxycholic acid with some other medications. Check with your/your child's 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:

- Some cholesterol lowering medicines
 - absorbents such as charcoal
 - antacids or medicines used for indigestion that contains aluminium hydroxide and/or smectite (aluminium oxide)
 - Cyclosporin, medicine used to reduce the activity of the immune system.
 - Ciprofloxacin and dapsone, antibiotics used to prevent certain infections
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This list is not complete. Talk to your child's doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Do not stop taking ursodeoxycholic acid without first checking with the doctor.
- Your child may need to see their doctor for regular tests to make sure the liver is working properly.
- It may take several months for the medicine to dissolve the gallstones (if used for this purpose).
- Ursodeoxycholic acid is not generally available from your local pharmacy. It can only be supplied by the hospital. Do not let yourself run out of capsules or suspension, especially over weekends or public holidays.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking ursodeoxycholic acid. 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 child's doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- Nausea, vomiting
- Diarrhoea or constipation
- Headache
- Indigestion
- Itching or dry skin
- Sleep disturbances

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- severe stomach pain
- severe nausea and vomiting

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately):

- skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

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.