

A medication information leaflet for paediatric patients

FUROSEMIDE (FRUSEMIDE)

Other names: Lasix®, Diurin®



Important note: The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

The name of your child's medicine is: furosemide.

Why is your child taking this medicine?

Furosemide is given to help remove excess fluid from the body which is then lost in the form of urine. This excess fluid may accumulate (called oedema or water retention) when the heart has become less efficient at pumping blood around the body.

When to give this medicine to your child

- Give exactly as directed by your doctor or pharmacist, never give more than the prescribed dose.
- Give furosemide at the same time(s) every day. Marking a calendar may be a helpful reminder.
- If giving your child furosemide liquid, carefully measure each dose with an oral syringe.
- Make sure you always have a supply of medicine on hand.

DO NOT STOP giving furosemide without your doctor's permission.

What should you do if your child misses a dose

Give the dose as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for the next dose. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and return to the regular dosing schedule. You should not give two doses at the same time.

What should you do if your child vomits after a dose

If the vomiting occurs less than 15 minutes after the medicine is given, give the entire dose again. If more than 15 minutes have passed, do not give it again until the next scheduled dose.

Side effects

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects that are unwanted. These are called *side effects*.

Call your doctor or speak to your pharmacist **immediately** if your child has any of these side effects:

- skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- dehydration (decreased urination, sunken eyes)
- excessive thirst
- unusual tiredness
- increased irritability
- severe diarrhoea or vomiting
- swollen ankles

The list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any side effect is of a concern to you.

This medication can occasionally upset the electrolyte balance in the body (e.g. potassium or sodium can be lost from the body in the urine). A blood test may be required to detect if this has happened and supplements may be needed.

Furosemide may make the skin more sensitive to sunlight which may cause it to burn easily. To protect your baby or child from the sun make sure they are wearing a sunhat, protective clothing and using a sunscreen with a high sun protection factor (SPF 30 or above).

Other Medication

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child is taking any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription.

Storage

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Furosemide oral liquid must be refrigerated. Keep it in your fridge.

Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.