

# POTASSIUM CHLORIDE

Other names: Chlorvescent®, Span-K®



**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.

## Why you are taking this medicine?

Potassium occurs naturally in the body. It is necessary for the normal functioning of all organs, (especially the heart), and in the contraction of muscles.

Sometimes, too much potassium can be lost from the body through excessive loss of fluid (e.g. diarrhoea) or when taking diuretics (water tablets). To replace the body's potassium, potassium chloride tablets will be prescribed by your doctor. Sometimes blood tests will be done to make sure the correct potassium blood level is reached.

## When to take this medicine

Take this medication as directed by your doctor. It can be taken with, or immediately after food to prevent stomach upset.

**Span-K**            Tablets should be swallowed whole with a half a glass of water. Do not crush, suck or chew them.  
Make sure that you are standing or sitting upright when taking this medicine and remain upright for at least 15 minutes after taking a dose.

**Chlorvescent**    Tablets should be dissolved in half a glass of water.

**DO NOT STOP** taking this medicine without the doctor's permission.

## If you miss a dose

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

## Side Effects

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

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have any of these side effects:

- skin rash
- irregular heartbeat
- weakness or numbness
- confusion or unusual tiredness
- reduced urine output
- black stools

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of a concern to you:

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
- abdominal pain
- flatulence

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

### **Other Medicines**

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

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

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