

# SUCRALFATE

Other Name: Carafate®



**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?

Sucralfate protects the gastro-intestinal tract (your gut) and stomach from acid by coating the damaged areas. This allows the area to repair itself and relieves the pain. It also inhibits acid producing substances (e.g. pepsin) and absorbs bile salts.

Sucralfate is used to treat conditions, such as:

- stomach ulcers (gastric ulcers)
- duodenal ulcers (ulcers of the upper part of the intestine) and
- preventing ulcers occurring (e.g. stress ulcers)

## When to take this medicine

Sucralfate tablets should be taken on an empty stomach – at least one hour before meals and at bedtime. It can also be taken twice a day. If you forget to take your dose before food then you can be take it two hours after food.

## If you miss a dose

Take it as soon as possible except when it is close to the time for your next dose. If it is almost time for the 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:

- rash, hives or itching
- swelling of the face or mouth
- back pain
- difficulty breathing
- loss of balance

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have these side effects:

- constipation
- dry mouth (sometimes sucking sugar-free sweets, ice chips or chewing sugar-free chewing gum can help with the dry mouth)
- mild stomach cramps
- upset stomach, such as diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting and flatulence (wind)
- dizziness, drowsiness
- headache

### **Other medicines and food**

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

Do not take antacids (e.g. Mylanta) 30 minutes before or after taking sucralfate.

Avoid foods and drinks that may upset your stomach such as alcohol, citrus fruits and juices, drinks containing caffeine, tomatoes, or spicy food - as these may delay healing of the stomach/duodenal ulcers.

### **Storage**

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

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