

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **ALLERGY & CONGEST RELIEF TB**

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#### **USES:**

Loratadine is an antihistamine which provides relief of seasonal allergy symptoms such as watery and itching eyes, runny nose, and sneezing. Pseudoephedrine is a decongestant which helps relieve a stuffy nose, promotes sinus draining, and improves breathing. This medication is not recommended for use in children under 12 years of age due to the high amount of pseudoephedrine.

#### **HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:**

HOW TO USE: Take this medication by mouth usually once daily; or take as directed by your doctor. Swallow the tablet whole with a full glass of water. Do not break, crush, or chew the tablet; this will destroy the drug's long action and increase the chance of side effects. Do not increase your dose or take this more often than directed. Do not take this medication for several days before allergy testing since test results can be affected. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Dry mouth, mild stomach upset, trouble sleeping, dizziness, headache, nervousness, loss of appetite, or thirst may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these serious side effects occur: fast/irregular heartbeat, uncontrolled shaking or tremor. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: seizures, chest pain, mental/mood changes, difficulty urinating. This medication does not usually cause drowsiness when used at recommended doses and under normal circumstances. However, this drug may make you dizzy; therefore use caution engaging in activities that require alertness such as driving or using machinery. A serious allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction include: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before taking loratadine with pseudoephedrine, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies. This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: glaucoma (narrow angle type), severe difficulty urinating (urinary retention), severe high blood pressure, severe heart/blood vessel disease (coronary artery disease), liver disease, serious difficulty in swallowing, throat/stomach problems (e.g., stenosis/stricture/abnormal peristalsis of the esophagus or upper gastrointestinal tract), experienced serious side effects with decongestants (irregular heart rhythm). Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: kidney disease, problems urinating (e.g., enlarged prostate), high blood pressure, diabetes, heart problems (e.g., ischemic heart disease), thyroid problems (hyperthyroidism), glaucoma (open angle type). Limit alcoholic beverages, as it may intensify drug side effects. (See also Side Effects) Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to the effects of the drug. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. The two individual components of this medication pass into breast milk. Breast-feeding is not recommended while using this drug.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

This drug should not be used within 14 days of taking MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, selegiline, isocarboxazid, tranlylcypromine). Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription products you may use, especially of: adrenalin-like drugs (e.g., ephedrine, methylphenidate), certain high blood pressure drugs (e.g., guanethidine, methyl dopa, reserpine, beta-blockers such as propranolol), herbal products containing ephedra. Check the labels on all your medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products) because they may contain additional antihistamines and decongestants that could increase your risk for side effects. Ask your pharmacist about the safe use of those products. Do not start or stop any medicine without doctor or pharmacist approval.

#### **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others.

#### **MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

#### **STORAGE:**

Store between 59-77 degrees F (15-25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.