

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **DICYCLOMINE 20 MG TABLET**

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#### **USES:**

This medication is used to treat a certain intestinal problem (irritable bowel syndrome) when other treatments have not worked (e.g., diet changes, anxiety treatment). Dicyclomine belongs to a class of drugs known as anticholinergics/antispasmodics. It works by decreasing intestinal cramping. This medication should not be used in children younger than 6 months.

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

**HOW TO USE:** Take this medication by mouth, usually 4 times daily or exactly as directed by your doctor. To decrease side effects, your doctor will usually direct you to start taking a lower dose of this medication, then gradually increase it to a dose that relieves your symptoms. If you are also taking an antacid, do not take it with dicyclomine because the antacid may interfere with how your body absorbs this drug. Take dicyclomine at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after the antacid. Dosage of dicyclomine is based on your age, medical condition, and response to treatment. It is usually used for only 2 weeks at a time. Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same times each day. Rarely, abnormal drug-seeking behavior (addiction) is possible with this medication. Do not increase your dose, take it more frequently, or take it for a longer time than prescribed. Properly stop the medication when so directed. Tell your doctor if your condition persists or worsens during the first 1 to 2 weeks of treatment.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Drowsiness, dry mouth, dizziness, blurred vision, dry eyes, tiredness, and trouble sleeping may occur. Less common side effects may also include lightheadedness, nausea, vomiting, headache, loss of appetite, temporary loss of the ability to taste, constipation, abdominal bloating/pain, problems sleeping, unusually fast heartbeat, and stuffy nose. If any of these effects persist or worsen, tell your doctor or pharmacist promptly. To relieve dry mouth, suck on (sugarless) hard candy or ice chips, chew (sugarless) gum, drink water, or use a saliva substitute. To relieve dry eyes, consult your pharmacist for an appropriate eye lubricant. To prevent constipation, maintain a diet adequate in fiber, and drink plenty of water. If you become constipated while using this drug, tell your doctor immediately. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because he or she has judged that 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 unlikely but serious side effects occur: decreased sweating, sudden fast/irregular heartbeat, speaking problems, mental/mood changes (e.g., confusion, unusual behavior, aggressive behavior, excitability, nervousness), problems starting the flow of urine, shortness of breath, decreased sexual ability, diarrhea if you have colostomy or ileostomy. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare. However, seek immediate medical attention if you notice any symptoms of a serious allergic reaction, including: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before taking dicyclomine, 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, urine blockage due to narrowing of the urination tube (urethra), enlarged prostate, blockage or narrowing in the stomach/intestines, severe slowing or stoppage of the intestines (e.g., intestinal atony, paralytic ileus), any condition that causes immobility (being bedridden), severe bleeding, a certain severe intestinal disease (severe ulcerative colitis), a certain muscle disease (myasthenia gravis), severe and persistent heartburn, severe bleeding with fainting. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: liver problems, kidney problems, enlarged prostate, ulcerative colitis, heart disease (e.g., angina, previous heart attack, chronic heart failure, heart rhythm problems), overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism), high blood pressure, nerve problems that cause slowing of the intestines (autonomic neuropathy), hiatal hernia with heartburn, drug/alcohol abuse, previous heatstroke, sleep apnea. This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy. Use caution while driving, using machinery, or doing any activity that requires alertness. Avoid alcoholic beverages. This drug may make you sweat less, causing you to be more likely to develop a severe condition caused by becoming overheated (heatstroke). Use caution in hot temperatures and during strenuous exercise. Drink plenty of fluids, and dress lightly while in hot weather or when exercising. Check carefully for signs of decreased sweating. If this occurs, stop exercising and promptly seek cooler shelter. Seek immediate medical attention if your body temperature is above normal or if you have mental/mood changes, headache, or dizziness. Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to the effects of the drug, especially drowsiness, confusion, and urination problems. During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication passes into breast milk and may have undesirable effects on a nursing infant. Breast milk production may also be decreased by this medication. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Your doctor or pharmacist may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for them. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with your doctor or pharmacist first. This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: pramlintide, solid potassium chloride supplements taken by mouth. If you are currently using any of these medications listed above, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting dicyclomine. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of drugs that have similar drying side effects such as: certain antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine), amantadine, tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline), psychiatric medicines (e.g., chlorpromazine, risperidone, clozapine, trazodone), certain heart rhythm medications (e.g., disopyramide, quinidine), narcotic pain medicines (e.g., meperidine, morphine). Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you also take drugs that cause drowsiness such as: anti-seizure drugs (e.g., carbamazepine), medicine for sleep or anxiety (e.g., alprazolam,

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

diazepam, zolpidem), muscle relaxants (e.g., methocarbamol) among others. Check the labels on all your medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products) because they may contain ingredients that cause drowsiness. Ask your pharmacist about using those products safely.

## **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others. Keep all medical appointments so that your doctor can periodically monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

## **MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, take 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 at room temperature below 86 degrees F (30 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.