

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

MELOXICAM 15 MG TABLET

USES:

Meloxicam is used to treat arthritis. It reduces pain, swelling, and stiffness of the joints. Meloxicam is known as a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:

HOW TO USE: Read the Medication Guide provided by your pharmacist before you start using meloxicam and each time you get a refill. If you have any questions regarding the information, consult your doctor or pharmacist. Take this medication by mouth, usually once daily or as directed by your doctor. If you are taking the liquid form, shake the bottle well before each dose. Drink a full glass of water (8 ounces or 240 milliliters) with it unless your doctor tells you otherwise. Do not lie down for at least 30 minutes after you have taken this drug. If stomach upset occurs while taking this medication, take it with food, milk, or an antacid. The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Do not take more than 15 milligrams per day because higher doses increase the chance of stomach ulcers/bleeding. It may take up to two weeks before the full benefits of this drug take effect. Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. Remember to use it at the same time each day. Inform your doctor if your condition worsens.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Stomach upset, nausea, drowsiness, or diarrhea 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 unlikely but serious side effects occur: easy bruising/bleeding, fainting, fast/pounding heartbeat, persistent/severe headache, mental/mood changes, sudden/unexplained weight gain, swelling of the hands/feet, vision changes. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: change in the amount of urine, seizures, signs of infection (e.g., fever, persistent sore throat), unexplained stiff neck. This drug may rarely cause serious liver disease. If you notice any of the following rare but very serious side effects, stop taking this medication and consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately: yellowing eyes/skin, dark urine, unusual/extreme tiredness. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction may include: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before taking meloxicam, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to aspirin or other NSAIDs (e.g., ibuprofen, naproxen, celecoxib); 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: aspirin-sensitive asthma (a history of worsening breathing with runny/stuffy nose after taking aspirin or other NSAIDs), recent heart bypass surgery (CABG). Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: kidney disease, liver disease, poorly controlled diabetes, stomach/intestinal problems (e.g., bleeding, ulcers), heart disease (e.g., congestive heart failure, history of heart attack), high blood pressure, stroke, swelling (fluid retention), a severe loss of body water (dehydration), blood disorders (e.g., anemia), bleeding/clotting problems, asthma, growths in the nose (nasal polyps). This medication may make you dizzy or drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. This medication may cause stomach bleeding. Daily use of alcohol and tobacco, especially when combined with this medication, may increase your risk for stomach bleeding. Limit alcohol and smoking. Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more information. This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged sun exposure, tanning booths, and sunlamps. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when outdoors. Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication. Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to its side effects, especially stomach bleeding and kidney effects. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during the first 6 months of pregnancy. It is not recommended for use during the last 3 months of pregnancy due to possible harm to an unborn baby. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. This medication may pass into breast milk and could have undesirable effects on a nursing infant. Therefore, breast-feeding is not recommended while using this medication. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Do not start, stop or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with them first. This drug should not be used with the following medications because very serious interactions may occur: cidofovir, ketorolac. If you are currently using either of these medications listed above, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting meloxicam. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: anti-platelet drugs (e.g., cilostazol, clopidogrel), oral bisphosphonates (e.g., alendronate), "blood thinners" (e.g., warfarin), cholestyramine, corticosteroids (e.g., prednisone), certain drugs which decrease immune system function (e.g., cyclosporine, tacrolimus), high blood pressure drugs (including ACE inhibitors such as captopril, angiotensin II receptor antagonists such as losartan, and beta blockers such as metoprolol), lithium, methotrexate, pemetrexed, SSRI antidepressants (e.g., fluoxetine, sertraline, paroxetine), "water pills" (diuretics such as furosemide, hydrochlorothiazide). Check all prescription and nonprescription medicine labels carefully since many contain pain relievers/fever reducers (NSAIDs such as aspirin, ibuprofen, naproxen) that are similar to meloxicam and may increase your risk of side effects if taken together with this medication. Low-dose aspirin should be continued if prescribed by your doctor for specific medical reasons such as heart attack or stroke prevention (generally at doses of 81-325 milligrams a day). Consult your doctor or pharmacist for more details.

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others. Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., blood counts, kidney/liver function tests) may be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details. Non-drug treatment for arthritis that is approved by your doctor (e.g., weight loss if needed, strengthening and conditioning exercises) may help improve your flexibility, range of motion, and joint function. Consult your doctor for more information.

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 (77 degrees F or 25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Brief storage between 59 and 86 degrees F (15 and 30 degrees C) is permitted. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.