

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

METRONIDAZOLE 500 MG TABLET

USES:

Metronidazole is used to treat a variety of infections. It belongs to a class of antibiotics known as nitroimidazoles. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria and protozoa. This antibiotic only treats bacterial and protozoal infections. It will not work for viral infections (e.g., common cold, flu). Unnecessary use or overuse of any antibiotic can lead to its decreased effectiveness.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:

HOW TO USE: This medication may be taken with food or a full glass of water or milk to prevent stomach upset. Dosage is based on your medical condition, the type of infection being treated, and your response to therapy. Antibiotics work best when the amount of medicine in your body is kept at a constant level. Therefore, take this drug at evenly spaced intervals. Continue to take this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection. Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Dizziness, headache, diarrhea, nausea, stomach pain, loss of appetite, constipation, changes in taste, and dry mouth may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. This drug may cause urine to darken in color. This is harmless. 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: unsteadiness, seizures, mental/mood changes, numbness/tingling of hands/feet, painful urination. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: sore throat, persistent fever, unusual bleeding/bruising, severe stomach pain, persistent nausea/vomiting. This medication may be used to treat a severe intestinal condition (pseudomembranous colitis) due to a type of resistant bacteria. However, sometimes treatment with metronidazole may fail. Tell your doctor immediately if you develop: persistent diarrhea, abdominal or stomach pain/cramping, or blood/mucus in your stool. This condition may occur weeks after treatment with other antibiotics has stopped. Do not use anti-diarrhea products or narcotic pain medications if you have the following symptoms because these products may make them worse. Use of this medication for prolonged or repeated periods may result in oral thrush or a new vaginal yeast infection (oral or vaginal fungal infection). Contact your doctor if you notice white patches in your mouth, a change in vaginal discharge, or other new symptoms. 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 metronidazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other nitroimidazoles such as tinidazole; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: liver problems, nervous system disorders (e.g., seizures), blood disorders, Crohn's disease. Avoid alcoholic beverages while taking this medication and for at least 1 day (3 days if you are taking the oral capsules) after finishing this medicine because drinking alcohol may result in severe stomach upset/cramps, nausea, vomiting, headache and flushing. This drug may make you dizzy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. The elderly may be at greater risk for side effects while using this drug. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant before using this drug. It should not be used during the first 3 months of pregnancy and used only with caution during the last 6 months, unless your infection has not improved on other antibiotics. This medication passes into breast milk. Therefore, breast-feeding is not recommended while using this drug. 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: amprenavir oral solution, disulfiram, lopinavir/ritonavir oral solution. If you are currently using any of these medications listed above, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting metronidazole. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: "blood thinners" (e.g., warfarin), busulfan, cimetidine, fluorouracil, lithium, live bacterial vaccines, drugs for seizures (e.g., phenobarbital, phenytoin). This medication may interfere with certain laboratory tests (including liver function tests, blood triglyceride levels), possibly causing false test results. Make sure laboratory personnel and your doctors know you use this drug.

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others. Treatment of certain infections (trichomoniasis) may require that sexual partners be treated as well to avoid re-infection. During therapy, refrain from sexual intercourse or always use a condom. This medication has been prescribed for your current condition only. Do not use it later for another infection unless told to do so by your doctor. A different medication may be necessary in those cases. Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., blood counts) should be performed from time to time to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details.

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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:

Tablets should be stored at room temperature below 77 degrees F (25 degrees C) away from light. Capsules should be stored at or below room temperature between 59-77 degrees F (15-25 degrees C). Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.