

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

METRONIDAZOLE VAGINAL 0.75% GL

USES:

This medication is used to treat certain types of bacterial infections in the vagina. It may help to decrease itching, discharge and other symptoms. Metronidazole is an antibiotic that works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:

HOW TO USE: This medication is for vaginal use only. Learn the correct way to apply this medication by reading the instructions on the product package. Use as directed, usually twice a day, in the morning and evening. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions on the correct way to use this medication. Fill the applicator provided with the medication. Insert the applicator high into the vagina and press the plunger to release the medication. Clean the applicator with warm soapy water and rinse well. Avoid getting this medication in your eyes. If this occurs, rinse your eyes with large amounts of cool water. Do not drink alcohol while taking this medication and for at least 24 hours after stopping the medication. Drinking alcohol while taking this medication may cause stomach cramps, flushing, nausea, vomiting, and headache. 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. Do not have vaginal sex or use tampons or douches while using this medication. Inform your doctor if your condition persists after 5 days of using this medication, or if it worsens.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Dizziness, headache, nausea, diarrhea, unusual taste in the mouth, stomach cramps, or vaginal itching/burning/discharge 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: fainting, painful urination. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: tingling or numbness of the hands and feet, seizures, signs of another infection (e.g., fever, persistent sore throat), mental/mood changes (e.g., depression). Use of this medication for prolonged or repeated periods may result in a new vaginal yeast infection (vaginal fungal infection). Contact your doctor if you notice 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 using metronidazole, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other nitroimidazole antibiotics (e.g., tinidazole); or to certain preservatives (parabens); or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: seizures, liver disease, certain blood disorders (blood dyscrasias), nervous system disease. This drug may make you dizzy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Avoid alcoholic beverages. This medication should be used only if clearly needed during pregnancy. Oral antibiotics have been used to treat vaginal infections during pregnancy, especially high-risk pregnancies (e.g., risk of early childbirth). Consult your doctor for more details and to discuss the risks and benefits. This drug passes into breast milk. Breast-feeding while using this medication is not recommended. Consult with 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: disulfiram. The manufacturer recommends that if you have been taking disulfiram, you should wait two weeks before starting metronidazole. Check with your doctor to see if waiting two weeks is okay for you. 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). Check the labels on all your liquid medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products, diet aids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs known as NSAIDs for pain/fever reduction) because they may contain alcohol (see also the How to Use section). Ask your pharmacist about the safe use of these products. This product can affect the results of certain lab tests. Make sure laboratory personnel and your doctors know you use this drug.

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others. This medication has been prescribed for your current condition only. Do not use it later for another condition unless told to do so by your doctor. A different medication may be necessary in those cases.

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.

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STORAGE:

Store at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) away from heat and light. Protect from freezing. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.