

# Furosemide

## Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is known as a diuretic (like a "water pill"). It helps your body get rid of extra water by increasing the amount of urine you make. Getting rid of extra water decreases the strain on your heart and blood vessels, thereby lowering high blood pressure and reducing your risk of strokes, heart attacks, and kidney problems. This effect can also improve symptoms such as trouble breathing and swelling (edema). This injectable form of furosemide is used when the drug cannot be taken by mouth, especially in patients with severe medical conditions.

## How should this medicine be used?

This medication is injected into a muscle or slowly into a vein.

The dosage is based on your age, medical condition, and response to therapy. In children, doses greater than 6 milligrams per kilogram of body weight are not recommended. Before using this medication, check it visually for particles or discoloration. If either is present, do not use the liquid.

## Other uses for this medicine

This medication can also be used to decrease calcium in the blood (hypercalcemia).

## What special precautions should I follow?

Before taking furosemide, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: kidney disease, liver disease, gout, lupus, untreated mineral balance (e.g., sodium, potassium). If you have diabetes, furosemide may make it harder to control your blood sugar levels.

This drug may reduce the potassium levels in your blood. A potassium supplement may be prescribed by your doctor. This medication may make you more sensitive to the sun. Avoid prolonged sun exposure, tanning booths, and sunlamps. Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this medication.

This drug may make you dizzy, drowsy, or cause blurred vision; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages. Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to its effects, especially dizziness.

Furosemide should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. This drug passes into breast milk.

### **What side effects can this medication cause?**

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using furosemide and call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- dry mouth, thirst, nausea, vomiting;
- feeling weak, drowsy, restless, or light-headed;
- fast or uneven heartbeat;
- muscle pain or weakness;
- urinating less than usual or not at all;
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- a red, blistering, peeling skin rash;
- hearing loss; or
- nausea, stomach pain, low fever, loss of appetite, dark urine, clay-colored stools, jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes).

Less serious side effects may include:

- diarrhea, constipation, or stomach pain;
- headache;
- numbness, burning, pain, or tingly feeling;
- dizziness; or
- blurred vision.

### **What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?**

Store at room temperature between 15-30 degrees C away from light and moisture. Do not freeze

### **In case of emergency/overdose**

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately

### **What other information should I know?**

Do not use this medication if you are unable to urinate.

To be sure this medication is not causing harmful effects, your blood will need to be tested on a regular basis. Your kidney or liver function may also need to be tested. Do not

miss any scheduled appointments. If you are being treated for high blood pressure, keep using this medication even if you feel fine. High blood pressure often has no symptoms.



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