



CHLORPROMAZINE (tablet)

klor-pro-ma-zeen

What does it do?

Chlorpromazine is used to treat some mental health problems such as schizophrenia. It is also used for hiccups, nausea and vomiting, and sometimes other conditions.

How should you take it?

Take *chlorpromazine* as directed with a glass of water. Do not break or crush the tablets.

What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as normal. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *chlorpromazine* including:

- some antihistamines (may be in anti-allergy, anti-nausea and cough/cold medicines)
- anti-nausea medicines (e.g. prochlorperazine, hyoscine (e.g. Scopoderm TTS®), meclozine (e.g. Sea-legs®))
- antacids (e.g. Mylanta®) - do not take these within two hours of taking *chlorpromazine*.

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. St John's wort, valerian) or recreational drugs (e.g. cannabis).

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Fever, stiffness, sweating, confusion Feeling restless, strange or uncontrolled movements, tremor Fast or irregular heartbeat, fainting Symptoms of a blood clot including: sudden shortness of breath, swelling or pain in one leg Seizures Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain Prolonged erection (longer than four hours)	Tell your doctor immediately
Drowsiness, dizziness Weight gain Dry mouth, blurred vision, constipation, trouble peeing Stomach upset Changes in periods Sore or enlarged breasts, breastmilk production Less interest in sex, impotence Change in skin colour (blue, grey, purple)	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Tell your doctor if you have heart, liver, bowel, bladder, prostate or eye (e.g. glaucoma) problems.
- Tell your doctor if you have diabetes, Parkinson's disease, have ever had a seizure, blood clot, stroke or 'mini-stroke', or if you have experienced strange body movements with another medicine.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- Your doctor may do a heart test (ECG) before you start and while you are taking *chlorpromazine*.
- *Chlorpromazine* may make you dizzy or sleepy and make it dangerous to drive, operate machinery or do other activities that require you to be alert. Limit alcohol intake because it can increase these effects.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *chlorpromazine*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- Smoking can change the effect of *chlorpromazine*. Tell your doctor if you give up, cut down or start smoking.
- *Chlorpromazine* reduces your body's ability to maintain a normal temperature. Be careful of becoming too cold or too hot. When exercising, drink plenty of water.
- You have an increased risk of getting diabetes while taking *chlorpromazine*. Discuss with your doctor.
- Do not stop taking *chlorpromazine* without talking to your doctor first.