# AMANTADINE

*a-man-ta-deen*

## What does it do?

*Amantadine* is used to treat Parkinson's disease and sometimes other conditions.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have heart, blood pressure, kidney, stomach, bowel or mental health problems (such as depression).
- Tell your doctor if you have trouble peeing, glaucoma, tardive dyskinesia, eczema, or have ever had a seizure.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *amantadine* regularly as directed with a glass of water.

## What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

## Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

## What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---|
| Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections in your body - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell<br>Seizures | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Agitation, anxiety, confusion, hallucinations<br>Unusual urges (e.g. gambling, eating, spending, sex)<br>Low mood<br>Unsteadiness, strange or uncontrolled movements<br>Swollen feet or legs, short of breath | Tell your doctor |
| Drowsiness, dizziness, trouble sleeping<br>Constipation, loss of appetite<br>Dry mouth<br>Net-like red, blue or purple skin patches | Tell your doctor if troublesome |
| Lightheaded or dizzy after standing up | Stand up slowly. If it continues, or is severe, tell your doctor |
| Nausea | Take with food and tell your doctor if symptoms continue |

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

## Other information:

- *Amantadine* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)
- Do not stop taking *amantadine* suddenly without talking to your doctor first. Your doctor may reduce the dose gradually.