# ENTACAPONE

*en-ta-ka-pone*

## What does it do?

*Entacapone* is used to treat Parkinson's disease. It is used with another medicine called levodopa. *Entacapone* helps more levodopa get into your brain.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have mental health problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *entacapone* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.

Do not stop taking *entacapone* suddenly without talking to your doctor first.

## 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?

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

- iron supplements (e.g. Ferro-Tab®)

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 |
|---|---|
| Squirming or wriggling movement (such as head wobble)<br>Seeing, hearing or feeling things that aren't really there<br>Persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain<br>Suddenly falling asleep | Tell your doctor |
| Drowsiness<br>Diarrhoea, dry mouth or throat | Tell your doctor if troublesome |
| Lightheaded or dizzy after standing up | Stand up slowly. If it continues, or is severe, tell your doctor |
| Change in urine colour (red/brown) | This is harmless |
| Nausea, vomiting | Can happen when you first start but should improve. Try taking with a snack such as a cracker or a biscuit. Tell your doctor if doesn't improve. |

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

## Other information:

- *Entacapone* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. See Are you safe to drive?