

TOLCAPONE

tol-kah-pone

What does it do?

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

Before you start

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

How should you take it?

Take *tolcapone* 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 |
|---|--|
| Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Hallucinations, confusion Strange or uncontrolled movements Falling asleep without warning | Tell your doctor |
| Drowsiness, dizziness, headache, trouble sleeping, strange dreams Diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, dry mouth or throat Sweating | 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 (orange) | Harmless unless associated with other symptoms |

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

Other information:

- *Tolcapone* 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?)
- You will need regular blood tests while taking *tolcapone* to check if it is causing problems with your liver.
- Do not stop taking *tolcapone* without talking to your doctor first.