

Furosemide (frusemide)

(Frusemix-M[®], Frusemix[®], Uremide[®], Urex Forte[®], Lasix[®])

What is furosemide?

Furosemide is a diuretic (fluid medication) that works by increasing the volume of urine. It is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What is it for?

Furosemide is used to help relieve fluid retention (oedema), to lower blood pressure and in the management of kidney failure. It works by making your child go to the toilet more often and pass more urine.

How to give this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and not given to other people. It should be taken even if your child feels fine, as the fluid retention or high blood pressure may still require treatment.

Furosemide is usually given once or twice a day. Once daily doses are best given in the morning, if a second dose is required, it should be given approximately 4 to 6 hours before bedtime (unless instructed differently by your doctor). This allows the medication to work during waking hours and avoids your child having to go to the toilet too often at night. If your child is in nappies, daytime dosing may reduce how often you must change the nappy throughout the night.

Furosemide is best given on an empty stomach, before food. Tablets may be crushed whereas the solution should be measured accurately using a dropper or syringe.

What to do if a dose is missed

If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, give the medication as soon as you remember and then go back to giving the medication as usual. Do not try to make up for missed dose(s) by giving more than one dose at a time. This can increase the risk of unwanted side effects.

Storing the medication

Store below **30°C**. Protect from light.

It is important to keep furosemide locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make it less effective.



The solution should be stored at room temperature in its original bottle and box. Any solution remaining 8 weeks (56 days) after opening the bottle should be discarded.

Use of other medication

Furosemide can interact with several other medications, so it is important to advise your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medication. This includes medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Important information

- Furosemide may affect your child's blood electrolyte (salt) levels. Regular blood tests may be required to check if your child requires supplementation.
- Dizziness or fainting may occur, especially when your child gets up from a sitting or lying position, or if the dose is increased. Care must be taken with activities like riding bikes or climbing trees, until you know how this medicine will affect your child.

Possible side effects

Side effects are uncommon in most patients and usually depend on the dose given. Some side effects do occur; many of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your child's doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- fatigue, dizziness or weakness
- diarrhoea
- nausea, poor appetite, or upset stomach
- headache.

Contact your child's doctor **as soon as possible** if any of the following side effects occur:

- dehydration, excessive thirst, with hot dry skin
- exhaustion
- very frequent urination or constipation
- irregular heartbeat
- yellowing of the whites of the eyes and/or skin
- wheezing or trouble breathing
- deafness or ringing in the ears
- unexplained fever or sore throat
- abnormal bleeding or bruising
- persistent infection
- severe rash with blistering of the skin.

If you are worried about any of these side effects or any other effects, please contact your child's doctor.

Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- Tablets in 20mg, 40mg and 500mg
- Solution in 10mg/mL (in 30mL bottle)

Your hospital pharmacy will advise you if they manufacture any additional dosage forms to the above.

If you have any concerns contact your child's doctor, or the PCH Pharmacy Department.
Dispensary: 6456 0190 – select option 2

Paediatric Medicines Information Service: 6456 0190 – select option 1

In case of overdose or poisoning contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26.



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