

Solifenacin (Vesicare®)

What is solifenacin?

Solifenacin is from a group of medications called anticholinergics which are also known as antispasmodics. It is available only on prescription.

What is it for?

Solifenacin is used to treat symptoms of an overactive bladder (e.g. urinary frequency, urgency or incontinence) by reducing spasm and relaxing the smooth muscle of the bladder wall. In this way it helps to control the release of urine.

How to take this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people. The dose is usually given once a day. It does not matter whether solifenacin is given with food or on an empty stomach. Tablets may be crushed if necessary before swallowing with water or mixing with something tasty (e.g. honey, yoghurt).

What to do if a dose is missed

Do not try to make up for a missed dose by giving more than one dose at a time, as this can increase the risk of unwanted side effects. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and give the next dose at the usual time.

Storing the medication

It is important to keep solifenacin in a secure cupboard out of reach of children. Do not keep the medicine in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in any other damp, warm places, because this may make the medication less effective. Keep the tablets in the blister until it is time to give them.

Use of other medication

Solifenacin can interact with a number of other medications so it is important to advise your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medication including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop, including:

- Medications which also have anticholinergic activity, such as tricyclic antidepressants (for example amitriptyline), phenothiazines (for example prochlorperazine), some antihistamines (for example Polaramine® and Phenergan®) or some drugs used to treat abdominal cramps (for example Buscopan®).



- Antibiotics and some antifungal and antiviral medications.
- Drugs which induce gastrointestinal motility such as domperidone and metoclopramide.
- Certain medications used to treat irregular heartbeats.

Important information

Solifenacin helps to control the symptoms of overactive bladder but does not provide a cure. Do not stop giving solifenacin without first checking with your doctor.

Possible side effects

Side effects can occur while taking solifenacin. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been modified. Less serious side effects include heartburn, constipation, stomach pain or diarrhoea, dry eyes, nausea, swollen ankles, urinary tract infections, drowsiness or blurred vision, dryness of mouth, throat and nose.

For temporary relief chew sugarless gum or sweets, suck small bits of ice, give frequent sips of water or use a saliva substitute. If your child's mouth continues to feel dry for more than two weeks, contact your doctor or dentist. Continuing dryness in the mouth can increase the chance of dental disease including dental decay, gum disease and fungal infections.

Decreased sweating can make your child feel hotter. This may cause your child to get red in the face or feel like they have a fever. Be careful in hot weather or when your child is playing or exercising.

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

- chest pain or tightness
- swelling of the feet or legs.

Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- tablets in 5mg and 10mg.

The PCH Pharmacy Department will advise you if any additional dosage forms are available. If you have any concerns, contact your child's doctor or the PCH Pharmacy Department:

Dispensary: 6456 0190

Paediatric Medicines Information Service : 6456 0190 – select option 1

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

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.

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