

Tamsulosin (Flomaxtra[®], Sandoz Tamsulosin[®])

What is tamsulosin?

Tamsulosin belongs to a group of medications called alpha-blockers and is available on a doctor's prescription only.

What is it for?

Tamsulosin is used to treat symptoms of an overactive bladder (e.g. urinary frequency, urgency or incontinence). It increases maximum urinary flow rate by reducing smooth muscle tension in the prostate and urethra and thereby relieving obstruction. These effects on urinary storage and voiding symptoms are maintained during long-term therapy.

How to take this medication

It is important that this medication is taken only as directed and is not given to other people.

If your child has been prescribed a 400 microgram dose, the tablet must be swallowed whole and not broken, crushed or chewed as this interferes with the prolonged release properties of the tablet.

If your child has been prescribed a 100 microgram dose, the 400microgram tablet is quartered and the dose taken with a glass of water twice daily. Keep the remainder of the tablet in the blister for subsequent doses.

It does not matter whether tamsulosin is given with food or on an empty stomach.

What to do if a dose is missed

If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose missed 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 medicine 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 25°C.

It is important to keep tamsulosin locked away out of the 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 tablets in the blister until it is time to give them.



Use of other medication

Tamsulosin 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. These include:

- medications which also have alpha-blocking activity, such as prazosin
- some antifungal medications, antiviral medications and antibiotics
- cimetidine
- warfarin.

Important information

Do not stop giving tamsulosin without first checking with the doctor.

Tamsulosin helps to control the symptoms of overactive bladder but does not provide a cure.

Possible side-effects

Side effects can occur whilst taking tamsulosin. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been modified. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- backache
- dizziness or feeling faint
- headache
- drowsiness or insomnia
- runny or stuffy nose
- cough
- nausea and/or vomiting
- constipation.

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

- Priapism (persistent painful penile erection unrelated to sexual activity). Priapism is extremely rare but should be referred to your doctor as it can lead to permanent erectile dysfunction if not attended to.
- Heart palpitations.
- Weakness.
- Change in vision.
- Breathing problems.
- Mood changes and/or depression.
- Signs of allergy such as skin rash, swelling of lips, face, throat or other parts of the body, chest tightness, wheezy breathing.

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

Commercially available dosage forms and strengths

- Slow release tablets in 400 micrograms.

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

Tamsulosin 100 microgram tablets are not licensed for use in Australia and are only available via the Special Access Scheme (SAS).

If you have any concerns, contact your child's doctor or 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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