

Diuresal®

Composition

Each tablet contains:

40 mg furosemide BP, excipients q.s.

Each 2 ml ampoule contains:

20 mg furosemide BP, water for injection q.s. ad 2 ml.

Principe

Diuresal (furosemide) is a diuretic which exerts an inhibitive effect on the reabsorption of sodium ions in the proximal and distal renal tubules and in the ascending loop of Henle.

The efficacy of the drug is strictly correlated to the amount of the dose administered and this allows an individual diuretic therapy to be established. With Diuresal, except in very few cases, an increase in urinary elimination can be obtained in patients in whom previous diuretic treatments have proved ineffective. The diuretic effect of Diuresal appears about 1/2-1 hour after oral administration and reaches its maximum in 1-2 hours terminating after 4-6 hours. With intravenous administration the effect starts after 1-10 minutes.

A large number of reports have been published on the efficacy of furosemide in the treatment of various oedematous conditions such as oedema caused by chronic cardiac insufficiency, oedema following cirrhosis of the liver or nephrotic syndrome.

Contrary to the thiazides, Diuresal can exert its effect even in conditions where glomerular filtration is particularly reduced, that is, in some cases of renal insufficiency.

Like other diuretics, Diuresal has an antihypertensive effect. In mild cases of hypertension Diuresal may be used alone to reduce the hypertensive condition.

Indications

A. Oedema: Cardiac oedema, pulmonary oedema, renal oedema, cirrhotic oedema, oedema in advanced pregnancy (after the 4th month), hormonal oedema whether premenstrual or due to oral contraceptives, eclampsia.

B. Hypertension: In mild or moderate hypertension and also in cases of severe hypertension but associated with a specific antihypertensive treatment.

Dosage

Oral administration

The initial dose is 1/2-1 tablet daily. This dose may be gradually increased at intervals of 6-8 hours until the desired effect is obtained. Once the optimal dose is found it can be divided into two, for instance morning and mid-day, administrations. The optimal dose is usually between 1/2 and 6 tablets.

Parenteral administration

The initial dose is 2-4 ml by intravenous or intramuscular injection. When injected intravenously proceed very slowly (max. 4 mg/minute). Diuresal must not be mixed with other drugs in the same syringe or bag.

In pulmonary oedema, 4 ml are given intravenously and if necessary, the injection may be repeated after about 20 minutes. Parenteral administration is indicated in cases of decreased intestinal absorption or when a rapid elimination of oedematous fluid is required. Diuresal may also be administered by slow infusion but, in this case, must not be associated with other drugs nor with acid substances but with neutral or slightly alkaline solution.

Side effects

At the recommended doses, side effects, whether of general intolerance or of an allergic nature, are extremely rare. Slight nausea and dryness of the mouth may be observed. Renal loss of potassium owing to prolonged treatment with large doses may sometimes cause hypokalaemia and consequently a loss of liquid with at times an upset of the electrolytic balance. In this case the liquid and electrolytic balance must be restored. It is possible for Diuresal to precipitate gout in susceptible persons and diabetes mellitus may worsen during treatment with the drug.

Precautions

In pregnancy, Diuresal should be used with strict caution and only if strictly necessary. It should be noted that the drug is transmitted to the mother's milk.

Caution should also be used in cases of miction disturbance, urethrostenosis or hypertrophy of the prostate; these conditions may worsen during treatment.

In case of an overdose, there is danger of a hypotonia. Large doses of the drug administered parenterally too quickly to patients with severe renal insufficiency may cause reversible hearing loss.

Contra-indications

Renal insufficiency secondary to intoxications by nephrotoxic or hepatotoxic substances; renal insufficiency associated with hepatic coma. All severe cases of hypokalaemia.

Packings

Securitainer of 24, 100, 1000 tablets to 40 mg.

Blister of 24 tablets to 40 mg.

2 ml ampoules (10 mg/ml), boxes of 10 and 100 ampoules.

