

Consumer Medicine Information

Pantoprazole (as sodium sesquihydrate) delayed release 20mg and 40mg tablets

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about PANTHRON™. It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking PANTHRON™ against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

Use PANTHRON™ as directed and follow the advice given in this leaflet.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What is PANTHRON™ used for

The name of your medicine is PANTHRON™. It contains the active ingredient called pantoprazole.

Ulcers

PANTHRON™ is used to treat and help heal duodenal and gastric ulcers. Depending on the position of the ulcer it is called a gastric or duodenal ulcer. A gastric ulcer occurs in the stomach. A duodenal ulcer occurs in the duodenum which is the tube leading out of the stomach.

PANTHRON™ may also be used to prevent ulcers associated with the use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These are medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation, including arthritis (inflammation of the joints).

Reflux disease

PANTHRON™ is also used to treat reflux oesophagitis or reflux disease. This can be caused by "washing back" (reflux) of food and acid from the stomach into the food pipe, also known as the oesophagus. Reflux can cause a burning sensation in the chest rising up to the throat, also known as heartburn.

PANTHRON™ is also used to prevent reflux oesophagitis from coming back.

Zollinger-Ellison syndrome

PANTHRON™ is used to treat a rare condition called Zollinger-Ellison syndrome, where the stomach produces very large amounts of acid, much more than in ulcers and reflux disease.

Other uses

Your doctor may have prescribed PANTHRON™ for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why PANTHRON™ has been prescribed for you.

How PANTHRON™ works

PANTHRON™ belongs to a group of medicines called proton pump inhibitors

(PPIs). PANTHRON™ works by decreasing the amount of acid the stomach makes to give relief from the symptoms and allow healing to take place.

There is no evidence that PANTHRON™ is addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you start to take PANTHRON™**When you must not take it**

Do not take PANTHRON™ if:

1. you have an allergy to:

- pantoprazole
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some symptoms of an allergic reaction include skin rash, itching, shortness of breath or swelling of the face, lips or tongue, which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing.

2. you have severe liver disease or cirrhosis

Do not take PANTHRON™ in combination with antibiotics or any other medicine if:

- you are allergic to any of the antibiotics or medicines your doctor may prescribe with PANTHRON™
- you have moderate to severe liver or kidney disease.

Do not take PANTHRON™ in combination with atazanavir (an antiviral medication).

PANTHRON™ should not be given to children. Safety and effectiveness of PANTHRON™ in children have not been established.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking PANTHRON™ alone, or PANTHRON™ in combination with antibiotics, talk to your doctor.

Do not take PANTHRON™ if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not take PANTHRON™ after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

Before you start to take it

You must tell your doctor if:

1. you have any allergies to:

- pantoprazole
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other medicines, or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

2. you are pregnant, intend to become pregnant, are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking PANTHRON™ during pregnancy or while breastfeeding.

3. you have or have had any other medical conditions.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you take PANTHRON™.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may be affected by PANTHRON™, or may affect how well it works. These may include medicines used to prevent blood clots (anticoagulants) and medicines whose activity depend on the acidity of the stomach e.g. ketoconazole.

You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

How to take PANTHRON™**How much to take**

The usual dose is one tablet per day.

However, if your doctor also prescribes antibiotics in combination with PANTHRON™ for the treatment of duodenal ulcers, the dose of PANTHRON™ is two 40mg tablets per day. The first tablet should be taken in the morning and the second tablet should be taken before the evening meal for 7 days. Your doctor will prescribe the dose that is right for you. The dose and frequency of PANTHRON™ that your doctor prescribes for you depends on your medical condition. Your doctor may change the dose as your condition changes.

How and when to take it

Swallow your tablets whole with a little water with or without food.

If you are taking other medicines, like antibiotics, in combination with PANTHRON™ therapy, follow the instructions for the use of each medicine carefully.

Do not crush or chew the tablets. PANTHRON™ tablets have a special coating to protect them from the acidic contents of your stomach. For PANTHRON™ to work effectively, this coating must not be broken.

How long to take it

Your doctor will tell you how long to take your tablets.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed. This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect. If you have trouble