1. WHAT NITROFURANTOIN CAPSULES ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE USED FOR

Nitrofurantoin (the active substance in Nitrofurantoin Capsules) is an antibiotic. It is used to prevent and treat infections of the bladder, kidney and other parts of the urinary tract.

2. BEFORE YOU TAKE NITROFURANTOIN CAPSULES

DO NOT TAKE Nitrofurantoin Capsules and talk to your doctor if:

- you are allergic (causing itching, redness of the skin or difficulty in breathing) to nitrofurantoin or any of the ingredients of Nitrofurantoin Capsules (listed in Section 6 at the end of the leaflet) or other medicines containing nitrofurantoin;
- you have a disease of the kidney(s) which is severely affecting the way they work (ask your doctor if you are not sure);
- you are in the final stages of pregnancy (labour or delivery) as there is a risk that it might affect the baby;
- you suffer from a blood disorder called porphyria;
- you are deficient in an enzyme called G6PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase);
- in infants under three months of age;
- you are breast feeding a baby with suspected or known deficiency in an enzyme called G6PD (glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase).

Tell your doctor if you are not sure about any of the above.

TAKE SPECIAL CARE with Nitrofurantoin Capsules and speak to your doctor or pharmacist before taking the capsules if:

- you have diabetes;
- you are suffering from any illness causing severe weakness;
- you have anaemia (a decrease in red blood cells causing pale skin, weakness and breathlessness); or a lack of vitamin B or abnormal levels of salts in your blood (your doctor will be able to advise you);
- you have a history of allergic reactions.

The above conditions may increase the chance of developing a side effect which results in damage to the nerves, causes altered sense of feeling, pins and needles.

- you lack an enzyme (body chemical) called glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase, which causes your red blood cells to be more easily affected by some medicines. This is more common in black people and people of Mediterranean, Eastern or Asian origin. Your doctor will tell you.
- you have any disease of the lungs, liver or nervous system. If you need to take Nitrofurantoin Capsules for a number of months, your doctor may want to regularly check how your lungs and liver are working.

Taking other medicines:

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. If they are taken with Nitrofurantoin Capsules their effect or the effect of Nitrofurantoin Capsules may be changed.

- Antacids for indigestion (e.g. magnesium carbonate).
- Medicines for gout (e.g. allopurinol).
- Medicines which slow the passage of food through the stomach (e.g. atropine, hyoscine).
- Medicines for raised pressure in the eye (glaucoma), such as carbonic anhydrase inhibitors (e.g. acetazolamide).
- Medicines which make the urine less acidic (e.g. potassium citrate mixture).
- Medicines for infections, known as quinolones.
- Oral contraceptives “the pill”. You will need to use extra contraceptive precautions such as using a condom, as antibiotics can make the contraceptives pill less effective.
- Typhoid vaccine, which is given for the prevention of typhoid.

If you are in doubt about any of these medicines ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Nitrofurantoin Capsules may interfere with the results of some tests for drug levels in the urine.

3. HOW TO TAKE NITROFURANTOIN CAPSULES

Nitrofurantoin Capsules should be taken at meal times with food or milk. This will help to avoid stomach upset and also to help the absorption.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

The normal dose depends on the type of infection you have and instructions should be written on the label provided by the pharmacist. Consult your pharmacist or doctor if these instructions are not clear. The usual doses are:

- For treatment of infections: Either one 50mg capsule or one 100mg capsule four times a day for seven days.
- For prevention of infections during surgery: One 50mg capsule four times a day on the day of operation and three days thereafter.

- For prevention of further infections: Either one 50mg capsule or one 100mg capsule at bedtime.
- For prevention of infections during surgery: One 50mg capsule four times a day on the day of the operation and three days thereafter.

5. HOW TO STORE NITROFURANTOIN CAPSULES

Your doctor will watch carefully for any effects on the bone, lung, blood or nervous system. Nitrofurantoin Capsules may interfere with the results of some tests for glucose in the urine.

If you TAKE MORE Nitrofurantoin Capsules than you should:

Consult your doctor or pharmacist immediately or go to the emergency department of the nearest hospital. Always take any left over capsules with your, as well as the container and label, so that the medical staff knows what you have taken.

If you FORGET TO TAKE NITROFURANTOIN Capsules:

Do not worry. If you remember later on that day, take that day’s dose as usual. If you miss a whole day’s dose take the normal dose on the next day. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten capsule. If you are not sure ask your doctor or pharmacist.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

If any of the side effects become severe, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Remember:

This medicine is only for you. Only a doctor can prescribe it for you. Never give this medicine to someone else. It could harm them, even if they symptoms seem the same as yours.

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not store above 30°C. Store in the original package to protect from light and moisture. Do not use Nitrofurantoin Capsules after the expiry date which is stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

What Nitrofurantoin Capsules contain:

The active substance is Nitrofurantoin. Nitrofurantoin Capsules are available in two strengths, containing either 50mg or 100mg nitrofurantoin. The capsules contain lactose and sucrose (sugar), gelatin, sodium lauryl sulphate, quinoline yellow (E104) and titanium dioxide (E171). The printing ink contains shellac and black iron oxide (E172).

What Nitrofurantoin Capsules looks like and contents of the pack:

Appearance: The 50mg capsule is a No. 3 size hard gelatin capsule with an opaque yellow cap and white opaque body. The capsules are printed in edible black ink and bears the monogram ‘Eaton 009’.

The 100mg capsule is a No. 2 size hard gelatin capsule with an opaque yellow cap and yellow opaque body. The capsules are printed in edible black ink and bears the monogram ‘Eaton 099’.

Packaging: The capsules are available in blister packs of 30.

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