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What Lasix is used for

Lasix 40 mg tablets are used for:

- fluid retention (*oedema*) due to diseases of the heart or the liver,
- fluid retention (*oedema*) due to kidney problems,
- fluid retention (*oedema*) due to burns,
- high blood pressure (*hypertension*).

How Lasix works

Lasix contains furosemide, which belongs to a family of drugs called diuretics. A diuretic helps reduce the amount of excess fluid in the body by increasing urine excretion. Lasix may also be used to lower high blood pressure.

Before you use Lasix

When you must not use it

Do not take Lasix if you have:

- kidney damage which has stopped them functioning and producing urine
- liver failure with impaired consciousness (coma and hepatic precoma)
- low sodium levels in your blood
- low potassium levels in your blood
- dehydration
- allergies to: this medicine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet, medicines called sulfonamides (eg. some types of antibiotics which are also referred to as 'sulfur antibiotics') or sulfonylureas (medicines which can be used to treat diabetes)

- 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.

Do not take Lasix if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.

- Lasix passes into breast milk and there is possibility your baby may be affected.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to:

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

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Like most medicines of this kind, Lasix is not recommended to be used during pregnancy. If there is a need to consider Lasix during your pregnancy, your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking it if you are pregnant.

Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.

Lasix passes into breast milk and there is a possibility your baby may be affected. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking it if you are breast-feeding or planning to breast-feed.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:

- low blood pressure (hypotension)
- liver problems
- kidney problems
- heart problems
- diabetes: manifest & latent (not presently active)
- gout (disease with painful, swollen joints)
- passing less urine than is normal
- difficulty passing urine
- no production or passing of urine
- prostate problems

Tell your doctor if you are on a salt restricted diet.

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

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines should not be taken with Lasix. This includes large amounts of laxatives.

Some medicines may interfere with Lasix. These include:

- certain other fluid tablets or diuretic medicines
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure and some other heart conditions, especially ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II receptor antagonists
- cardiac drugs (glycosides) e.g. digoxin
- drugs that can cause a specific ECG changes e.g. terfenadine, antiarrhythmics of classes I and III
- non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and aspirin, medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation, including arthritis
- probenecid (gout), methotrexate (rheumatoid means for suppressing the immune system) and other drugs such as furosemide, which are secreted in the kidney
- high doses of salicylates (analgesics)
- medicines used to relax muscles before or during surgery
- lithium, a medicine used to treat mood swings and some types of depression
- medicines used in emergency situations such as adrenaline and noradrenaline
- cisplatin, a medicine used to treat cancer
- theophylline, a medicine used to treat asthma
- certain antibiotics, especially aminoglycosides, cephalosporins, polymyxins

- insulin and tablets used to treat diabetes
- sucralfate, a medicine used to treat stomach ulcers
- anticonvulsant medicines such as chloral hydrate or phenytoin
- corticosteroids such as cortisone, prednisone or dexamethasone
- risperidone, follow prescriber's advice
- cyclosporine, a medicine used mainly to prevent the rejection of transplanted organs
- medicines used during scans to see the images of your body
- Simultaneous use of thyroid hormones (e.g. L-thyroxine) and high doses of furosemide
- Tell your doctor if you are taking aliskiren to treat high blood pressure

These medicines may be affected by Lasix, or may affect how well it works. You may need to use different amounts of your medicine, or take different medicines. Your doctor or pharmacist will advise you.

You should not eat large amounts of liquorice when you are taking Lasix.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or to avoid while taking Lasix.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Lasix 40 mg tablets

This medicine contains lactose. Please take Lasix 40 mg tablets only after consulting with your doctor if you are aware that you have an intolerance to some sugars.

How to use Lasix

Always take Lasix exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Take Lasix tablets with a glass of water

How much to use

Follow the directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.

These directions may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you take the wrong dose, Lasix may not work as well and your problem may not improve.

When to use it

Lasix tablets are usually taken once a day as maintenance dose.

If your doctor prescribes Lasix tablets to be taken once a day, it is best done in the morning, for example, before breakfast.

Take Lasix tablets on an empty stomach. For example, one hour before food or two hours after food. Food can interfere with their absorption.

Take Lasix tablets at about the same time each day unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Taking your medicine at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take the medicine.

If you are taking Lasix tablets more than once a day, take your first dose immediately before breakfast and take your last dose around 2:00 pm (on an empty stomach), unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

Lasix may increase the amount of urine you pass, it will also increase the number of times you need to go to the toilet. By taking your last dose around 2:00 pm, there may be less chance that your sleep is disturbed.

If you are not sure when to consume it, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

How long to use it

Oedema:

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

The medicine helps control your condition and lowers the fluid build-up in your body.

Hypertension:

Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.

The medicine helps control your blood pressure, but it does not cure it.

If you forget to use it

Do not try to make up for missed doses by taking more than one dose at a time.

This may increase the chance of getting an unwanted side effect.

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take the next dose when you are meant to.

If there is still a long time to go before your next dose, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

If you use too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Lasix. You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much Lasix, you may feel confused, dehydrated, dizzy or you may pass excessive urine.

While you are using it

Things you must do

Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Lasix.

If you plan to have a surgery that needs a general anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this medicine.

Your blood pressure may drop suddenly.

If you become pregnant while you are taking this medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately.

Tell your doctor if you have excessive vomiting or diarrhoea while taking Lasix or if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- dry mouth or thirst
- fainting
- weakness, tiredness or drowsiness
- muscle pain or cramps
- fast heart beat
- passing less urine than normal

If you experience these symptoms, you may be dehydrated because you are losing too much water.

Make sure you drink enough water during any exercise and during hot weather when you are taking Lasix, especially if you sweat a lot.

If you do not drink enough water while taking Lasix, you may feel faint or light-headed or sick. This is because your blood pressure is dropping suddenly and you are dehydrating. If you continue to feel unwell, tell your doctor.

If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking Lasix.

There may be some interference with the results of these tests.

If you are taking Lasix to treat high blood pressure, make sure you have your blood pressure checked as directed by your doctors to make sure Lasix is working properly.

Things you must not do

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop taking Lasix, or change the dosage, without checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

If you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint, get up slowly when getting out of bed or standing up.

Diuretic medicines may cause dizziness or light-headedness in some people. Make sure you know how you react to your medicine before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or light-headed.

If this occurs do not drive.

If you drink alcohol or take strong painkillers, dizziness or light-headedness may be worse.

The effects of alcohol could be made worse while taking Lasix. It is not

recommended that you drink alcohol while taking Lasix.

If you are taking Lasix for a long period of time, you should check with your doctor to determine whether or not you should eat more potassium-containing foods or take potassium supplements. However, increasing the amount of potassium in your diet may not be necessary and could be harmful. Check with your doctor.

Lasix may cause your skin to become more sensitive to the sun. If this happens you should take care to wear protective clothing including a hat and sun block when you are outside.

Side Effect

All medicines have some unwanted side effects. Sometimes they are serious, but most of the time they are not. Your doctor has weighed the risks of using this medicine against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Lasix.

Lasix helps most people with high blood pressure or fluid retention, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- very dry mouth or unusual thirst
- weight loss
- weakness or tiredness
- numbness or tingling in the hands and/or feet
- calf muscle spasms
- muscle pains or cramps
- restlessness
- drowsiness or a lack of energy
- dizziness or light-headedness
- headache
- fever
- vomiting or nausea
- diarrhoea
- blurred or impaired vision

- unusual bleeding or bruising under the skin
- ringing or buzzing in the ears
- confusion

These are more common side effects of Lasix. Mostly they are mild or short-lived.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- irregular or fast heart beat
- passing less urine than is normal for you
- severe stomach pain, often with nausea or vomiting
- severe dizziness or a spinning sensation
- increased sensitivity to sunlight
- flaking or peeling of the skin
- symptoms of anaemia such as tiredness, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale
- frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal, nose bleeds
- loss of control of your bladder or bowels (incontinence)
- gout, a disease with painful, swollen joints
- deafness or ringing in the ears

These may be serious side effects of Lasix. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are uncommon.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:

- sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives (pinkish, itchy raised areas) on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing
- chest pain
- fainting or having a rapid, weak pulse
- red, often itchy spots similar to the rash seen with measles which starts on the limbs and sometimes on the face and body. The spots may blister and may progress to form raised red, pale-centred marks.

Those affected may have fever, sore throat, headache with or without diarrhoea

- yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice)
- serious muscle problems (rhabdomyolysis)

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some people.

You may report any side effects or adverse drug reactions directly to the National Centre for Adverse Drug Reaction Monitoring by calling Tel: 03- 78835490, or visiting the website npra.moh.gov.my
[Consumers→Reporting Side Effects to Medicines (ConSERF) or Vaccines (AEFI]

Storage and Disposal of Lasix

If you have any queries about any aspect of your medicine, or any questions regarding the information in this leaflet, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Storage

Keep your Lasix tablets in the blister until it is time to take them.

Keep your Lasix tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store Lasix or any other medicine in the bathroom, near a sink, or on a windowsill.

Do not leave it in the car.

Heat and damp can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking Lasix or the medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.

Product Description

What it looks like

Almost white, round, scored tablets. The tablets can be divided into equal halves.

Lasix 40 mg tablets are available in blister of 100.

Ingredients:

The active ingredient is furosemide. 1 tablet contains 40 mg of furosemide. The other ingredients are: Lactose monohydrate, maize starch, pregelatinized corn starch, talc, colloidal silica, magnesium stearate (Ph.Eur.).

MAL Numbers:

Lasix 40mg Tablet:
MAL19870226AZ

Manufacturer and Product Registration Holder

Manufacturer

Sanofi S.r.l.
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Marketing Authorization Holder

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