

Package leaflet: Information for the user**ERYTHROMYCIN 250MG GASTRO-RESISTANT TABLETS
(erythromycin)****Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What Erythromycin Tablets are and what they are used for
2. What you need to know before you take Erythromycin Tablets
3. How to use Erythromycin Tablets
4. Possible side effects
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1. What Erythromycin Tablets are and what they are used for

The name of your medicine is Erythromycin 250mg gastro-resistant tablets and it contains erythromycin which belongs to a group of medicines called macrolide antibiotics.

This medicine is used to prevent and treat infections such as:

- Throat and sinus infections
- Chest infections, such as bronchitis and pneumonia
- Ear infections
- Mouth and dental infections
- Eye infections
- Skin and tissue infections, such as acne
- Stomach and intestinal infections
- Prevention of infection following burns, operations or dental procedures
- Other infections, such as sexually transmitted diseases, bone infections or scarlet fever

2. What you need to know before you take Erythromycin Tablets**Do not take this medicine if you :**

- **have ever been told you are allergic to erythromycin, or other macrolide antibiotics such as clarithromycin or azithromycin, sunset yellow FCF (E110), ponceau 4R red (E124) or any of the other ingredients (listed in section 6)**
- are currently taking a medicine called
 - ergotamine or dihydroergotamine (used to treat migraines) while taking erythromycin as this may cause serious side effects.
 - terfenadine or astemizole or mizolastine (widely taken for hayfever and allergies), domperidone (for nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick)), cisapride (for stomach disorders) or

pimozide or amisulpride (for psychiatric conditions) while receiving erythromycin, as combining these drugs can sometimes cause serious disturbances in heart rhythm. Consult your doctor for advice on alternative medicines you can take instead.

- You have abnormally low levels of potassium or magnesium in your blood (hypomagnesaemia or hypokalaemia)
- You or someone in your family has a history of heart rhythm disorders (ventricular cardiac arrhythmia or torsades de pointes) or an abnormality of the electrocardiogram (electrical recording of the heart) called “long QT syndrome”.
- simvastatin (used to lower cholesterol and triglycerides (types of fat) in the blood).
- tolterodine (used for treating overactive bladder with symptoms of urinary frequency, urgency and leakage).
- Lomitapide (used to lower increased blood fats such as cholesterol and triglycerides). Taking this medicine at the same time as erythromycin may lead to a rise in enzymes produced by liver cells (transaminases), which indicates that the liver is under stress and may lead to liver problems.

Warning and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Erythromycin tablets if you:

- are taking colchicine (used for treatment of gout and arthritis) whilst taking erythromycin as this may cause serious side effects.
- have any liver problems or have been told that any drugs you are taking can cause liver problems.
- have previously experienced diarrhoea following the use of antibiotics.
- are pregnant and have been told that you have a sexually transmitted disease called syphilis. In this case erythromycin may not be effective for preventing the transfer of this infection to your baby. Consult your doctor before receiving erythromycin. Alternatively if you were treated for early stages of syphilis during your pregnancy, and child is under 1 year and is prescribed erythromycin, consult your doctor before giving erythromycin to your child.
- are treating a young child with antibiotics and they are irritable or vomit when fed, you should contact your physician immediately.
- suffer from a condition called myasthenia gravis, which causes muscle weakness, consult your doctor before receiving erythromycin.
- are taking erythromycin with ‘statins’ such as simvastatin or lovastatin (used to lower cholesterol) as serious side effects can occur.
- You are taking other medicines which are known to cause serious disturbances in heart rhythm
- If you have heart problems

If any of these apply to you, or if you are not sure, tell your doctor.

Children

If you are treating a young child with antibiotics and they are irritable or vomit when fed, you should contact your physician immediately.

Effect on urine test

If you are having urine test, let the doctor or nurse know that you are taking erythromycin. This is because erythromycin can affect the results of these tests.

Other medicines and Erythromycin Tablets

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including any medicines obtained without a prescription.

This is especially important if you are taking medicines from the following families:

- astemizole, terfenadine or mizolastine (used to treat allergies such as hayfever)
- domperidone (for nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick))
- pimozide (used to treat mental problems)
- ergotamine or dihydroergotamine (used to relieve migraine)
- cisapride (used to treat stomach disorders)
- statins (used to help lower cholesterol levels e.g. lovastatin and simvastatin)
- protease inhibitors (used to treat viral infections e.g. saquinavir)
- oral contraceptives.
- Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine (used to treat conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, or to treat or prevent malaria). Taking these medicines at the same time as erythromycin may increase the chance of you getting side effects that affect your heart.

This is also important if you are taking medicines called:

- colchicine (used to treat gout and arthritis) whilst taking erythromycin as this may cause serious side effects
 - cimetidine and omeprazole (used to treat acid reflux and other related conditions)
 - clarithromycin, rifabutin or rifampicin (medicines used to treat different types of bacterial infection)
 - fluconazole, ketoconazole and itraconazole (medicines used to treat fungal infections)
 - digoxin, quinidine or disopyramide (used to treat heart problems)
 - cilostazol (a medicine used to treat peripheral circulation problems)
 - hexabarbital, phenobarbital or midazolam (used as sedatives)
 - Anticoagulants e.g. warfarin, acenocoumarol and rivaroxaban (used to thin the blood)
 - valproate, carbamazepine or phenytoin (used to control epilepsy)
 - theophylline (used to treat asthma and other breathing problems)
 - ciclosporin or tacrolimus (used following organ transplants)
 - bromocriptine (used to treat Parkinson’s disease)
 - zopiclone or triazolam/alprozolam (used to help you sleep or relieve states of anxiety)
 - alfentanil (a medicine used to provide pain relief)
 - methylprednisolone (used to help suppress the body’s immune system this is useful in treating a wide range of conditions)
 - St John’s Wort (a herbal medicine used to treat depression)
 - verapamil (used to treat high blood pressure and chest pain)
 - vinblastine (used to treat certain types of cancer)
 - sildenafil (used to treat erectile dysfunction)
 - Corticosteroids, given by mouth, by injection or inhaled (used to help suppress the body's immune system - this is useful in treating a wide range of conditions)
 - Hydroxychloroquine or chloroquine (used to treat conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, or to treat or prevent malaria). Taking these medicines at the same time as erythromycin may increase the chance of getting abnormal heart rhythms and other serious side effects that affect your heart. If you or your child goes for any medical tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine, as this may interfere with some test results.
- Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility**
- If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

- The active ingredient of Erythromycin Tablets may cross the placenta in pregnant women and is excreted in breast milk. Information from studies regarding the risk of birth defects is inconsistent, but some studies have reported heart defects following erythromycin use in early pregnancy.
 - Erythromycin should be used by women during pregnancy or while breast-feeding only if clearly needed.
- Erythromycin Tablets contain** Sunset yellow FCF (E110) and ponceau 4R red (E124) which may cause allergic reactions.

Information on sodium content

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet, that is to say essentially 'sodium free'.

3. How to take Erythromycin Tablets

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- The dosage and duration of treatment will depend on the type and severity of the infection.
- Swallow the tablets whole with a glass of water.

The usual dose of Erythromycin 250mg Gastro-resistant tablets for adults and children over 8 years is: 1-2g daily in divided doses i. e. four to eight 250mg tablets daily or two to four 500mg tablets daily, taken just before or with meals or food. If you have a bad infection you may be told to take up to 4g daily.

If you take more Erythromycin tablets than you should:

Tell your doctor immediately or contact your nearest Hospital Casualty/Accident and Emergency Department even if there are no signs of discomfort. Take your medicine in its original packaging with you in order to enable the doctor to identify your medication easily.

An overdose of these tablets could cause temporary hearing loss, nausea, vomiting and diarrhoea.

If you forget to take Erythromycin tablets

If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as remember, unless it is nearly time for your next dose. Do not take more medicine in one day than your doctor tells you to. Do not take a double dose to make up for the forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Erythromycin tablets

Continue to take this medicine until the course is completed or until your doctor tells you to stop; **do not stop** taking your medicine, even if you feel better. If you stop the treatment too early your problem could come back.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist

4. Possible Side Effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

If you notice any of the following, contact your doctor **immediately**:

- difficulty breathing
- fainting
- swelling of the face, lips or throat
- skin rashes
- severe skin reactions including large fluid-filled blisters, sores and ulcers

- ulcers in the mouth and throat as these may be signs of an allergic reaction.
 - a life-threatening irregular heart beat called torsades de pointes or abnormal ECG heart tracing or heart stopping (cardiac arrest)
 - yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice) or pale stools with dark urine;
 - serious skin rashes that may involve blistering and can cover large areas of the torso, face and limbs (conditions known as Stevens Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis and erythema multiforme)
 - diarrhoea which may be severe or prolonged and may contain blood or mucus
- Contact a doctor immediately if you experience a serious skin reaction: a red, scaly rash with bumps under the skin and blisters (exanthematous pustulosis). The frequency of this side effect is not known (cannot be estimated from the available data).

Other side effects include:

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)

- feeling sick or being sick
- increase in a particular type of white blood cells (eosinophilia)
- stomach pains; these may be a symptom of an inflamed pancreas (pancreatitis)
- ringing in the ears (tinnitus)
- reversible loss of hearing (usually associated with high doses in patients with kidney problems)
- chest pains
- abnormal heart rhythms (including palpitations, a faster heartbeat)
- fever
- anorexia
- confusion
- fits (seizures)
- vertigo (problems with balance that can result in feelings of dizziness or sickness - particularly on standing)
- hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that aren't there)
- feeling generally unwell (malaise)
- inflammation of the kidneys (a condition known as interstitial nephritis)
- low blood pressure
- vomiting and irritability in young children between the age of 1 month and 12 months
- visual impairment/blurred vision (Mitochondrial optic neuropathy).

Additional side effects in children and adolescents

Adverse drug reactions in children are similar to those in adults.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via Yellow Card Scheme Website: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Erythromycin Tablets

- Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.
- Do not use these tablets after the expiry date (EXP) which is stated on the carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

- Securitainers and Polybags: Store below 25°C. Store in the original package to protect from moisture and light. Keep the container tightly closed.
- Blister Packs: Store below 25°C. Store in the original package to protect from moisture and light.
- Do not throw away any medicines via waste water or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Erythromycin tablets contain:

- The active ingredient is Erythromycin.
- The other ingredients are - Maize Starch, Croscarmellose Sodium Type A, Povidone (Kollidon K90), Talc, Magnesium Stearate (E572), *Sub coat:* Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (E464), Macrogol 6000, Sunset yellow FCF (E110), Ponceau 4R red (E124) *Enteric coat:* Methacrylic Acid Copolymer, Macrogol 6000, Talc, Polysorbate 80 (E433), Sunset yellow FCF (E110), ponceau 4R red (E124)

What Erythromycin tablets look like and contents of the pack:

- Reddish orange coloured, coated circular tablets plain on one side and debossed with '250' on the other.
- Erythromycin Tablets are available in Securitainers packs of 21, 100, 250, 500 and 1000 tablets and Blister packs of 28, 56, 84 and 100 tablets.
- Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

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To request a copy of this leaflet in Braille, large print or audio format then please contact the marketing authorisation holder at the address (or telephone, fax, email) above.

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