

MOXONIDINE GH

(moxonidine) film-coated tablet

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Moxonidine GH.

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 Moxonidine GH against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet with the medication.

You may want to read it again.

What Moxonidine GH is used for

Moxonidine GH lowers high blood pressure, which is sometimes called hypertension.

Everyone has blood pressure. This pressure helps to move your blood around your body. Your blood pressure may change at different times of the day. You have hypertension when your blood pressure stays higher than normal, even when you are calm or relaxed.

There are usually no symptoms of hypertension. The only way of knowing if you have hypertension is to have your blood pressure checked regularly. If high blood pressure is not treated it can lead to serious health problems, including stroke, heart disease and kidney failure.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why it has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed Moxonidine GH for another use.

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

This medicine is not addictive.

Before you take Moxonidine GH

When you must not take it

Do not take Moxonidine GH if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing moxonidine;
- 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 breathing.

Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant.

Do not breastfeed if you are taking this medicine.

Moxonidine GH passes into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the possible risks and benefits of taking Moxonidine GH when breastfeeding.

Do not give Moxonidine GH to a child under the age of 16 years.

Safety and effectiveness in children younger than 16 years have not been established.

Do not take Moxonidine GH if you:

- are aged 75 years or more;

- have heart problems such as heart failure or abnormal rhythm;
- have severe kidney disease.

Do not take it after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it has expired or is damaged return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you have any allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

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

- kidney problems;
- heart problems;
- angio-oedema, which is unusual swelling of the face, lips or tongue;
- leg pains or cramps caused by poor blood circulation;
- Raynaud's disease, where your fingers go pale and blue and are painful in the cold;
- Parkinson's disease, a disease of the nerves which causes uncontrolled shaking and stiffness;
- epilepsy;
- glaucoma, a disease of increased pressure in the eye;
- depression.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant, intend to become pregnant or are breastfeeding

Your doctor or pharmacist can discuss the risks and benefits involved.

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

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are already taking medicines to lower your blood pressure.

These medicines can have a combined effect when used with Moxonidine GH to reduce blood pressure and your doctor may need to adjust the dose you have to take.

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

Some medicines may affect the way other medicines work. These include:

- some medicines used to treat depression called "tricyclic" medicines (such as imipramine and amitriptyline);
- sleeping tablets or other medicines which make you feel drowsy.

These medicines may be affected by Moxonidine GH 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 has more information on medicines to be careful with or to avoid while taking Moxonidine GH.

How to take Moxonidine GH

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the box, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you how many tablets to take each day.

The usual starting dose of Moxonidine GH is one 0.2 mg (200 microgram) tablet once per day.

Depending on how your blood pressure responds your dosage may be increased by your doctor to 0.4 mg (400 micrograms) after 2 weeks. After a further 2 weeks your doctor may increase your dosage to 0.6 mg per day (600 micrograms). You should not take 0.6 mg as one dose, it should be taken as a divided dose.

Ask your doctor how to divide your daily dose.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water or another liquid.

Do not chew the tablets.

When to take it

Take Moxonidine GH at about the same time each day.

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

It does not matter if you take this medicine with or without food.

How long to take it

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

The medicine helps control your condition, but it does not cure it. It

is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

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.

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.

Do not take two doses within 6 hours of each other. Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

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

If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for advice.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (13 11 26) or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Moxonidine GH. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

If possible, show the doctor the pack of tablets.

While you are taking Moxonidine GH

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Moxonidine GH.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon that you are taking this medicine.

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

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

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked. Make sure you drink enough water during exercise and hot weather when you are taking Moxonidine GH, especially if you sweat a lot.

If you do not drink enough water while taking Moxonidine GH, you may faint or feel light-headed or sick. This is because your body does not have enough fluid and your blood pressure is too low.

Tell your doctor if you have excessive vomiting and/or diarrhoea while taking Moxonidine GH.

This can also mean that you are losing too much water and your blood pressure may become too low.

Things you must not do

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

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

Do not stop taking Moxonidine GH abruptly, or change the dosage, without checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

Be careful of driving or operating machinery until you know how Moxonidine GH affects you.

Moxonidine GH may cause drowsiness, dizziness or light-headedness in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

You should avoid drinking alcohol when taking Moxonidine GH.

The effect of taking alcohol with Moxonidine GH has not been studied. Ask your doctor for advice.

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

Standing up slowly, especially when you get up from bed or chairs, will help your body get used to the change in position and blood pressure. If this problem continues or gets worse, talk to your doctor.

Side effects

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

It helps most people with high blood pressure, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

All medicines have some unwanted side effects. Sometimes they are serious, but most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side-effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

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

- dry mouth;
- headache;
- lack of energy;
- dizziness;
- drowsiness;
- feeling sick, nausea;
- problems sleeping;
- skin flushing;
- anxiety.

The above list includes the more common side effects of your

medicine. They are usually mild and short-lived.

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

- severe allergic skin reactions (rash, itching, inflamed or reddened skin);
- swelling of the limbs.

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

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

- angio-oedema (unusual swelling of the face, eyes, lips, inside the nose, mouth or throat);
- shortness of breath, breathing or swallowing difficulties.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. These side effects are rare.

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

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

After taking Moxonidine GH

Storage

Keep your tablets in the original pack until it is time to take them.

If you take the tablets out of the box they may not keep well.

Keep the medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store it in the bathroom, near the sink, or on a window sill. Do not leave it in the car.

Heat and damp can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

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

Return any unused medicine to your pharmacist.

Product description

What it looks like

Moxonidine GH 200 micrograms tablets are light pink, round, biconvex, film-coated tablet, with debossing “0.2” on one side and plain on other side.

Moxonidine GH 400 micrograms tablets are dull red, round, biconvex, film-coated tablet, with debossing “0.4” on one side and plain on other side. Packs of 30 tablets.

Ingredients

Active ingredient

Moxonidine GH tablets contain either 200 micrograms or 400 micrograms of moxonidine as the active ingredient.

Other ingredients

- lactose monohydrate;
- povidone;
- crospovidone;
- magnesium stearate;
- OPADRY complete film coating system 03B540161 PINK (PI 111385) (20 mg tablets);
- OPADRY complete film coating system 03B540149 PINK (PI 111378) (40 mg tablets).

Moxonidine GH tablets do not contain tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Australian Registration Numbers

Moxonidine GH 200 micrograms:
AUST R 291319.

Moxonidine GH 400 micrograms:
AUST R 291317.

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