



Amiloride: Information for families

This information sheet from Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) describes how this medicine is given and some of its possible side effects. Each person reacts differently to medicines so your child will not necessarily experience every side effect mentioned. If you have any questions or concerns, please ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist or telephone one of the contact numbers of this information sheet.

What is it for?

Amiloride belongs to a group of medicines known as diuretics which increase the amount of urine produced. It has a weak effect when given on its own and so is usually prescribed alongside furosemide.

Amiloride reduces the amount of potassium being lost in the urine so is called a potassium sparing diuretic. Body salt levels (sodium and potassium) can be affected if a person takes diuretics long term, so blood tests may be taken to check levels as required.

How is it given?

Amiloride is available as an oral solution of 5mg in 5mls or as 5mg tablets. If your child is taking the oral solution, you should use an oral syringe to draw up the correct dose. These instructions will be on the medicine label.

Tablets are available for older children and teenagers, which are usually taken once or twice a day. They will make your child pass more urine, so older children may prefer to take amiloride a

few hours before bedtime to prevent having to get up to use the toilet in the night.

The dose of amiloride is calculated on your child's weight so the dose will increase as they grow.

What are the side-effects?

Side effects are uncommon, but amiloride can cause:

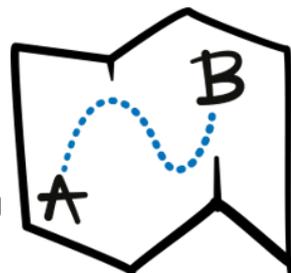
- Feeling sick
- Skin rashes
- Dry mouth

If you are concerned about any of these side effects, please discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Who should not take amiloride (contraindications)?

People with the following conditions should discuss taking amiloride with their doctor:

- Pregnant, could be pregnant, planning to become pregnant or breast-feeding
- Kidney problems
- Taking medications containing potassium



Amiloride and other medications

Some medicines can interact with amiloride.

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving your child any other medicines, including herbal or complementary medicines.

The following medicines are known to interact with amiloride:

- ACE inhibitors / Angiotensin II receptor antagonists
- Potassium supplements

Please discuss with your doctor or pharmacist before giving them to your child.

Important

- Keep medicines in a safe place where children cannot reach them.
- Keep medicines in a cool, dry place out of direct sunlight and away from heat.
- If your doctor decides to stop treatment with amiloride, return any unused medicine to your pharmacist. Do not flush down the toilet or throw it away.
- If you forget to give your child a dose, give it as soon as you remember. Do not give a double dose if it is already time to give the next one.
- Your family doctor (GP) will need to give you a repeat prescription for amiloride.
- Some medicines will need to be ordered by your local pharmacist- ask your GP for another prescription with enough time (when you have about 2 weeks of your medicine left) to ensure you do not run out.

For further information please contact:

Medicines Information: 020 7829 8608 or via the Medications page on the MyGOSH app (available Monday – Friday, 9am - 5pm)

Cardiology team via GOSH switchboard: 020 7405 9200 or via the MyGOSH app

Disclaimer

Please read this information sheet from GOSH alongside the patient information leaflet (PIL) provided by the manufacturer. If you do not have a copy of the manufacturer's patient information leaflet please talk to your pharmacist. A few products do not have a marketing authorisation (licence) as a medicine and therefore there is no PIL. For children in particular, there may be conflicts of information between the manufacturer's patient information leaflet (PIL) and guidance provided by GOSH and other healthcare providers. For example, some manufacturers may recommend, in the patient information leaflet, that a medicine is not given to children aged under 12 years. In most cases, this is because the manufacturer will recruit adults to clinical trials in the first instance and therefore the initial marketing authorisation (licence) only covers adults and older children.

For new medicines, the manufacturer then has to recruit children and newborns into trials (unless the medicine is not going to be used in children and newborns) and subsequently amend the PIL with the approved information. Older medicines may have been used effectively for many years in children without problems but the manufacturer has not been required to collect data and amend the licence. This does not mean that it is unsafe for children and young people to be prescribed such a medicine 'off-licence/off-label'. However, if you are concerned about any conflicts of information, please discuss with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist.

