

**PATIENT PACKAGE INSERT IN ACCORDANCE WITH
THE PHARMACISTS' REGULATIONS (PREPARATIONS) - 1986**

This medicine is dispensed with a doctor's prescription only

NEXIUM® 20 mg

Tablets

NEXIUM® 40 mg

Tablets

Composition

Each tablet contains:

Esomeprazole 20 mg

(as magnesium trihydrate)

Each tablet contains:

Esomeprazole 40 mg

(as magnesium trihydrate)

Read this leaflet carefully in its entirety before using the medicine.

Keep this leaflet; you may need to read it again.

This leaflet contains concise information about the medicine. If you have further questions, refer to the doctor or pharmacist.

This medicine has been prescribed to treat your ailment. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them even if it seems to you that their ailment is similar.

1. WHAT IS THE MEDICINE INTENDED FOR?

In adults, Nexium 20 mg and Nexium 40 mg are intended for:

For treatment of heartburn, with or without inflammation of the gullet, caused by reflux of gastric acid. Nexium reduces the production of acid and helps heal the gullet by reducing pain and inflammation.

Treatment of ulcers in the upper part of the gut or stomach caused by *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria. Nexium in combination with suitable antibiotics, treats the infection and leads to healing of the ulcer and prevention of recurrence.

Healing of gastric ulcer caused by use of non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as preparations to treat arthritis (rheumatism).

Prevention of formation of gastric ulcers, if you might possibly develop them as a result of taking non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as preparations to treat arthritis (rheumatism).

Prolonged treatment with Nexium tablets to prevent recurrent bleeding of a gastric or duodenal ulcer, after primary intravenous Nexium treatment.

In adolescents, Nexium 20 mg is intended for:

- For treatment of heartburn, with or without inflammation of the gullet, caused by reflux of gastric acid. Nexium reduces the production of acid and helps heal the gullet by reducing pain and inflammation.

Treatment of ulcers in the upper part of the gut or stomach caused by *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria. Nexium in combination with suitable antibiotics, treats the infection and leads to healing of the ulcer and prevention of recurrence.

In adolescents, Nexium 40 mg is intended for:

- For treatment of heartburn with inflammation of the gullet, caused by reflux of gastric acid. Nexium reduces the production of acid and helps heal the gullet by reducing pain and inflammation.

Therapeutic group

Proton pump inhibitor (the gastric acid pump).

2. BEFORE USING THE MEDICINE

X Do not use the medicine if:

- You have a known sensitivity to any of its ingredients (listed in section 6 Further Information).
- You have a known sensitivity to another preparation of the proton pump inhibitors group (preparations to treat ulcer-like symptoms, e.g.: pantoprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, omeprazole).
- You are being treated with nelfinavir (a medicine to treat immune deficiency syndrome [HIV]).

Special warnings regarding use of Nexium

I Before treatment with Nexium, tell the doctor if:

- You are suffering, or have suffered in the past, from severe liver dysfunction.
- You are suffering, or have suffered in the past, from severe kidney dysfunction.
- You have suffered in the past from a skin reaction after treatment with a medicine similar to Nexium, which lowers gastric acidity.
- If you are due to have a specific blood test (Chromogranin A).

Nexium may mask the symptoms of other diseases. **Therefore, if any of the following occur to you before starting treatment with Nexium or during treatment with Nexium, refer to the doctor immediately:**

- You are suffering from unexplained weight loss or you have difficulty swallowing
- You are suffering from abdominal pain or from indigestion
- You are vomiting food or blood
- You have black stools (bloody stools)

If you are taking the medicine as needed (according to the doctor's instructions), please inform the attending doctor, you must also tell the attending doctor if there is any change in your symptoms.

There is an increased risk of fractures of the hip, wrist and back upon prolonged use for one year or more. Please inform the doctor if you have been diagnosed with osteoporosis (bone depletion – those having disease are more prone to fractures) or if you are taking corticosteroids.

- If you have a skin rash, especially in areas exposed to the sun, please tell the doctor as soon as possible since you may need to stop treatment with Nexium. If you experience additional disease symptoms, such as joint pains, please report to the doctor as well.

I If you are taking other medicines

Please tell the attending doctor if you are taking other medicines or if you have just finished treatment with another medicine, including non-prescription medicines and herbal medicines. This is because Nexium may affect the way certain medicines work, and certain medicines may affect the way Nexium works.

- Do not take Nexium if you are being treated with a preparation that contains nelfinavir (a medicine to treat immune deficiency syndrome [HIV])

Tell the doctor or the pharmacist if you are taking:

- Atazanavir (to treat immune deficiency syndrome – HIV),

- Medicines to treat fungal infection (ketoconazole or itraconazole and voriconazole),
- Antidepressants (citalopram, imipramine or clomipramine),
- Erlotinib (a medicine to treat cancer),
- Sedatives (diazepam),
- Medicines for epilepsy (phenytoin). If you are taking phenytoin, your doctor will have to monitor your treatment at the beginning and end of Nexium treatment,
- Blood thinners (warfarin), your doctor will have to monitor your treatment at the beginning and end of Nexium treatment,
- Clopidogrel (a medicine used to prevent blood clots),
- Medicines for heart problems (digoxin),
- If you are taking medicinal treatment for tuberculosis (rifampicin),
- A preparation for treatment of depression: St. John's Wort (*Hypericum perforatum*),
- Medicines intended to treat arterial diseases in the legs that cause intermittent claudication (cilostazol),
- Methotrexate (a medicine used at high dosages to treat cancer); if you are taking a high dosage of methotrexate, your doctor may instruct you to temporarily stop treatment with Nexium,
- A medicine to prevent transplant rejection after an organ transplantation (tacrolimus),
- Certain medicines to treat malignant tumors (e.g.: erlotinib),
- Medicines to accelerate gastric emptying (cisapride) in combined treatment with Nexium,

If you are receiving Nexium together with clarithromycin and amoxicillin to treat an ulcer caused by *Helicobacter pylori* bacteria, it is important that you tell the doctor of any other medicine you are taking.

! Use of Nexium and food

The tablet can be taken with food or on an empty stomach.

! Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant, think you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, consult the doctor before taking this medicine.

It is not known whether Nexium passes into breast milk. Therefore, do not use Nexium if you are breastfeeding.

! Driving and use of machinery

Nexium shouldn't affect your ability to drive or use machinery. However, side effects such as dizziness or blurred vision may occur. If you suffer from these side effects, do not drive and do not use machinery.

! Important information regarding some of the ingredients of the medicine

The tablets contain sucrose (certain type of sugar). If you have been told by the doctor that you cannot digest certain sugars, consult the doctor before taking this medicine.

Nexium 20 mg tablets – each tablet contains 28 mg sucrose

Nexium 40 mg tablets – each tablet contains 30 mg sucrose

3. HOW SHOULD YOU USE THE MEDICINE?

Always use according to the doctor's instructions. Check with the doctor or pharmacist if you are uncertain.

The doctor will tell you about taking the medicine (how many tablets and when to take). The strength of the tablet and duration of treatment are determined by the doctor in accordance with the disease from which you are suffering.

If you are taking this medicine for a long time (particularly if you are taking it for more than a year) the doctor may want to perform certain tests.

If your doctor has told you to take this medicine as needed, tell your doctor if your symptoms change.

Instructions for use

- The tablet can be taken at any time during the day.
- The tablet can be taken with food or on an empty stomach.
- Swallow the medicine whole, with half a glass of water, do not chew or crush the parts of the tablet. The tablet contains coated pellets to prevent breakdown of the medicine by the gastric acid and it is therefore important not to crush the particles.
- Patients with difficulties swallowing the tablet can crumble the tablet in half a glass of water (do not use fizzy water or any other liquid). Stir until the tablet disintegrates (an unclear solution will be obtained). Mix well before drinking; can be drunk immediately or within 30 minutes at the most. Rinse the glass with water and drink to ensure the remainder of the medicine is taken. The solid pieces contain the medicine – do not chew or crush them.

Elderly

Dose adjustment is not required in the elderly.

If you accidentally took a higher dosage or if a child has accidentally swallowed the medicine, immediately refer to the doctor or proceed to a hospital emergency room, and bring the package of the medicine with you.

If you forgot to take this medicine at the designated time, take a dose as soon as you remember. However, if you remembered close to the time for the next dose, do not take the forgotten dose; take the next dose at the designated time.

How can you contribute to the success of the treatment?

Complete the treatment regimen recommended by the doctor.

Even if there is an improvement in your health, do not stop treatment with the medicine without consulting the doctor.

Care should be taken to implement the dosing instructions accurately and ask the doctor in case of any doubt.

4. SIDE EFFECTS

As with any medicine, use of Nexium may cause side effects in some users. Do not be alarmed when reading the list of side effects. You may not suffer from any of them.

Side effects requiring special attention:

Stop treatment and refer to the doctor immediately in the following cases:

- sudden wheezing, shortness of breath, swelling of the lips, tongue and throat or body, rash, fainting or difficulties in swallowing – these are signs of a severe allergic reaction.
- reddening of the skin with blisters or peeling. There may also be blisters and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals. This could be Stevens-Johnson syndrome or toxic epidermal necrolysis.
- yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, dark urine and tiredness can be symptoms of liver problems.

These effects are rare and affect less than 1 in 1,000 people.

Common side effects, occur frequently (affect up to one patient in 10):

- headache
- diarrhea, stomach pain, constipation, flatulence
- nausea and vomiting

Uncommon side effects (affect up to one patient in 100):

- swelling of the legs and ankles
- sleeping problems (insomnia)
- dizziness, tingling feelings ("pins and needles")
- sleepiness
- spinning feeling (vertigo)
- dry mouth
- changes in liver function blood tests
- skin rash, blistering and itching
- fractures of the hip, wrist or spine (when using Nexium at a high dosage for a long time)
- increased liver enzymes

Rare side effects (affect up to one patient in 1,000):

- blood problems such as a reduced number of white cells or platelets - can cause weakness, bruising or increased risk of infections
- low levels of sodium in the blood - may cause weakness, vomiting and cramps
- agitation, confusion, depression
- taste changes
- eye problems such as blurred vision
- sudden shortness of breath (bronchospasm)
- mouth infection
- a fungal infection that may affect the gut
- liver problems, including jaundice, that may cause yellowing of the skin, dark urine and tiredness
- hair loss
- skin rash on exposure to sun
- joint pains
- muscle pains
- feeling ill and lacking energy
- increased sweating

Very rare side effects (affect up to one in 10,000 patients):

- sudden onset of a severe rash, skin blistering or peeling. This may be accompanied by high fever and joint pains (erythema multiforme, Stevens-Johnson syndrome, toxic epidermal necrolysis)
- changes in blood count, agranulocytosis (reduction in white blood cells)
- aggression
- hallucinations
- severe liver problems leading to liver failure and inflammation of the brain
- muscle weakness
- severe kidney problems

- enlarged breasts in men

Side effects of unknown frequency (frequency of the effects cannot be estimated from the available data):

- low magnesium levels in the body: this problem may be serious. Low magnesium levels in the body can occur to certain people who took medical preparations from the proton pump inhibitors group (gastric acid pump) such as Nexium, for at least three months. If the magnesium levels drop, there may be signs of low magnesium levels. Please inform your doctor immediately if you experience the following signs:
 - dizziness
 - disorientation
 - fatigue
 - convulsions
 - increased heart rate
 - involuntary muscle contractions
 - low blood magnesium level, can cause low blood calcium and/or low blood potassium levelsIf you are required to take Nexium for a long time, your doctor may check the magnesium levels in your body before or during treatment with Nexium.
- inflammation in the gut (causes diarrhea)
- Rash, usually with joint pain

In very rare cases, Nexium may affect the white blood cells and lead to immune deficiency. If you have an infection with symptoms such as fever with a **severely** reduced general condition or fever with signs of a local infection such as pain in the head and neck, throat or mouth or difficulties in urinating, consult the doctor immediately to rule out the possibility of lack of white blood cells (agranulocytosis) by a blood test. You must tell the doctor that you are taking Nexium.

If a side effect occurs, if any of the side effects worsens or if you suffer from a side effect not mentioned in this leaflet, consult the doctor.

Side effects can be reported to the Ministry of Health by clicking on the link “Report Side Effects of Drug Treatment” found on the Ministry of Health homepage (www.health.gov.il) that directs you to the online form for reporting side effects, or by entering the link:

<https://forms.gov.il/globaldata/getsequence/getsequence.aspx?formType=AdversEffectMedic@moh.gov.il>

5. HOW SHOULD THE MEDICINE BE STORED?

- Avoid poisoning! This medicine and any other medicine must be kept in a close place out of the reach of children and/or infants in order to avoid poisoning.
- Do not induce vomiting unless explicitly instructed to do so by the doctor!
- Do not take medicines in the dark! Check the label and the dose each time you take medicine. Wear glasses if you need them.
- Keep this medicine in a cool and dry place.
- Do not store this medicine at a temperature that exceeds 30°C. Even when stored as per the recommended packaging/storage conditions, medicines may be kept for a limited period only. Do not use the medicine after the expiry date (exp. date) appearing on the package. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. In any case

of doubt, consult the pharmacist who dispensed the medicine to you.

- Do not store different medicines in the same package.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

In addition to the active ingredient, the medicine also contains:

Microcrystalline cellulose, methacrylic acid ethylacrylate copolymer (1:1), sugar spheres, hypromellose, talc, triethyl citrate, hypolose, crospovidone, macrogols, titanium dioxide (E 171), glycerol monostearate 40-55, magnesium stearate, polysorbate 80, sodium stearyl fumarate, iron oxide (20 mg and 40 mg tablets: reddish-brown; 20 mg tablets: yellow) (E 172), synthetic paraffin.

What the medicine looks like:

Nexium 20 mg tablets – a rectangular, biconvex, light pink tablet, with 20mg imprinted on one side and $\frac{A}{EH}$ imprinted on the other side.

Nexium 40 mg tablets – a rectangular, biconvex, pink tablet, with 40mg imprinted on one side and $\frac{A}{EI}$ imprinted on the other side.

Registration number of the medicine in the National Drug Registry of the Ministry of Health:

20 mg: 122 52 30237 00/11

40 mg: 122 53 30238 00/11

Manufacturer:

AstraZeneca AB,
Sodertalje, Sweden

Registration holder:

AstraZeneca (Israel) Ltd.,
P.O.B. 1455, Hod Hasharon 4524075.

The format of this leaflet was determined by the Ministry of Health and its content was checked and approved by it in August 2017.