

Comfarol® Forte

paracetamol & codeine phosphate hemihydrate tablets

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Comfarol Forte tablets. 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 Comfarol Forte against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

Keep this information with the tablets. You may need to read it again.

What is Comfarol Forte used for

Comfarol Forte is used to relieve moderate to severe pain and fever.

Comfarol Forte contains paracetamol and codeine. Paracetamol and codeine work together to stop the pain messages from getting through to the brain. Paracetamol also acts in the brain to reduce fever.

Your doctor may have prescribed this medicine for another use.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about why the medicine has been prescribed for you.

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

Before you take Comfarol Forte

When you must not take it

Do not take Comfarol Forte if you are allergic to paracetamol or codeine or any of the ingredients listed under "Product Description" at the end of this leaflet.

The symptoms of an allergic reaction may include a rash, asthma attack or hay fever.

Do not take this medicine if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- Acute breathing difficulties such as bronchitis, unstable asthma or emphysema
- Glucose-6-phosphate-dehydrogenase deficiency (an enzyme deficiency)
- Ultra-rapid metaboliser of CYP2D6
- Diarrhoea caused by antibiotics or poisoning
- Liver failure

Do not take Comfarol Forte if you have a history of drug dependence, including alcohol dependence.

Do not take Comfarol Forte if you have experienced systemic allergy (generalised rash or shortness of breath) to morphine or oxycodone.

Do not take Comfarol Forte if you have an intolerance to paracetamol and/or codeine.

Do not take Comfarol Forte if you are aged below 18 years and have had your tonsils or adenoids removed to treat sleep apnoea.

Do not take Comfarol Forte during the third trimester of pregnancy.

Do not take Comfarol Forte during labour, especially if the baby is premature. This medicine contains codeine, which may produce withdrawal effects in the newborn baby.

Do not take Comfarol Forte if you are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed. The medicine passes into breast milk and may affect the baby.

Do not use Comfarol Forte after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack. If you take it after the expiry date it may have no effect at all, or worse, have an entirely unexpected effect.

Do not use Comfarol Forte if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not use this medicine to treat any other complaint unless your doctor says it is safe.

Comfarol Forte is not recommended for children under 12 years.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:

- aspirin or any other NSAID medicine
- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- any ingredients listed under "Product Description" at the end of this leaflet.

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

- lung, heart, liver or kidney problems
- difficulty breathing, wheezing, chronic cough, asthma or other chronic breathing conditions
- you drink large quantities of alcohol
- a history of drug dependence including alcohol dependence
- recent cessation of alcohol intake
- Low glutathione reserves
- Gilbert's syndrome
- Gall bladder problems or your gallbladder has been removed
- Multiple sclerosis
- recent stomach, intestine or urinary tract surgery
- prostate problems
- irritable bowel syndrome or other bowel problems
- under active thyroid gland or problems with your adrenal glands
- head injury
- brain tumours
- fits or seizures.

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

Your pharmacist or doctor will discuss the benefits and possible risks of taking the medicine during pregnancy.

If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell them before you take any Comfarol Forte.

Taking other medicines

You should also tell your doctor about any other medicines that you have bought without a prescription from either your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Tell your doctor if you are using any other medicines, including any of the following medicines:

- any medicine causing sleepiness or drowsiness
- tranquillisers (medicines for anxiety and nerves)
- benzodiazepines (medicines used as sedatives or to treat anxiety)
- medicines used to treat alcohol and/or opioid dependence (eg naltrexone or buprenorphine)
- medicines containing alcohol (ethanol), e.g. some cough syrups
- cough suppressants or antitussives
- antihistamines (medicines used to treat allergies)
- medicines used to treat depression
- medicines used to treat mental illness
- medicines which thin the blood
- medicines to treat epilepsy
- other pain relief medication
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure
- medicines used to relax muscles
- propantheline, a drug used to treat stomach ulcers
- cholestyramine (medicine used to treat bile problems and/or high cholesterol)
- chelating resin
- chloramphenicol, an antibiotic used to treat ear and eye infections
- flucloxacillin, zidovudine or rifampicin, drugs used to treat infections
- medicines used to treat diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting.

These medicines may be affected by Comfarol Forte or may affect how well Comfarol Forte works.

Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

How to take Comfarol Forte

The label on your pack of Comfarol Forte will tell you how to take your medicine and how often.

If you are unsure about the directions ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take more than the dose your doctor or pharmacist has directed.

The dosage recommended by the doctor may be different to the recommended dosage.

The recommended dose of Comfarol Forte is:

Adults: 1 tablet for mild to moderate pain. 2 tablets for severe pain.

This dosage may be repeated in 4-6 hours if necessary.

Do not take more than 8 tablets in 24 hours.

Do not take more than the recommended dose.

Taking more than the recommended dose may cause liver damage.

Talk to your doctor about pain control if the medicine is not helping.

If your body cannot metabolise codeine properly, you may be getting reduced benefit from the medicine.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets with water.

The directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist may be different from the information in this leaflet. If you are unsure what dose to take ask your pharmacist or doctor.

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.

Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

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

If you are not sure what to do, ask your pharmacist or doctor.

If you take too much (Overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else has taken too much Comfarol Forte.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

Keep telephone numbers of these places handy.

If you take too many tablets you may feel nauseous, light headed, dizzy or drowsy.

While you are taking Comfarol Forte

Things you must do

Take Comfarol Forte exactly as your doctor has prescribed.

Tell all your doctors, dentists and pharmacists that you are taking Comfarol Forte.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking Comfarol Forte.

Things you must not do

Do not take more than the recommended dose unless your doctor tells you to.

Adults should not take more than 8 tablets a day.

Do not take high doses of the medicine for long periods of time unless your doctor tells you to.

Taking more than the recommended dose may cause liver damage.

Codeine may be habit forming.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else.

Things to be careful of

Comfarol Forte may cause dizziness or drowsiness in some people, especially after the first dose.

If affected do not drive a car, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or drowsy. Children should not ride bikes if affected and should be supervised to avoid potential harm.

Do not drink alcohol.

Drinking alcohol increases the likelihood of becoming drowsy.

Comfarol Forte may be habit forming if taken in high doses for extended periods of time.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are concerned about this.

Side Effects

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

Like other medicines, Comfarol Forte can cause some side effects. If they occur, they are most likely minor and temporary.

However, sometimes they are serious and need medical treatment.

If you have any questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

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

- Constipation
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Dizziness
- Drowsiness
- Skin rashes
- Sweating

These are the more common side effects of Comfarol Forte. They are usually mild.

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

- Shortness of breath
- Mouth ulcers, fever and sore throat
- Bleeding, bruising more easily
- Unusual or extreme mood swings
- Dizziness, light-headedness
- Flushing of the face
- Painful red areas with blisters and peeling layers of skin which may be accompanied by fever and/or chills
- Severe blisters and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose and genitals
- Hepatitis (symptoms include loss of appetite, itching, yellowing of the skin and eyes, light coloured bowel motions, dark coloured urine)

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

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

- Wheezing or difficulty breathing
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- Rash, itching or hives on the skin

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

If you are taking Comfarol Forte regularly, you may also need to take laxatives to prevent constipation.

Some people may get other side effects not listed above.

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

After taking Comfarol Forte

Storage

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

If you take the tablets out of the box or the blister pack they will not keep well.

Keep Comfarol Forte in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines. Do not leave Comfarol Forte in the car on hot days.

Do not store Comfarol Forte or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Keep Comfarol Forte where young 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 the tablets, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.

Product Description

Comfarol Forte comes as a white capsule shaped tablet, marked PF.

It comes in boxes of 20 tablets.

Each Comfarol Forte tablet contains:

Active ingredient

- Paracetamol 500 mg
- Codeine Phosphate Hemihydrate 30 mg

Inactive ingredients

- Maize starch
- Purified talc
- Magnesium stearate
- Microcrystalline cellulose
- Croscarmellose sodium
- Potassium sorbate
- Pre-gelatinised maize starch
- Stearic Acid
- Povidone

Comfarol Forte does not contain gluten, lactose, sucrose, tartrazine or any azo dyes.

Supplier/Distributor

Sandoz Pty Ltd
ABN 60 075 449 553
54 Waterloo Road
Macquarie Park, NSW 2113
Australia
Tel: 1800 634 500

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500 mg paracetamol and 30 mg codeine phosphate hemihydrate tablets:
AUST R 131137 (blisters)