

Telmisartan GH Tablets

Telmisartan

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Telmisartan GH.

It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

This leaflet was last updated on the date at the end of this leaflet. More recent information may be available. The latest Consumer Medicine Information is available from your pharmacist, doctor, or from www.medicines.org.au and may contain important information about the medicine and its use of which you should be aware.

All medicines have benefits and risks.

Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking this medicine against the benefits it is expected to have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Telmisartan GH is used for

Telmisartan GH is used to:

- treat high blood pressure (also called hypertension)
- prevent cardiovascular complications, including death due to cardiovascular causes, in patients older than 55 years of age with coronary artery disease, peripheral vascular disease, previous stroke, previous transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or high risk diabetes with evidence of end organ damage.

TREATMENT OF HYPERTENSION

Telmisartan GH is used to lower high blood pressure (hypertension). Everyone has blood pressure. This pressure helps your blood move around your body. Your blood pressure may be different at different times of the day, depending on how busy or worried you are. You have hypertension (high blood pressure) when your blood pressure stays higher than normal, even when you are calm or relaxed.

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

How Telmisartan GH works

Telmisartan GH contains telmisartan. Telmisartan belongs to a group of medicines called angiotensin II receptor antagonists. Angiotensin II is a substance in the body which causes blood vessels to narrow, thus increasing blood pressure. Telmisartan works by blocking the effect of angiotensin II. When the effect of angiotensin II is blocked, your blood vessels relax and your blood pressure goes down.

Telmisartan GH may be used either alone or in combination with other medicines used to treat high blood pressure.

PREVENTION OF CARDIOVASCULAR COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING DEATH DUE TO CARDIOVASCULAR CAUSES

Telmisartan GH is also used to prevent cardiovascular complications, including death due to cardiovascular causes that may arise in high risk patients older than 55 years of age. Examples include heart attack, stroke, death caused by heart diseases or hospitalisation due to heart failure (a condition which can cause shortness of breath or ankle swelling).

Patients who may be considered at high risk of developing cardiovascular complications or at high risk of death due to cardiovascular causes are those aged 55 or more who have problems such as coronary artery disease (a heart disease caused by poor blood flow in the blood vessels of the heart), peripheral vascular disease (poor circulation in the hands or feet), previous stroke, previous transient ischaemic attack (TIA) or diabetes with additional high risk factors and evidence of end organ damage (e.g. damage occurring in the kidneys, heart, brain or eyes).

Your doctor can tell you if you are at high risk of developing cardiovascular complications or if you are at high risk of death due to cardiovascular causes.

Your doctor may have prescribed Telmisartan GH for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Telmisartan GH has been prescribed for you.

Telmisartan GH is not addictive.

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

Use in children

The safety and effectiveness of Telmisartan GH in children and teenagers up to 18 years of age have not been established.

Before you take Telmisartan GH

When you must not take it

Do not take Telmisartan GH if you have ever had an allergic reaction after taking:

- telmisartan (the active ingredient in Telmisartan GH)
- any other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Symptoms of an allergic reaction to Telmisartan GH may include skin rash, itchiness, shortness of breath, swelling of the face, lips or tongue, muscle pain or tenderness or joint pain.

Do not take Telmisartan GH if you have a rare hereditary condition of fructose intolerance.

The maximum recommended daily dose of Telmisartan GH contains approximately 338 mg of sorbitol.

Do not take Telmisartan GH if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Telmisartan GH is not recommended for use in pregnancy. Like other similar medicines, it could affect your unborn baby if you take it during pregnancy.

Do not breastfeed if you are taking Telmisartan GH.

It is not known if telmisartan, the active ingredient in Telmisartan GH, passes into breast milk and there is a possibility that your baby may be affected.

Do not take Telmisartan GH if you suffer from:

- severe liver disease
- biliary obstructive disorders (problem with the flow of bile from the gall bladder)

Do not take Telmisartan GH after the expiry date printed on the pack.

Do not take Telmisartan GH if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

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

Do not take Telmisartan GH if the tablets are discoloured.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking Telmisartan GH talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to:

- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes

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

- kidney problems
- liver problems
- heart problems
- a condition known as primary hyperaldosteronism (raised aldosterone levels, also known as Conn's syndrome)
- fructose intolerance
- recent severe diarrhoea or vomiting

Tell your doctor if you are following a very low salt diet.

Tell your doctor if you plan to become pregnant or breastfeed.

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

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines and Telmisartan GH may interfere with each other. These include:

- ramipril or any other medicines used to treat high blood pressure or heart problems
- potassium supplements or potassium-containing salt substitutes
- medicines or salt substitutes which may increase your potassium levels
- diuretics or fluid tablets, medicines used to help the kidneys get rid of salt and water by increasing the amount of urine produced
- aspirin
- nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory agents (medicines used to relieve pain, swelling and other symptoms of inflammation including arthritis)
- lithium, a medicine used to treat certain mental illnesses
- digoxin, a medicine used to treat heart failure

These medicines may be affected by Telmisartan GH, or may affect the way it works. Also, other medicines used to treat high blood pressure may have an additive effect with Telmisartan GH in lowering your blood pressure. You may need different amounts of your medicines.

Your doctor and pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Telmisartan GH.

How to take Telmisartan GH

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you how many tablets you will need to take each day. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

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

How much to take

FOR THE TREATMENT OF HYPERTENSION

The usual dose of Telmisartan GH for adults is one 40 mg tablet once a day.

If your blood pressure is still too high after 4-8 weeks of starting treatment, your doctor may increase your dose to 80 mg.

FOR THE PREVENTION OF CARDIOVASCULAR COMPLICATIONS, INCLUDING DEATH DUE TO CARDIOVASCULAR CAUSES

The usual dose of Telmisartan GH is one 80 mg tablet once a day.

Depending on how you respond to the treatment, your doctor may suggest a higher or lower dose.

It is important to take Telmisartan GH exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you.

When to take it

Take Telmisartan GH at about the same time each day, either morning or evening.

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 Telmisartan GH before or after food.

How to take it

Swallow the tablet whole with a full glass of water.

You can take Telmisartan GH with or without food.

How long to take it

Take Telmisartan GH every day until your doctor tells you to stop.

Telmisartan GH helps to control your high blood pressure, and/or prevents you from developing cardiovascular complications, but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking Telmisartan GH every day even if you feel well.

People who have high blood pressure often feel well and do not notice any signs of this problem.

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 the dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it 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 unwanted side effects.

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

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 may have taken too much Telmisartan GH.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much Telmisartan GH you may feel dizzy, light-headed or faint. Your heartbeat may be faster or lower than usual. You may experience rapid, shallow breathing or cold, clammy skin. This is because your blood pressure is too low.

While you are taking Telmisartan GH

Things you must do

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Telmisartan GH.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Telmisartan GH.

If you feel that Telmisartan GH is not helping your condition, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not used Telmisartan GH exactly as prescribed.

Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Tell your doctor immediately if you become pregnant while taking Telmisartan GH.

You should not take this medicine while you are pregnant.

If you are going to have surgery, tell your doctor and anaesthetist that you are taking Telmisartan GH.

Telmisartan GH may affect some medicines you receive during surgery.

Things you must not do

Do not use Telmisartan GH to treat other complaints unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you to.

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

Things to be careful of

Be careful when driving or operating machinery while you are taking Telmisartan GH until you know how it affects you.

Like other medicines used to treat high blood pressure, Telmisartan GH may cause sleepiness, dizziness or lightheadedness in some people.

If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

You may feel dizzy or light-headed when you begin to take Telmisartan GH, especially if you are also taking a diuretic (or fluid tablet) or if you are dehydrated.

If this medicine makes you feel dizzy or light-headed, be careful when getting up from a sitting or lying position.

Standing up slowly, especially when you get up from a bed or chair, 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.

If you exercise, or if you sweat, or if the weather is hot, you should drink plenty of water.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Telmisartan GH even if you do not think it is connected with the medicine.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment 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:

- dizziness or lightheadedness when you stand up especially when getting up from a sitting or lying position
- dizziness or spinning sensation, fainting
- tiredness or weakness
- 'flu-like' symptoms
- pain in the chest
- diarrhoea
- indigestion
- stomach pain or discomfort
- wind or excessive gas in the stomach or bowel (flatulence)
- upper respiratory tract infections
- shortness of breath
- back pain
- aching muscles, not caused by exercise (myalgia)
- muscle spasms or leg cramps or leg pain
- painful joints (arthralgia)
- tendon pain or tendinitis-like symptoms
- urinary tract infections (including cystitis)
- trouble sleeping (insomnia)
- feeling anxious
- depression
- fast or slow heart beats
- visual disturbance
- increased sweating
- dry mouth
- allergic skin reactions including skin rash (eczema); itchiness (pruritus); redness of the skin (erythema)
- symptoms that may indicate low blood sugar levels in the blood, such as sweating, weakness, hunger, dizziness, trembling, headache or numbness (especially in diabetic patients)
- abnormal liver functions
- symptoms that may indicate a worsening of the kidney function, such as passing little or no urine, drowsiness, nausea, vomiting, breathlessness, loss of appetite and weakness

- symptoms that may indicate high potassium levels in the blood, such as nausea, diarrhoea, muscle weakness and changes in heart rhythm
- signs of anaemia such as tiredness, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness and looking pale
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal (thrombocytopenia)
- symptoms that may indicate an infection of the blood, such as high fever, chills, headache, confusion and rapid breathing
- changes in your red or white blood cell levels may occur (such changes are usually detected by a blood test)

Tell your doctor immediately or go to casualty at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing
- severe and sudden onset of itchy or raised skin rash, hives or nettle rash

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are rare.

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

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

After taking Telmisartan GH

Storage

Leave the tablets in the blister strip until it is time to take them.

The blister pack protects the tablets from light and moisture.

Keep Telmisartan GH in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30C.

Do not store Telmisartan GH or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep Telmisartan GH where young children cannot reach it.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using Telmisartan GH or it has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

Telmisartan GH is the brand name of your medicine.

Telmisartan GH tablets are available in two strengths: 40 mg and 80 mg tablets.

- Telmisartan GH 40 mg tablets are white to off-white color, oval shape, biconvex, uncoated tablets debossed with 'L203' on one side and plain on other side.
- Telmisartan GH 80 mg tablets are white to off-white color, oval shape, biconvex, uncoated tablets debossed with 'L204' on one side and plain on other side.

Telmisartan GH tablets are available in blister packs of 28 tablets.

Ingredients

- Each Telmisartan GH 40 mg tablet contains 40 mg telmisartan.

- Each Telmisartan GH 80 mg tablet contains 80 mg telmisartan.

The other ingredients found in both strengths are:

- povidone K25
- meglumine
- sodium hydroxide
- mannitol
- sodium stearyl fumarate
- magnesium stearate

Sponsor

Alembic Pharmaceuticals Australia Pty Limited

2a Porter Road
Carnegie VIC 3163

Distributor

Generic Health Pty Ltd
Level 1, 1102 Toorak Rd
Camberwell VIC 3124



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