

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Eltroxin tablets.

It does not contain all the available information about the medicine.

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 Eltroxin against the benefits he or she expects it will have.

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

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

The name of your medicine is Eltroxin. It is available in tablets of six different strengths: 25 micrograms (scored), 50 micrograms, 75 micrograms, 100 micrograms, 125 micrograms and 200 micrograms.

The active ingredient is called *levothyroxine sodium*.

### What is it used for

*Levothyroxine sodium* is a thyroid hormone.

It is used as replacement therapy in the treatment of thyroid hormone deficiency.

Eltroxin is used to treat:

1. Thyroid hormone deficiency also known as Hypothyroidism.  
Hypothyroidism is a disease in which the thyroid gland is underactive and does not produce enough levothyroxine, a hormone, which is important for controlling your metabolism. Symptoms of hypothyroidism include tiredness, muscle weakness, and cramps, feeling the cold, a slow heart rate, dry and flaky skin, hair loss, a deep husky voice and weight gain.
2. TSH-responsive tumours (certain tumours of the thyroid gland) of the thyroid  
For these conditions to be treated, patients need a supply of thyroid hormones in their body. Eltroxin replaces the shortage of thyroid hormones.

**Use Eltroxin only as directed.**

Your doctor may have prescribed Eltroxin for another condition.

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

Ask your doctor if you have any concerns about taking it.

Eltroxin tablets are only available with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you take it

*When you must not take it*

**Do not take Eltroxin if you are allergic to:**

- Levothyroxine sodium or any other thyroid hormone (eg. Tertroxin)
- Any of the inactive ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction to Eltroxin may include red, itchy skin rashes, difficulty in breathing, swelling of the face or throat or faintness.

**Do not use Eltroxin after the expiry date (EXP.) printed on the pack.**

If you take the medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

**Do not take the medicine if the packaging shows signs of tampering.**

*Before you start to take it*

**Tell your doctor if:**

1. **You are allergic to any other medicines or any foods, dyes or preservatives.**
2. **You are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**  
Levothyroxine levels will need to be watched carefully during pregnancy. Your dosage of Eltroxin may need to be increased while you are pregnant.  
**Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits of taking Eltroxin during pregnancy.**
3. **You are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.**  
Although small amounts of Eltroxin are found in breast milk, women who are breastfeeding should continue treatment with Eltroxin.
4. **You have or have had any other medical conditions/ health problems, including:**
  - Overactive thyroid gland
  - Adrenal gland problem
  - Hyperthyroidism
  - Heart problems such as cardiovascular disorder
  - High blood pressure
  - Diabetes
  - Long-standing hypothyroidism, an underactive thyroid gland
  - Problems absorbing nutrients from the gastrointestinal tract

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start to take any Eltroxin.**

*Taking other medicines*

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

Some of these medicines may interfere with Eltroxin. These include:

- Anticoagulants, medicines used to thin your blood (eg. Warfarin)
- Antidepressants, medicines used to treat depression (e.g. Lithium, SSRIs, Tricyclic antidepressants)
- Antivirals, medicines used to treat HIV/AIDS infection (e.g. ritonavir)
- Antimalarials, medicines used to treat and prevent malaria (e.g. chloroquine and proguanil)
- Medicines used to treat diabetes (e.g. insulin)
- Beta-blockers, medicines used to treat high blood pressure and heart conditions (e.g. propranolol)
- Ion-exchange resins, medicines used to decrease cholesterol in the blood (e.g. cholestyramine)

- Corticosteroids, anti-inflammatory medicines (e.g. prednisolone and dexamethasone)
- Oral contraceptives and hormone replacement medicines such as oestrogens, androgens or anabolic steroids
- Medicines used for epilepsy (e.g. phenytoin and carbamazepine)
- Medicines used to treat heart failure (e.g. digoxin)
- Iron supplements
- Calcium, magnesium and aluminium supplements
- Rifampicin, an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis and other serious infections
- Ciprofloxacin, an antibiotic used to treat various infections
- Soyabean flour (e.g. some infant formula and other products)
- Antacids (e.g. aluminium hydroxide, magnesium hydroxide and calcium carbonate) and proton pump inhibitors, used to reduce stomach acid
- Amiodarone, a medicine used to treat irregular heart beat
- Oral contrast agents, used before X-ray and scans
- Propylthiouracil, a medicine used to treat overactive thyroid and Graves disease
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), medicines used to relieve pain and/or inflammatory conditions including arthritis.
- Weight loss drugs (e.g. orlistat)

These medicines may affect how well Eltroxin works, or react with it resulting in unwanted or sometimes serious side effects.

This list is not exhaustive. Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking it.

**Before you start to take any other medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Eltroxin.**

### How to take it

Your doctor will decide on the right dose for you.

It may take a few weeks for Eltroxin to begin working. Until it begins working you may not notice any change in your symptoms.

**Follow your doctor's instructions carefully, as they may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.**

*How much to take*

The usual starting dose for adults is 50 to 100 micrograms daily. The dose may be increased over time. The average adult maintenance dose is 100 to 200 micrograms. Lower doses are used in the elderly and children. Your doctor will calculate the dose required for you.

Your doctor will monitor your blood tests to make sure Eltroxin is working for you.

**Carefully follow the dosage instructions, as given by your doctor.**

**Do not change your dose unless your doctor tells you to do so.**

Talk to your doctor if you have any further questions.

#### *How to take it*

Swallow Eltroxin tablets with a glass of water.

#### *When to take it*

Eltroxin tablets should be taken first thing in the morning on an empty stomach, at least 30 minutes and preferably 60 minutes before any food or other medications.

#### *How long to take it*

Continue taking it as long as your doctor recommends it.

#### *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 your 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.

If you are unsure about whether to take your next dose, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

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

If you take too much you may have the following symptoms: restlessness; vomiting; flushing; breathing difficulties; chest pain; convulsions or paralysis.

Keep your doctor, pharmacist, Accident and Emergency phone numbers handy.

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#### While you are taking it

##### *Things you must do*

Do not switch or interchange with other brands unless advised by your doctor.

Immediately stop taking Eltroxin if a skin rash or other allergic reaction occurs.

Use it exactly as directed or as your doctor has prescribed.

Tell your doctor if you feel Eltroxin is not helping your condition.

Visit your doctor regularly. Your doctor needs to check your progress.

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using Eltroxin.

Always discuss with your doctor any problems or difficulties during or after taking it.

If you plan to have surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking Eltroxin.

If you are about to start taking any new medicines, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Eltroxin.

Ensure you do not run out of medicine over the weekend or on holidays.

#### *Things you must not do*

Do not drive or operate machinery where alertness is required, until you know how the medicine affects you.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if his or her symptoms seem similar to yours.

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#### Side effects

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

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

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

- nervousness
- anxiousness
- excitement
- restlessness
- muscle weakness & cramps
- inability to sleep
- sleep disturbances
- unusual movements, including tremor
- headache
- lack of concentration
- diarrhoea
- stomach cramp
- nausea
- vomiting
- heat intolerance
- excessive sweating
- flushing
- weight loss
- menstrual irregularities
- decreased libido
- fever
- shortness of breath
- rapid breathing
- irregular heart beats
- chest pain
- increased blood pressure
- allergic reactions such as skin rash
- hair loss
- irritability
- increased appetite
- tiredness

Some people may get other side effects with Eltroxin.

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you have any problems while taking it even if you do not think the problems are connected with this medicine or are not listed in this leaflet.

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#### After using it

##### *Storage*

Store below 25°C.

Store in the original package. Keep the bottle tightly closed. Protect from light.

If you do not keep the tablets in the bottle they may not keep well.

Do not store Eltroxin, or any other medicines in a bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on windowsills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Do not take ELTROXIN tablets if the tablet's colour has changed.

Keep the medicine out of reach of children.

#### *Disposal*

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

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#### Product description

##### *What it looks like*

Eltroxin 25 microgram tablets are round, white, flat tablets marked with '25' on one side and bisected on the other side.

Eltroxin 50 microgram tablets are round, white, flat tablets marked with '50' on one side and 'L01' on the other side.

Eltroxin 75 microgram tablets are round, white, flat tablets marked with '75' on one side and 'L02' on the other side.

Eltroxin 100 microgram tablets are round, white, flat tablets marked with '100' on one side and 'L10' on the other side.

Eltroxin 125 microgram tablets are round, white, flat tablets marked with '125' on one side and 'L12' on the other side.

Eltroxin 200 microgram tablets are round, white, flat tablets marked with '200' on one side and 'L21' on the other side.

Eltroxin is available in bottles of 200 tablets.

##### *Ingredients*

Each Eltroxin tablet contains levothyroxine sodium as the active ingredient.

Each Eltroxin tablet contains the following excipients:

- microcrystalline cellulose
- maize starch
- purified talc
- colloidal anhydrous silica
- magnesium stearate

They are free from gluten, sucrose, lactose and azo dyes.

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#### Sponsor

Aspen Pharma Pty Ltd  
34-36 Chandos St  
St Leonards NSW 2065

The Australian Registration Numbers are:

- Eltroxin 25 microgram:  
AUST R 206944
- Eltroxin 50 microgram:  
AUST R 206960
- Eltroxin 75 microgram:  
AUST R 206961
- Eltroxin 100 microgram:  
AUST R 206963
- Eltroxin 125 microgram:  
AUST R 206974
- Eltroxin 200 microgram:  
AUST R 206954

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