

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR Tablets

Rabeprazole sodium

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about RABEPRAZOLE-WGR 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 RABEPRAZOLE-WGR against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

If you have any concerns about using RABEPRAZOLE-WGR ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is used for

The name of your medicine is RABEPRAZOLE-WGR. It contains the active ingredient rabeprazole sodium.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR belongs to a group of medicines called proton pump inhibitors (PPIs). RABEPRAZOLE-WGR works by decreasing the amount of acid the stomach makes, to give relief from the symptoms and allow healing to take place. Your food will still be digested in the same way.

Gastro-oesophageal reflux disease:

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is used to treat gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD), commonly known as 'reflux'. This can be caused by food and acid from the stomach flowing the wrong way (reflux) back up the food pipe, also known as the oesophagus.

Reflux can cause a burning sensation in the chest rising up to the throat, also known as heartburn. RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is also used to help stop gastroesophageal reflux disease from coming back or relapsing.

Peptic Ulcers:

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is used to treat peptic ulcers. Depending on the position of the ulcer it is called a gastric or duodenal ulcer. A gastric ulcer occurs in the stomach. A duodenal ulcer occurs in the duodenum, which is the tube leading out of the stomach.

These ulcers can be caused by too much acid being made in the stomach.

Most people who have a peptic ulcer also have bacteria called *Helicobacter pylori* in their stomach. Your doctor may also prescribe a course of antibiotics (clarithromycin and amoxycillin) for you. When RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is taken with antibiotics, the combination therapy will kill the *Helicobacter pylori* and let your ulcer heal.

Chronic Gastritis:

The presence of the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori* may cause the stomach to become inflamed, resulting in pain, nausea and vomiting; all of which are signs of chronic gastritis.

When RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets are taken with antibiotics, they will help kill *Helicobacter pylori* and allow the stomach to heal.

Your doctor may have prescribed RABEPRAZOLE-WGR for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions

about why RABEPRAZOLE-WGR has been prescribed for you.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is only available with a doctor's prescription.

Before taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR

When you must not take it

Do not take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR if you have an allergy (hypersensitivity) to:

- rabeprazole sodium
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- other proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole, esomeprazole, lansoprazole, pantoprazole).

Symptoms of an allergic (hypersensitive) reaction may include:

- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body

Do not take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR if:

- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.
- the expiry date (month and year) printed on the pack has passed. If you take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR after the expiry date it may not work.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR should not be given to children under 18 years of age. Safety and effectiveness of RABEPRAZOLE-WGR in children has not been established.

Before you start to take it

You must tell your doctor:

- you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.
- you are breast-feeding or intend to breast-feed. It is not known if RABEPRAZOLE-WGR passes into breast milk.
- you have now, or have had in the past, liver problems.

Taking other medicines

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

Do not take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR and tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:

- atazanavir, a medicine used (with other antiretrovirals) to treat HIV1 infection.
- clopidogrel, an antiplatelet medicine.

You should not take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR while taking these medicines.

Also tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:

- cyclosporin, a medicine used to treat several conditions including prevention of graft rejection following kidney, liver or heart transplantation; severe, active rheumatoid arthritis; severe skin diseases; kidney disease where other treatments have failed.
- methotrexate, a medicine used to treat some kinds of cancer. It is also used to

treat psoriasis (skin disease) and rheumatoid arthritis.

- digoxin, a medicine used to treat heart problems.
- ketoconazole, a medicine used to treat fungal infections.
- mycophenolate mofetil, a medicine used to prevent organ rejection following kidney, liver or heart transplants.
- clarithromycin, a medicine used to treat infections.

These medicines may be affected by RABEPRAZOLE-WGR or may affect how well RABEPRAZOLE-WGR works. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any other medicines.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you start taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR.

Your doctor will advise you whether or not to take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR or if you need to have your dose adjusted.

How to take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR

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

These may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to take

Adults

The usual dose is one tablet, to be taken once daily, at the same time each day.

The dose of RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets is usually 20 mg, but may vary from 10 mg to 40 mg per day depending on what condition you are being treated for and how severe it is.

For treating *Helicobacter pylori* infections in combination with antibiotics (clarithromycin and amoxycillin), the usual dose is one 20mg tablet twice daily, morning and evening, for 7 days.

Children

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR should not be given to children under 18 years of age. Safety and effectiveness of RABEPRAZOLE-WGR in children has not been established.

How to take it

- RABEPRAZOLE-WGR should be swallowed whole, with a glass of water or other liquid.
- Do NOT crush or chew the tablets. They have a special coating, which protects them from the acid in your stomach. If the coating is broken by chewing, the tablets may not work
- It does not matter if you take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR with food or on an empty stomach.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for help if you do not understand the instructions provided with this medicine.

If you forget to take it

If you forget to take your tablet, take it as soon as you remember and then continue to take it as you would normally.

However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

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

If you are not sure what to do, check with 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)

If you think that you, or anyone else, may have taken too much RABEPRAZOLE-WGR, immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

While you are taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR

Things you must do

- Use RABEPRAZOLE-WGR exactly as your doctor has prescribed.
- Always swallow RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets whole.
- Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while you are taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR if you are about to start taking a new medicine.

Things you must not do

- Do not use RABEPRAZOLE-WGR to treat any other complaint unless your doctor says to.
- Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same symptoms as you.
- Do not crush or chew the tablets.
- Do not give RABEPRAZOLE-WGR to children.

Tell your doctor if you need to have a specific blood test (Chromogranin A) while you are taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR.

It may affect the results of this test.

Side Effects

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR is usually well tolerated but tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR helps most people with peptic ulcers or reflux disease, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

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 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:

- headache
- dizziness
- diarrhoea
- nausea
- stomach pain

- wind
- vomiting
- constipation
- runny or blocked nose
- sore throat and discomfort when swallowing
- cough
- pain (including back, chest or joint pain)
- muscle weakness, physical weakness or lack of energy
- rash or itchy rash accompanied by skin eruptions or blisters
- flu-like symptoms
- sleeplessness (insomnia)
- indigestion
- belching
- dry mouth
- leg cramps
- swelling of the arms or legs
- nervousness
- sleepiness (somnolence)
- loss of appetite for food (anorexia)
- weight gain
- sweating

These side effects are usually mild.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- painful and/or frequent urination (common symptoms of a urinary tract infection)
- vision or taste disturbance
- depression
- feeling dizzy, faint, lightheaded or weak (hypotension)
- shortness of breath
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers.

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

Serious side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor immediately and do not take your next dose of RABEPRAZOLE-WGR if you:

- experience signs of allergy such as skin rash, reddening, blisters or itching, swelling of the face, lips or other parts of the body, shortness of breath or wheezing.
- pass black (blood-stained) stools

If you experience symptoms such as severe (watery or bloody) diarrhoea, fever, abdominal pain or tenderness, you may have Clostridium difficile colitis (bowel inflammation).

Other problems are more likely to arise from the ulcer itself rather than the treatment.

For this reason, contact your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- pain or indigestion
- you begin to vomit blood or food
- you pass black (blood-stained) motions.

Under rare circumstances supervised by the doctor, proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) might be used for long periods of time.

Low magnesium can occur in some people who take a proton pump inhibitor. Symptoms of low magnesium can include: seizures, dizziness, spasms, cramps or muscle weakness.

People who take proton pump inhibitor medicines at high doses for a long period of time (1 year or longer) may have an increased risk of fractures of the hip, wrist, or spine.

Proton pump inhibitors may reduce the amount of acid in your stomach. Stomach acid is needed to absorb vitamin B-12 properly. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about the possibility of vitamin B12 deficiency if you have been taking a proton pump inhibitor for a long time (i.e. more than 3 years).

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people. Tell your doctor if you notice anything making you feel unwell when you are taking, or soon after you have finished taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand anything in this list.

After taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR

Storage

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets may be packaged in either a clear blister strip in an aluminium pouch with a desiccant sachet, or in a double-sided aluminium blister strip.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets packaged in the clear blister strips should be kept in the original aluminium pouch with the desiccant after opening. Any remaining RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets should be discarded 1 month after the aluminium foil pouch is opened.

Do not take RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets out of the blister pack until it is time to take them. If you take them out of the blister they may not keep well.

Keep RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature is below 25°C. Do not keep RABEPRAZOLE-WGR in the refrigerator.

Do not store RABEPRAZOLE-WGR, or any other medicine, in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave medicines in the car or on window sills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep your medicines where children cannot reach them. A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres (1.5 m) above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablets, or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any tablets that are left over.

Product description

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR 10 mg tablets are red biconvex enteric coated tablets, plain on both sides.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR 20 mg tablets are yellow biconvex enteric coated tablets, plain on both sides.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR Rabeprazole 10 mg tablets are supplied in blister packs of 28 tablets.

RABEPRAZOLE-WGR Rabeprazole 20 mg tablets are supplied in blister packs of 30 tablets

Ingredients

Each RABEPRAZOLE-WGR tablet contains 10 mg or 20 mg of RABEPRAZOLE-WGR as the active ingredient.

Each tablet also contains the following other ingredients:

Light Magnesium oxide, mannitol, sodium starch glycollate, povidone (K-30) magnesium stearate, ethyl cellulose, diethyl phthalate, hypromellose phthalate, titanium dioxide, purified talc, The 10mg tablet also contains iron oxide red, and the 20mg tablet contains iron oxide yellow.

The tablets do not contain lactose or gluten.

Australian registration numbers

10 mg enteric coated tablet (in blister packs):
AUST R 189749

20 mg enteric coated tablet (in blister packs):
AUST R 189750

Name and Address of the Distributor

Wagner Pharmaceuticals
6 Albert Street
Preston VIC 3072
Tel: 1800 963 140

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