

# TERTROXIN

*liothyronine sodium*

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## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about TERTROXIN. 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 TERTROXIN against the benefits he/she expects it will have for you.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns about taking this medicine.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.** You may need to read it again.

### What TERTROXIN is used for

TERTROXIN contains "liothyronine" which is a naturally occurring thyroid hormone.

It is used for treating:

- disorders of thyroid deficiency or low thyroid levels in the body
- coma or unconsciousness caused by severely low thyroid levels in the body
- an overactive thyroid gland which occurs in thyrotoxicosis or Grave's Disease, together with other medicines
- a low thyroid level after treatment of thyrotoxicosis.

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

Your doctor may have prescribed TERTROXIN for another reason.

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

There is no evidence that TERTROXIN is addictive.

### Before you use it

#### *When you must not take it*

**Do not take TERTROXIN if:**

- **you have an allergy to TERTROXIN or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet**
- **you have angina**
- **you have any other heart condition**
- **you have an untreated adrenal gland condition**

**Do not take TERTROXIN if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering. Do not take TERTROXIN if the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.**

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

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking TERTROXIN, contact your doctor.**

#### *Before you start to take it*

**Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other foods, medicines, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor if:**

1. **you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

If there is a need to consider TERTROXIN during your pregnancy, your doctor will

discuss with you the benefits and risks of using it.

2. **you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.**

TERTROXIN passes into breast milk and therefore there is a possibility that the breast-fed baby may be affected.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking TERTROXIN when breast-feeding.

3. **you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- diabetes
- adrenal gland problems

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking TERTROXIN.**

#### *Taking other medicines*

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

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

- medicines used to treat blood clots
- phenytoin and carbamazepine, medicines used to treat fitting or epilepsy
- digoxin, a medicine used for certain heart conditions
- cholestyramine, a medicine used to reduce cholesterol levels
- tricyclic antidepressants
- oral contraceptives or the pill
- ketamine, an anaesthetic

- insulin or tablets used to treat diabetes.

These medicines may be affected by TERTROXIN, or may affect how well it works. You may need to take different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

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

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## How to take TERTROXIN

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

These directions may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

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

### **How much to take**

In adults, the usual dose for low thyroid levels is one tablet taken two or three times a day.

In children, the usual dose is half a tablet taken once to three times daily.

In both adults and children the dose will depend on the condition being treated and the level of thyroid hormone in the body.

### **How to take it**

**Swallow TERTROXIN with a glass of water.**

### **When to take it**

**Take TERTROXIN at about the same time each day.**

Taking your tablets at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take the tablets.

It does not matter if you take TERTROXIN before or after food.

### **How long to take it**

TERTROXIN helps to control your thyroid problem. Therefore, your medicine must be taken every day. Continue taking TERTROXIN for as long as your doctor prescribes it. In some conditions you will take this medicine for the rest of your life.

### **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 tablets as you would normally.**

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

**If you have trouble remembering 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) or go to casualty at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much TERTROXIN. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much TERTROXIN you may feel:

- irritable
- nervous
- have a headache
- an abnormal heart beat
- muscle cramps
- flushing or skin redness
- diarrhoea
- heart conditions may become worse

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## While you are using TERTROXIN

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### **Things you must do**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine tell your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking TERTROXIN.**

**Tell all of the doctors, dentists, and pharmacists that are treating you that you are taking TERTROXIN.**

**Be sure to keep all of your doctor's and blood test appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

**If you are being treated for diabetes, make sure you check your blood sugar level regularly and report any problems to your doctor.**

TERTROXIN may change how well your diabetes is controlled. Your doses of diabetic medicines, including insulin, may need to change.

**If you are taking an anticoagulant (eg. warfarin), make sure you have your blood tested regularly and report any problems to your doctor.**

TERTROXIN may change how well anticoagulants work. Your dose of the anticoagulant may need to change.

### **Things you must not do**

**Do not give TERTROXIN to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

**Do not use TERTROXIN to treat any other complaint unless your doctor tells you to.**

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## Side effects

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

Like other medicines, TERTROXIN can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary. However, some may

be serious and need medical attention.

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

- headache
- muscle cramps
- diarrhoea
- restlessness
- excitability
- flushing or redness of skin
- sweating
- muscle weakness

These side effects are usually mild.

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

- palpitations
- heart pain
- changes in heart beat
- excessive loss of weight

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

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

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

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

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## After using TERTROXIN

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### **Storage**

**Keep your tablets in the bottle until it is time to take them.**

If you take the tablets out of the bottle they will not keep well.

**Keep the tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.**

**Do not store TERTROXIN 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 it where 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 TERTROXIN or the tablets have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.**

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## Product description

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### **What it looks like**

TERTROXIN are white uncoated tablets, plain in one side and with a break line on the other side.

### **Ingredients**

TERTROXIN contains 20 micrograms of liothyronine sodium as the active ingredient.

The other ingredients in TERTROXIN are:

- lactose
- maize starch
- acacia
- sodium chloride
- magnesium stearate

TERTROXIN does not contain gluten, sucrose, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

### **Supplier**

TERTROXIN is distributed in Australia by:

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

The Australian Registration number for TERTROXIN is:  
AUST R 12520.

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