

Krypton

contains the active ingredient bromocriptine (mesylate)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Krypton.

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

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Krypton against the benefits expected for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Krypton is used for

Krypton contains the active ingredient bromocriptine which belongs to a group of medicines called ergot alkaloids. Bromocriptine has an effect on the body similar to that of a chemical messenger occurring naturally in the body called dopamine.

Krypton has several uses that have been outlined below.

- Prevention of breast milk production (lactation) in women who cannot breastfeed for medical reasons. If breast milk production has already begun, your doctor can advise you about other methods of stopping lactation.
- Treatment of abnormally high blood levels of a hormone called prolactin. This condition is sometimes caused by a tumour called prolactinoma. Krypton can be used alone or in combination with surgery to treat this tumour.
- Treatment of acromegaly, a disease in which the body produces too much growth hormone. Krypton treats this disease by reducing the excessive amounts of growth hormone in the blood.
- Treatment of Parkinson's disease, a condition where people experience shaking (tremor), muscle stiffness and slow and unsteady body movements. Krypton is often used in combination with other medicines such as levodopa to treat Parkinson's disease.

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

Your doctor may have prescribed Krypton for another reason.

There is not enough information available to recommend the use of Krypton in children.

Krypton is available only with a doctor's prescription.

There is no evidence that Krypton is addictive.

Before you take Krypton

When you must not take it

Do not take Krypton if you are allergic to:

- medicines containing bromocriptine
- ergot alkaloids, such as ergotamine or dihydroergotamine, which are medicines usually used to treat migraine headaches
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives; swelling of the face, lips or tongue which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing; wheezing or shortness of breath.

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

- severe heart disease
- mental illness
- high blood pressure that is not controlled
- toxæmia (a condition where women experience high blood pressure, fluid build up or convulsions during pregnancy, immediately after giving birth or within several weeks of child birth).

Do not take this medicine if you are lactose or galactose intolerant.

This medicine contains lactose.

Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

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

If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

This medicine contains lactose and allura red AC (an azo dye).

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

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking Krypton during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed.

Krypton is not recommended in women who wish to breastfeed as it stops breast milk production.

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

- diabetes
- stomach and/or duodenal ulcers
- liver problems
- underactive thyroid gland
- excessive drowsiness, or if you unexpectedly fall asleep
- poor blood circulation.

Your doctor may want to take special care if you have any of these conditions.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking Krypton.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines may be affected by Krypton, or may affect how well it works. These include:

- other medicines containing ergot alkaloids, such as medicines used to treat migraine headaches and post-delivery bleeding
- levodopa, a medicine used to treat Parkinson's disease
- medicines used to treat high blood pressure (the combination may cause a sudden and excessive drop in blood pressure)

- other medicines that may raise or lower blood pressure such as ergometrine, adrenaline and ephedrine
- some medicines used to treat fungal infections (e.g. fluconazole, ketoconazole and voriconazole)
- macrolide antibiotics (e.g. erythromycin, clarithromycin, roxithromycin)
- some medicines used to treat HIV virus infections, such as ritonavir, nelfinavir, indinavir, and delavirdine
- octreotide, an injection used in the treatment of acromegaly and certain tumours
- dopamine antagonists, such as phenothiazines, butyrophenones, thioxanthenes, metoclopramide and domperidone; medicines used to treat nausea
- sumatriptan, a medicine used to treat migraine
- certain medicines used to treat mental illnesses, depression and psychotic conditions.

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

If you are not sure whether you are taking any of these medicines, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

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

How to take Krypton

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

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

How much to take

The dose varies from patient to patient.

A different dose may be required for patients with liver problems.

Prevention of breast milk production

One tablet (2.5 mg) is taken twice daily for 2 weeks. Some patients may require a further 1 week course of Krypton to bring the breast milk production under control.

Reducing prolactin levels

The usual starting dose is half a tablet (1.25 mg) two to three times a day. This dose may be gradually increased, if necessary, to one tablet three times each day. If the high prolactin levels are caused by a prolactinoma, the dose may be increased up to 15 mg daily, usually divided into 2 to 4 doses per day.

Acromegaly

The usual starting dose is half a tablet (1.25 mg) each night. The dose is then slowly increased over a period of 1 to 2 weeks, to one tablet (5 mg) four times a day. The dose can be further increased if needed. Most patients need between 10 mg and 30 mg per day. The maximum dose is not usually more than 40 mg per day.

Parkinson's disease

The usually starting dose is half a tablet (1.25 mg) once or twice a day for the first week. The dose may then be increased by half a tablet (1.25 mg) per week until the best effect is achieved. Most patients need between 5 mg and 40 mg per day in 3 or 4 divided doses.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets or capsules with a glass of water.

When to take it

Take Krypton during or immediately after food.

This will lessen the chance of nausea or stomach upset.

Take your medicine at about the same time each day.

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

How long to take it

Keep taking Krypton for as long as your doctor recommends.

The length of treatment with Krypton will depend on the condition you are being treated for.

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 missed dose 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 you missed.

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

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

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

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Krypton. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much Krypton, you may vomit, feel sick, sleepy, dizzy or faint. You may also have hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there).

While you are taking Krypton

Things you must do

Do not use Krypton if you are breastfeeding.

Women who have taken Krypton after childbirth or abortion have experienced some rare, serious side effects. These include fits, high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack and mental disorders.

If you are taking Krypton to prevent breast milk production or to lower prolactin levels and you do not wish to become pregnant, talk to your doctor about the need to use a reliable method of contraception.

Breastfeeding and high prolactin levels tend to reduce a woman's ability to fall pregnant. Taking Krypton may restore this ability.

If you become pregnant while taking Krypton, tell your doctor.

Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Krypton.

Before starting any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Krypton.

Visit your doctor regularly so that they can check on your progress, especially if you are taking Krypton for a long time.

Your doctor may want to check your blood, lungs, heart, blood pressure and womb from time to time. This helps to make sure the treatment is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Things you must not do

Do not use Krypton to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

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

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery or doing jobs that require you to be alert until you know how Krypton affects you.

Krypton may make you feel dizzy, lightheaded or faint, especially when first starting to take it. It may also cause confusion and mental changes such as hallucinations in a few people. Very rarely it can cause extreme sleepiness and sudden onset of sleep in the middle of daytime activities, sometimes without warning.

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

Be careful getting up from a sitting or lying position.

Dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting may occur, especially when you get up quickly. Getting up slowly may help. Be especially careful when you first start to take Krypton.

Be careful when drinking alcohol while taking Krypton.

Your tolerance for alcohol may be lower than usual when taking Krypton. Combining Krypton and alcohol may cause unwanted side effects.

Tell your doctor or caregiver if you notice any unusual behavioural changes.

Some impulse control disorders have been reported in patients treated with high doses of this medicine. These may include increased sexual drive, a failure to control gambling, or failure to resist a temptation, urge, or impulse.

Side effects

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

Like all other medicines, Krypton may have unwanted side effects in some people. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

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

You may not experience any of them.

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

- feeling sick (nausea), vomiting
- dizziness, lightheadedness or fainting, especially on standing up

- drowsiness or sleepiness (if you have extreme sleepiness or sudden onset of sleep in the middle of daytime activities, tell your doctor immediately)
- unexplained shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- severe, progressive, or persistent headaches
- tiredness
- blocked or stuffy nose (sinus congestion)
- constipation, stomach pain
- diarrhoea
- nervousness
- difficulty sleeping or restlessness
- physical excitement or muscular activity associated with anxiety or mental tension (such as pacing, tapping of feet, or another repeated action)
- feeling unsteady on your feet
- depression (sad mood)
- loss of appetite
- dry mouth, metallic taste
- sore eyes, blurred vision
- hair loss
- burning sensation in the breasts
- leg cramps or burning feeling in the feet
- pain, numbness, tingling or colour change in the fingers and toes when exposed to cold
- buzzing, hissing, whistling, ringing or other persistent noise in the ears
- uncontrollable twitching, jerking or writhing movements of the body
- an irregular, slow, or fast heart beat
- heartburn, recurrent stomach pain
- swelling of the arms or feet due to fluid build up
- sudden watery discharge from your nose
- skin rash or itchiness
- lower back pain, swollen legs and pain when passing urine
- behavioural changes such as self-harm, urge to gamble, failure to resist a temptation or impulse, or increased sexual drive
- strange or disturbing thoughts or moods

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you develop:

- severe persistent headaches or vision problems. Some women who have taken Krypton to prevent breast milk production have had seizures (fits), high blood pressure, stroke, heart attack, or mental disorders. It is not known whether these problems are caused by Krypton or are complications of giving birth
- any signs of stomach bleeding such as red or black bowel motions, bloody diarrhoea, bleeding from the back passage or vomiting blood. Some people being treated with high doses of Krypton for acromegaly have had serious stomach bleeding
- confusion, hallucinations (seeing or hearing things that are not there) or sudden sleep attacks. Some people being treated with Krypton for Parkinson's disease, especially with high doses, have experienced mental changes
- muscle stiffness, agitation, very high fever, or heart problems

- wheezing, cough or other breathing problems, chest pain, back pain, swelling of the feet or kidney problems while taking Krypton.

When Krypton is used for a long time to treat Parkinson's disease, it can affect the lungs, heart or abdomen. Your doctor may ask you to have regular chest x-rays to see if you are developing any problems.

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.

After taking Krypton

Storage

Keep Krypton 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.

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

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

Keep Krypton tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C. Keep the tablets away from light.

Keep Krypton capsules in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

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

Do not leave Krypton in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

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

Product description

What it looks like

Krypton is available in 3 strengths and comes as tablets or capsules:

- Krypton 2.5 - round, white, scored tablet marked BE/2.5 on one side and a Greek Alpha symbol on the reverse
- Krypton 5 - grey and red capsule with "BE 5" printed on the grey half and a Greek Alpha symbol on the red half
- Krypton 10 - yellow and red capsule with "BE 10" printed on the yellow half and a Greek Alpha symbol on the red half.

Krypton 2.5 is available in bottles of 30 and 60 tablets.

Krypton 5 is available in bottles of 60 capsules.

Krypton 10 is available in bottles of 100 capsules.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in Krypton tablets and capsules is bromocriptine (as bromocriptine mesylate):

- each Krypton 2.5 tablet contains 2.5 mg of bromocriptine
- each Krypton 5 capsule contains 5 mg of bromocriptine
- each Krypton 10 capsule contains 10 mg of bromocriptine.

Krypton 2.5 tablets also contain the following inactive ingredients:

- lactose

- maize starch
- colloidal anhydrous silica
- maleic acid
- magnesium stearate
- disodium edetate.

Krypton 5 and 10 capsules also contain the following inactive ingredients:

- lactose
- maize starch
- colloidal anhydrous silica
- maleic acid
- magnesium stearate
- sodium lauryl sulfate
- gelatin
- shellac
- propylene glycol
- ammonium hydroxide
- potassium hydroxide
- titanium dioxide CI 77891 (E171)
- iron oxide black CI 77499 (E172)
- allura red AC CI 16035 (E129)
- iron oxide yellow CI 77499 (E172) (10 mg only).

Krypton tablets and capsules are gluten free.

Manufacturer

Krypton is made in Australia by:

Alphapharm Pty Limited
(ABN 93 002 359 739)
Level 1, 30 The Bond
30-34 Hickson Road
Millers Point NSW 2000
Phone: (02) 9298 3999
www.alphapharm.com.au

Medical Information Phone: 1800 028 365

Australian Registration Numbers:

Krypton 2.5 - AUST R 53168
Krypton 5 - AUST R 53170
Krypton 10 - AUST R 53171

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