

Metronide[®] 200 and Metronide[®] 400

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using Metronide?

Metronide contains the active ingredient metronidazole. Metronide is used to treat certain infections caused by bacteria and other organisms in different parts of the body. It is also used to prevent or treat certain infections that may occur during surgery.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Metronide?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use Metronide?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to Metronide or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use Metronide?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Metronide and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use Metronide?

Follow the instructions provided and use Metronide until your doctor tells you to stop.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use Metronide?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using Metronide?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tell your doctor straight away if the symptoms of your infection do not improve or become worse, if you become pregnant or if you are about to start taking any new medicines.• Stop taking this medicine and tell your doctor straight away if you have irrational thoughts, hallucinations, feeling confused or feeling depressed, including thoughts of self-harm or suicide.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop taking your tablets if you feel better. If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, all of the bacteria/organisms causing your infection may not be killed.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how Metronide affects you.
Drinking alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not drink alcohol or consume any medication containing alcohol while using Metronide and for at least 24 hours after stopping treatment.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep Metronide tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using Metronide?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Serious side effects: Allergic reaction: Some symptoms of an allergic reaction include skin rash, itching, shortness of breath or swelling of the face, lips or tongue, which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing. If you have been on prolonged Metronide therapy, you may experience unusual numbness of the feet or hands.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

Metronide[®] 200 and Metronide[®] 400

Active ingredients: *Metronidazole* (met-ro(h)-nide-ah-zole) 200 & 400 mg tablets

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Metronide. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Metronide.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using Metronide?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use Metronide?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use Metronide?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using Metronide?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using Metronide?

Metronide contains the active ingredient metronidazole.

Metronide is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called nitroimidazoles.

Metronide is used to treat certain infections caused by bacteria and other organisms in different parts of the body.

It is also used to prevent or treat certain infections that may occur during surgery.

This medicine works by killing or stopping the growth of bacteria and other organisms causing these infections.

Your doctor may have prescribed Metronide for another reason.

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

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

There is no evidence that this medicine is addictive.

2. What should I know before I use Metronide?

Warnings

Do not use Metronide if:

- you are allergic to metronidazole or any other nitroimidazoles, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.
- you have evidence of, or have a history of, a blood disorder.
- you have, or have ever had, a disease of the brain, spinal cord or nerves.
- the expiry date on the pack has passed. If you use this medicine after the expiry date has passed it may have no effect at all, or worse, an entirely different effect.
- the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have any allergies to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes.
- have or have ever had any health problems/ medical conditions including:
 - a blood disorder
 - disease of the brain, spinal cord or nerves
 - liver or kidney disease
 - an inflammatory disease of the small intestine (e.g., Crohn's disease)
 - Cockayne syndrome
- drink alcohol. Do not drink alcohol during (and for 24 hours after stopping) treatment with Metronide.

If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you start using Metronide.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

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

Some medicines may interfere with Metronide and affect how well it works. These include:

- any medication that may cause ECG disturbances (certain anti-arrhythmics (medicines for heart rhythm disorders), certain antibiotics, psychotropic medicines)
- warfarin or other medicines used to prevent blood clots
- Antabuse[®] (disulfiram), a medicine used to treat chronic alcohol dependence
- Medications containing alcohol (ethanol), e.g., some cough syrups
- some anticancer drugs, such as carmustine, cyclophosphamide monohydrate, 5-fluorouracil or busulfan
- phenytoin, a drug used to treat convulsions
- phenobarbital (phenobarbitone), a medicine for convulsions or sedation
- cimetidine, a medicine used to treat gastric reflux and ulcers
- lithium, a medicine used to treat manic depressive illness and some other types of depression
- cyclosporin, a medicine used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat immune responses

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect Metronide.

You may need different amounts of your medicine or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

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

4. How do I use Metronide?

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this CMI.

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

How much to use

- The dose will vary from patient to patient. Your doctor will decide the right dose for you.
- Follow the instructions provided when Metronide was prescribed, including the number of days it should be taken.

How long to use

- For treating infection, Metronide tablets are usually taken for 7 days, however, your doctor may decide to reduce or extend your treatment. Your doctor will tell you how much Metronide to take.

How to take Metronide tablets

Swallow Metronide tablets whole with a glass of water, preferably during or after a meal.

Do not chew the tablets.

This may help reduce the possibility of stomach upset.

If you forget to use Metronide

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, then go back to taking it as you would normally.

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

If you have trouble remembering to take/use Metronide, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you use too much Metronide

If you think that you have used too much Metronide, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

If you take too many tablets you may experience vomiting and a feeling of disorientation.

5. What should I know while using Metronide?

Things you should do

Call your doctor straight away if:

- the symptoms of your infection do not improve or become worse
- you become pregnant
- you are about to start taking any new medicines

Some people being treated with metronidazole can experience mental health problems such as irrational thoughts, hallucinations, feeling confused or feeling depressed, including thoughts of self-harm or suicide.

These symptoms can occur even in people who have never had similar problems before. If you or others around you notice any of these side effects stop taking this medicine and seek medical advice straight away.

If you get a sore, white mouth or tongue while taking or soon after stopping Metronide treatment, tell your doctor. Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge.

This may mean you have a fungal/yeast infection called thrush. Sometimes the use of Metronide allows fungi/yeast to grow and the above symptoms to occur. Metronide does not work against fungi/yeast.

If you are using Metronide for 10 days or longer, make sure you have any tests of your blood and nervous system that your doctor may request.

If you need to have a blood test while using Metronide, tell your doctor as Metronide may affect the results of some laboratory tests.

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Metronide.

Things you should not do

- Do not give Metronide to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.
- Do not use Metronide to treat any other medical complaints unless your doctor tells you to.
- Do not stop taking your tablets if you feel better.
- If you do not complete the full course prescribed by your doctor, all of the bacteria/organisms causing your infection may not be killed. These bacteria/organisms may continue to grow and multiply so that your infection may not clear completely or may return.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how Metronide affects you.

While using Metronide you may feel dizzy or experience vertigo (spinning sensation), confused, hallucinations (see or hear things that are not there), convulsions (have fits) or temporary eyesight problems (such as blurred or double vision). If this happens, do not drive or use any machinery or tools.

Drinking alcohol

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

Alcohol may make you feel very sick, vomit, have stomach cramps, headaches and flushing.

Do not drink alcohol during (and for 24 hours after stopping) treatment with Metronide.

Looking after your medicine

- Keep Metronide tablets in the blister pack until it is time to take them. If you take tablets out of the blister pack, they may not keep well.
- Keep Metronide tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Store in a cool dry place away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

- in the bathroom or near a sink, or
- in the car or on window sills

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<p>General</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • joint pain <p>Mouth-related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • oral thrush - white, furry, sore or inflamed tongue and mouth • dry mouth <p>Ear-related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • hearing problems <p>Urinary disorders</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unusual urination patterns (e.g., difficulty in passing urine, large amounts of urine, incontinence, or pus in urine) <p>Respiratory related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • stuffy nose, nasal congestion <p>Gastrointestinal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • nausea, which may be accompanied by headache, loss of appetite, and vomiting • diarrhoea, stomach discomfort, abdominal cramping or constipation, strange taste in mouth <p>Central nervous system-related</p>	<p>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</p>

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • confusion, irritability, depression, or sleeplessness • convulsions, dizziness, weakness, feeling of incoordination or uncoordinated movements • vertigo (spinning sensation) <p>Heart-related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Changes in electrical activity of the heart seen on an Electrocardiogram (QT prolongation) has been observed particularly when metronidazole was administered with drugs with potential to prolong QT interval. <p>Skin-related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skin rashes, flushing, itching <p>Eye-related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eye problems, including blurred or double vision <p>Liver-related</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • yellowing of the skin or eyes, which may be jaundice <p>Gynecological</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vaginal thrush - sore and itchy vagina and/or discharge • dryness of the vagina or vulva 	

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allergic reaction. Some symptoms of an allergic reaction include skin rash, itching, shortness of breath or swelling of the face, lips or tongue, which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing. • If you have been on prolonged Metronide therapy you may experience unusual numbness of the feet or hands. 	<p>Stop using Metronide, and tell your doctor immediately</p>

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

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

What Metronide contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	Metronide 200 mg - 200 mg metronidazole/tablet Metronide 400 mg - 400 mg metronidazole/tablet
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	Metronide 200 mg & 400 mg tablets also contain calcium hydrogen phosphate, maize starch, povidone, macrogol 400, hypromellose, magnesium stearate and purified talc (400 mg only).

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What Metronide looks like

Metronide tablets come in two strengths:

- Metronide 200 mg (Aust R 160173): Round, white to off-white tablets, one face impressed with 'MTZ200' and a breakline on the reverse. Pack size is 21 x 200mg tablets.
- Metronide 400 mg (Aust R 160175): Round, white to off-white tablets, one side impressed with 'MTZ400' and breakline on the reverse. Pack sizes are 5 x 400mg tablets or 21 x 400mg tablets.

Who distributes Metronide

sanofi-aventis australia Pty Ltd

12-24 Talavera Road

Macquarie Park NSW 2113

Australia

Freecall No: 1800 818 806

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