

Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Optinate 75 mg film-coated tablets risedronate sodium

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

What is in this leaflet

1. What Optinate is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Optinate
3. How to take Optinate
4. Possible side effects
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6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Optinate is and what it is used for

What Optinate is

Optinate belongs to a group of non-hormonal medicines called bisphosphonates which are used to treat bone diseases. It works directly on your bones to make them stronger and therefore less likely to break.

Bone is a living tissue. Old bone is constantly removed from your skeleton and replaced with new bone.

Postmenopausal osteoporosis is a condition occurring in women after the menopause where the bones become weaker, more fragile and more likely to break after a fall or strain.

The spine, hip and wrist are the most likely bones to break, although this can happen to any bone in your body. Osteoporosis-related fractures can also cause back pain, height loss and a curved back. Many patients with osteoporosis have no symptoms and you may not even have known that you had it.

What Optinate is used for

The treatment of osteoporosis in postmenopausal women.

2. What you need to know before you take Optinate

Do not take Optinate

- If you are allergic to risedronate sodium or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- If your doctor has told you that you have a condition called hypocalcaemia (a low blood calcium level)
- If you may be pregnant, are pregnant or planning to become pregnant
- If you are breast-feeding
- If you have severe kidney problems.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Optinate:

- If you are unable to stay in an upright position (sitting or standing) for at least 30 minutes.
- If you have abnormal bone and mineral metabolism (for example lack of vitamin D, parathyroid hormone abnormalities, both leading to a low blood calcium level).
- If you have or have had problems in the past with your oesophagus (the tube that connects your mouth with your stomach). For instance you may have or have had pain or difficulty in swallowing food or you have previously been told that you have Barrett's oesophagus (a condition associated with changes in the cells that line the lower oesophagus).
- If you have had or have pain, swelling or numbness of the jaw or a “heavy jaw feeling” or loosening of a tooth.
- If you are under dental treatment or will undergo dental surgery, tell your dentist that you are being treated with Optinate.

Your doctor will advise you on what to do when taking Optinate if you have any of the above.

Children and adolescents

Risedronate sodium is not recommended for use in children below age 18 due to insufficient data on safety and efficacy.

Other medicines and Optinate

Medicines containing one of the following lessen the effect of Optinate if taken at the same time:

- calcium
- magnesium
- aluminium (for example some indigestion mixtures)
- iron.

Take these medicines at least 30 minutes after your Optinate tablet.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines.

Optinate with food and drink

It is very important that you do NOT take your Optinate tablet with food or drinks (other than plain water) so that it can work properly. In particular do not take this medicine at the same time as dairy products (such as milk) as they contain calcium (see section 2, “Other medicines and Optinate”).

Take food and drinks (other than plain water) at least 30 minutes after your Optinate tablet.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Do NOT take Optinate if you may be pregnant, are pregnant or planning to become pregnant (see section 2, “Do not take Optinate”). The potential risk associated with the use of risedronate sodium (active substance in Optinate) in pregnant women is unknown.

Do NOT take Optinate if you are breast-feeding (see section 2, “Do not take Optinate”).

Optinate should only be used to treat postmenopausal women.

Driving and using machines

Optinate is not known to affect your ability to drive and use machines.

3. How to take Optinate

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Recommended dose:

Optinate tablets should be taken on the SAME two consecutive dates each month, e.g. on the 1st and 2nd of the month, or the 15th and 16th.

Choose TWO dates in a row that best fit your schedule to take your Optinate. Take ONE Optinate tablet in the morning of your first chosen date. Take the SECOND tablet in the morning of the following day.

Repeat every month keeping the same two consecutive dates. To help you remember when to take your tablets next, you can mark your calendar ahead of time with a pen or stickers.

WHEN to take the Optinate tablet

Take your Optinate tablet at least 30 minutes before the first food, drink (other than plain water) or other medicine of the day.

HOW to take the Optinate tablet

- Take the tablet whilst you are in an upright position (you may sit or stand) to avoid heartburn.
- Swallow it with at least one glass (120 ml) of plain water. Do not take your tablet with mineral water or drinks other than plain water.
- Swallow it whole. Do not suck or chew it.
- Do not lie down for 30 minutes after taking your tablet.

Your doctor will tell you if you need calcium and vitamin supplements, if you are not taking enough from your diet.

If you take more Optinate than you should

If you or somebody else has accidentally taken more Optinate tablets than prescribed, drink one full glass of milk and seek medical attention.

If you forget to take Optinate

You forgot	When	What to do
1 st and 2 nd tablets	Next monthly dose is more than 7 days ahead	Take 1 st tablet the next morning and 2 nd tablet the morning of the following day
	Next monthly dose is within 7 days	Do not take the tablets you have forgotten
2 nd tablet only	Next monthly dose is more than 7 days ahead	Take 2 nd tablet the next morning
	Next monthly dose is within 7 days	Do not take the tablet you have forgotten
The next month, take your tablets again as usual.		

In any case:

- If you miss your dose of Optinate in the morning, do NOT take it later in the day.
- Do NOT take three tablets within the same week.

If you stop taking Optinate

If you stop treatment you may begin to lose bone mass. Please talk to your doctor before you consider stopping treatment.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Stop taking Optinate and contact a doctor immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Symptoms of a severe allergic reaction such as:
 - Swelling of face, tongue or throat
 - Difficulties in swallowing
 - Hives and difficulties in breathing
- Severe skin reactions that can include blistering of the skin.

Tell your doctor promptly if you experience the following side effects:

- Eye inflammation, usually with pain, redness and light sensitivity.
- Bone necrosis of the jaw (osteonecrosis) associated with delayed healing and infection, often following tooth extraction (see section 2, “Warnings and precautions”).
- Symptoms from oesophagus such as pain when you swallow, difficulties in swallowing, chest pain or new or worsened heartburn.

Unusual fracture of the thigh bone particularly in patients on long-term treatment for osteoporosis may occur rarely. Contact your doctor if you experience pain, weakness or discomfort in your thigh, hip or groin as this may be an early indication of a possible fracture of the thigh bone.

However in clinical studies the other side effects that were observed were usually mild and did not cause the patient to stop taking their tablets.

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Indigestion, feeling sick, vomiting, stomach ache, stomach cramps or discomfort, constipation, feelings of fullness, bloating, diarrhoea.
- Pain in your bones, muscles or joints.
- Headache.

Uncommon side effects (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- Inflammation or ulcer of the oesophagus (the tube that connects your mouth with your stomach) causing difficulty and pain in swallowing (see also section 2, “Warnings and Precautions”), inflammation of the stomach and duodenum (bowel draining the stomach).
- Inflammation of the coloured part of the eye (iris) (red painful eyes with a possible change in vision).
- Fever and/or Flu like symptoms

Rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- Inflammation of the tongue (red, swollen, possibly painful), narrowing of the oesophagus (the tube that connects your mouth with your stomach).
- Abnormal liver tests have been reported. These can only be diagnosed from a blood test.

During post-marketing experience, the following have been reported

- Very rare: Talk to your doctor if you have ear pain, discharge from the ear, and/or an ear infection. These could be signs of bone damage in the ear.
- Unknown frequency:
 - Hair loss
 - Liver disorders, some cases were severe.

Rarely, at the beginning of treatment, a patient’s blood calcium and phosphate levels may fall. These changes are usually small and cause no symptoms.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRAs Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL – Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517. Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Optinate

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and blister after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

This medicine does not require any special storage conditions.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Optinate contains

The active substance is risedronate sodium. Each tablet contains 75 mg risedronate sodium, equivalent to 69.6 mg risedronic acid.

The other ingredients are:

Tablet core: cellulose microcrystalline, crospovidone A and magnesium stearate.

Film coating: hypromellose, macrogol 400, macrogol 8000, hydroxypropylcellulose, colloidal anhydrous silica, titanium dioxide [E171], iron oxide red [E172].

What Optinate looks like and contents of the pack

Optinate 75 mg film-coated tablets are oval pink 11.7 x 5.8 mm tablets with the letters “RSN” on one side and “75 mg” on the other side. The tablets are supplied in blister packs of 2, 4, 6 or 8 tablets. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Accord Healthcare Ireland Ltd,
Euro House,
Euro Business Park,
Little Island,
Cork T45 K857,
Ireland

Manufacturer:

Warner Chilcott Deutschland
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