

## **Package leaflet: Information for the user**

### **Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets**

montelukast

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you give this medicine to your child because it contains important information.**

- 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 your child only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as your child's.
- If your child gets 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 Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before your child takes Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets
3. How to take Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets
6. Contents of the pack and other information

#### **1. What Montelukast Pinewood 4mg Chewable Tablets is and what it is used for**

##### **What Montelukast Pinewood 4mg Chewable Tablets is**

Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets is a leukotriene receptor antagonist that blocks substances called leukotrienes.

##### **How Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets works**

Leukotrienes cause narrowing and swelling of airways in the lungs. By blocking leukotrienes, Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets improves asthma symptoms and helps control asthma.

##### **When Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets should be used**

Your doctor has prescribed Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets to treat your child's asthma, preventing asthma symptoms during the day and night.

- Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets is used for the treatment of 2 to 5 year old patients who are not adequately controlled on their medication and need additional therapy.
- Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets may also be used as an alternative treatment to inhaled corticosteroids for 2 to 5 year old patients who have not recently taken oral corticosteroids for their asthma and have shown that they are unable to use inhaled corticosteroids.
- Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets also helps prevent the narrowing of airways triggered by exercise for patients 2 years of age and older.

Your doctor will determine how Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets should be used depending on the symptoms and severity of your child's asthma.

#### **What is asthma?**

Asthma is a long-term disease.

Asthma includes:

- difficulty breathing because of narrowed airways. This narrowing of airways worsens and improves in response to various conditions.
- sensitive airways that react to many things, such as cigarette smoke, pollen, cold air, or exercise.
- swelling (inflammation) in the lining of the airways.

Symptoms of asthma include: Coughing, wheezing, and chest tightness.

## **2. What you need to know before your child takes Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets**

Tell your doctor about any medical problems or allergies your child has now or has had.

### **Do not give Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets to your child**

- if he/she is allergic to montelukast or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).

### **Warnings and precautions**

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you give Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets to your child.

- If your child's asthma or breathing gets worse, tell your doctor immediately.
- Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets is not meant to treat acute asthma attacks. If an attack occurs, follow the instructions your doctor has given you for your child. Always have your child's inhaled rescue medicine for asthma attacks with you.
- It is important that your child take all asthma medications prescribed by your doctor. Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets should not be used instead of other asthma medications your doctor has prescribed for your child.
- If your child is on anti-asthma medicines, be aware that if he/she develops a combination of symptoms such as flu-like illness, pins and needles or numbness of arms or legs, worsening of pulmonary symptoms, and/or rash, you should consult your doctor.
- Your child should not take acetyl-salicylic acid (aspirin) or anti-inflammatory medicines (also known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs or NSAIDs) if they make his/her asthma worse.

**Various neuropsychiatric events (for example behaviour and mood-related changes, depression and suicidality) have been reported in patients of all ages treated with montelukast (see section 4). If you develop such symptoms while taking montelukast, you should contact your doctor.**

### **Children and adolescents**

Do not give this medicine to children less than 2 years of age.

There are different form(s) of this medicine available for pediatric patients under 18 years of age based on age range.

### **Other medicines and Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if your child is taking or has recently been given or might be given any other medicines including those obtained without a prescription.

Some medicines may affect how Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets works, or Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets may affect how your child's other medicines work.

Tell your doctor if your child is taking the following medicines before starting Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets:

- phenobarbital (used for treatment of epilepsy)
- phenytoin (used for treatment of epilepsy)
- rifampicin (used to treat tuberculosis and some other infections)

### **Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets with food and drink**

Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets should not be taken immediately with food; they should be taken at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

This subsection is not applicable for the Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets since they are intended for use in children 2 to 5 years of age.

### **Driving and using machines**

This subsection is not applicable for the Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets since they are intended for use in children 2 to 5 years of age, however the following information is relevant to the active ingredient, montelukast.

Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets is not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, individual responses to medication may vary. Certain side effects (such as dizziness and drowsiness) that have been reported with Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets may affect some patients' ability to drive or operate machinery.

### **Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets contain aspartame, a source of phenylalanine**

This medicine contains 0.300 mg aspartame in each 4 mg chewable tablet which is equivalent to 0.168 mg phenylalanine. Aspartame is a source of phenylalanine. It may be harmful if your child has phenylketonuria (PKU), a rare genetic disorder in which phenylalanine builds up because the body cannot remove it properly.

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per tablet that is to say essentially 'sodium-free'.

## **3. How to take Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets**

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

- This medicine is to be given to a child under adult supervision.
- Your child should take only one chewable tablet of Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets once a day as prescribed by your doctor.
- It should be taken even when your child has no symptoms or if he/she has an acute asthma attack.

### **For children 2 to 5 years of age:**

The recommended dose is one 4 mg chewable tablet daily to be taken in the evening.

If your child is taking Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets, be sure that he/she does not take any other medicines that contain the same active ingredient, montelukast.

This medicine is for oral use.

The tablets are to be chewed before swallowing.

The score line is not intended for breaking the tablet.

Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets should not be taken immediately with food; it

should be taken at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.

**If your child takes more Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets than he/she should**

Contact your child's doctor immediately for advice.

There were no side effects reported in the majority of overdose reports. The most frequently occurring symptoms reported with overdose in adults and children included abdominal pain, sleepiness, thirst, headache, vomiting, and hyperactivity.

**If you forget to give Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets to your child**

Try to give Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets as prescribed. However, if your child misses a dose, just resume the usual schedule of one chewable tablet once daily.

Do not give a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

**If your child stops taking Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets**

Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets can treat your child's asthma only if he/she continues taking it.

It is important for your child to continue taking Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets for as long as your doctor prescribes. It will help control your child's asthma.

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

#### **4. Possible side effects**

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

In clinical studies with Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets, the most commonly reported side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people) thought to be related to Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets were:

- abdominal pain
- thirst

Additionally, the following side effect was reported in clinical studies with Montelukast Pinewood 10 mg tablets and Montelukast Pinewood 5 mg chewable tablets:

- headache

These were usually mild and occurred at a greater frequency in patients treated with Montelukast than placebo (a pill containing no medication).

#### **Serious side effects**

**Talk with your doctor immediately** if you notice any of the following side effects with your child, which may be serious, and for which your child may need urgent medical treatment.

Uncommon: the following may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- allergic reactions including swelling of the face, lips, tongue, and/or throat which may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- behaviour and mood related changes: agitation including aggressive behaviour or hostility, depression
- seizure

Rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

- increased bleeding tendency
- tremor
- palpitations

Very rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- combination of symptoms such as flu-like illness, pins and needles or numbness of arms and legs, worsening of pulmonary symptoms and/or rash (Churg-Strauss syndrome) (see section 2)
- low blood platelet count
- behaviour and mood related changes: hallucinations, disorientation, suicidal thoughts and actions
- swelling (inflammation) of the lungs
- severe skin reactions (erythema multiforme) that may occur without warning
- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)

#### **Other side effects while the medicine has been on the market**

Very common: the following may affect more than 1 in 10 people

- upper respiratory infection

Common: the following may affect up to 1 in 10 people

- diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting
- rash
- fever
- elevated liver enzymes

Uncommon: the following may affect up to 1 in 100 people

- behaviour and mood related changes: dream abnormalities, including nightmares, trouble sleeping, sleepwalking, irritability, feeling anxious, restlessness
- dizziness, drowsiness, pins and needles/numbness
- nosebleed
- dry mouth, indigestion
- bruising, itching, hives
- joint or muscle pain, muscle cramps
- bedwetting in children
- weakness/tiredness, feeling unwell, swelling

Rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people

- behaviour and mood related changes: disturbance in attention, memory impairment, uncontrolled muscle movements

Very rare: the following may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- tender red lumps under the skin, most commonly on your shins (erythema nodosum)
- behaviour and mood related changes: obsessive-compulsive symptoms, stuttering

#### **Reporting of side effects**

If your child gets 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 the national reporting systems listed below:

Ireland:

HPRa Pharmacovigilance, Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie).

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

#### **5. How to store Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets**

- 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 blister after EXP. The first two numbers indicate the month; the last four numbers indicate the year. The expiry date refers to the last date of that month.
- This medicinal product does not require any special temperature storing conditions. Store in the original package in order to protect from light and moisture.
- 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 Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets contains**

- The active substance is montelukast. Each chewable tablet contains montelukast sodium which corresponds to 4 mg of montelukast.
- The other ingredients are:
- Mannitol, cellulose, microcrystalline, ferric oxide red (E 172), croscarmellose sodium, cherry flavour, aspartame and magnesium stearate.

### **What Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets looks like and contents of the pack**

Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets are Pink coloured, oval biconvex shaped (approximately 8.75 x 5.25 mm), uncoated tablets, with break line on both the sides. Montelukast Pinewood 4 mg Chewable Tablets are packaged in Aluminium – Aluminium blisters in pack size of 28 tablets. The blister strips will be packed in cartons.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

Pinewood Laboratories Ltd.,  
Ballymacarbry,  
Clonmel,  
Co. Tipperary,  
Ireland

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