

LIOTHYRONINE

liothyronine sodium

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

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

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What LIOTHYRONINE is used for

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

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why LIOTHYRONINE has been prescribed for you. Your doctor may have prescribed LIOTHYRONINE for another reason.

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

There is no evidence that LIOTHYRONINE is addictive.

Before You Use LIOTHYRONINE

When you must not take it

Do not take LIOTHYRONINE if:

- you have an allergy to LIOTHYRONINE 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 LIOTHYRONINE 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 LIOTHYRONINE, 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 LIOTHYRONINE 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.

LIOTHYRONINE 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 LIOTHYRONINE when breast-feeding.

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 LIOTHYRONINE.

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 LIOTHYRONINE 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 LIOTHYRONINE, 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 LIOTHYRONINE.

How to take LIOTHYRONINE

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 capsule taken two or three times a day.

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 LIOTHYRONINE with a glass of water.

When to take it

Take LIOTHYRONINE 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.

How long to take it

LIOTHYRONINE helps to control your thyroid problem. Therefore, LIOTHYRONINE must be taken every day.

Continue taking LIOTHYRONINE for as long as your doctor prescribes it. In some conditions you will take LIOTHYRONINE tablets 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 LIOTHYRONINE. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much LIOTHYRONINE you may feel:

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

While you are using LIOTHYRONINE**Things you must do**

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

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

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

Things you must not do

- Do not give LIOTHYRONINE to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.
- Do not use LIOTHYRONINE to treat any other complaint unless your doctor tells you to.

Side Effects

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

Like other medicines, LIOTHYRONINE 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.

After using LIOTHYRONINE

Storage

- Keep your capsules in the bottle until it is time to take them. If you take the capsules 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 LIOTHYRONINE 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 LIOTHYRONINE or the capsules have passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.

Product Description

Ingredients

LIOTHYRONINE contains liothyronine sodium as the active ingredient.

The other ingredients in LIOTHYRONINE are:

Avicel (Microcrystalline sodium)

Methocel E4M

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