

# Thyroid Dessicated

Generic Name:  
Thyroid Capsules (THYE roid DES i kay tid)

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about THYROID. 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 using THYROID against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

**If you have any questions about using this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with the medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

Do not use Thyroid (THYROID CAPSULES) to treat obesity or for weight loss.

Very bad and sometimes deadly side effects may happen with this medicine if it is taken in large doses or with other drugs for weight loss.

Talk with the doctor.

### What THYROID is used for

Uses of Thyroid:

- It is used to add thyroid hormone to the body.
- It is used to treat or prevent an enlarged thyroid.
- It is used to manage thyroid cancer.

Your doctor may have prescribed THYROID for another purpose. Ask your doctor if you have any questions why THYROID has been prescribed for you. This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription. THYROID is not addictive.

### What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take Thyroid?

- If you have an allergy to thyroid drugs or any other part of Thyroid.
- If you are allergic to any drugs like this one, any other drugs, foods, or other substances.
- Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If you have any of these health problems: Overactive thyroid gland or weak adrenal gland.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems.
- You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take Thyroid with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using Thyroid while you are pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about any risks to your baby.

### What are some things I need to know or do while I take Thyroid?

- Do not run out of Thyroid.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this medicine with care. You could have more side effects.

### How is this medicine (Thyroid) best taken?

Use this medicine as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

- Take this medication by mouth, usually once daily before breakfast or as directed by your doctor.
  - Dosage is based on your medical condition, thyroid hormone levels, and response to therapy. There are different brands of thyroid hormone available. They are not interchangeable because the amounts of the 2 thyroid hormones may be different in each product. Do not change brands without first consulting your doctor or pharmacist.
  - Take this medication 4 hours before or after taking any products containing aluminum or iron, such as antacids, sucralfate, and vitamins/minerals. Take this medication 4-5 hours after taking any bile acid-binding resins such as cholestyramine and colestipol. These products react with thyroid, preventing its full absorption.
  - Certain foods and supplements (e.g., children's soy formula) may affect how much thyroid hormone is absorbed. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist for more information.
  - Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same time each day. Do not stop taking this medication without talking with your doctor. Thyroid replacement therapy is usually taken for life.
  - Symptoms of low thyroid levels include tiredness, muscle aches, constipation, dry skin, weight gain, slow heart rate and sensitivity to cold.
- Inform your doctor if your condition persists or worsens after 2 to 3 days of treatment.

This medication should not be used if you have certain medical conditions. Before using this medicine, consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have: decreased adrenal gland function, kidney disease (e.g., nephrosis), low pituitary hormone (e.g., hypopituitarism), low testosterone (e.g., hypogonadism), overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism).

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: poor food absorption (malabsorption syndrome), heart disease (e.g., angina, high blood pressure, heart failure, irregular heartbeat, heart attack), sugar diabetes (diabetes mellitus), water diabetes (diabetes insipidus), long-term severe underactive thyroid (e.g., myxedema).

Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication.

If you have diabetes, this drug may make it harder to control your blood sugar levels. Check your blood sugar regularly as directed by your doctor. Tell your doctor immediately if you have symptoms such as increased thirst/urination, shakiness, unusual sweating, and hunger. Your anti-diabetic medication or diet may need to be adjusted.

Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to its effects, especially the effects on the heart.

Current information shows that this drug may be used during pregnancy. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Thyroid hormone passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breastfeeding.

## MISSED DOSE

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

## Side Effects

**WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug.**

**Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:**

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.
- Chest pain or pressure or a fast heartbeat.
- A heartbeat that does not feel normal.
- Headache.
- Shortness of breath.
- Feeling nervous and excitable.
- Shakiness.
- Not able to sleep.
- Bothered by heat.

## Interactions

Your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Do not start, stop or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with them first.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: certain antidepressants (e.g., TCAs such as amitriptyline, imipramine, nortriptyline), diabetes drugs (e.g., glipizide, insulin, metformin, rosiglitazone), digoxin, estrogens (e.g., birth control pills/patch/ring, hormone replacement therapy), ketamine, intravenous blood pressure drugs (e.g., epinephrine, norepinephrine), "blood thinners" (e.g., warfarin).

Check the labels on all your medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products, diet aids) because they may contain ingredients that could increase your heart rate or blood pressure. Ask your pharmacist about the safe use of those products.

This document does not contain all possible interactions. Therefore, before using this product, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all the products you use. Keep a list of all your medications with you, and share the list with your doctor and pharmacist

## Storage

**Keep this medicine where young 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 THYROID in a cool place where it stays below 25°C and is not exposed to extreme heat or cold.**

**Do not store it, or any other medicine, in a bathroom or near a sink.**

**Do not leave it in the car or on window sills.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

## Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using THYROID or it has passed its expiry date, ask the pharmacist what to do with any left over drug.

Do not flush medications down the toilet or pour them into a drain unless instructed to do so. Properly discard this product when it is expired or no longer needed.

Consult your pharmacist or local waste disposal company for more details about how to safely discard your product.