

Lioresal 10 mg Tablets

(Baclofen)

Patient Information Leaflet

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you or your child start taking this medicine.

- 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. Do not pass it onto others. It may harm them even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects affects you severely, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

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1. What Lioresal is and what it is used for

Lioresal contains the active ingredient, baclofen. Baclofen is a muscle-relaxant drug. Lioresal is used to relieve muscle rigidity (spasticity) or spasms in adults and children, which may occur as a result of illnesses such as cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, cerebrovascular accidents, spinal cord diseases and other nervous system disorders.

2. Before you take Lioresal

Do not take Lioresal if:

- you are allergic (hypersensitive) to baclofen or any of the other ingredients of Lioresal (listed in Section 6)

Do not take Lioresal if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Lioresal.

Take special care

Check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking your medicine if:

- you have epilepsy
- you have a mental illness such as schizophrenia, psychosis, depressive or manic disorders or confusional states
- you have high blood pressure
- you have Parkinson's disease
- you have any liver, kidney or lung disease
- you have diabetes
- you have difficulties in urinating
- you have a disturbance of the blood circulation in your brain
- you have a history of alcoholism or you drink alcohol to excess
- you have a disease of your blood pigment called "Porphyria"

- you have ever had an ulcer in your stomach or gut
 - your child is under the age of one year
- you are pregnant** and taking Lioresal during pregnancy, your newborn may have convulsions and other symptoms related to sudden stop of treatment just after delivery. Your doctor may need to give your newborn small doses of Lioresal and gradually reduce the dose to control and prevent the symptoms. This recommendation for newborns is based on a limited number of case reports in the literature.

If any of the above apply to you (or you are not sure), talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Lioresal.

Taking other medicines

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained without a prescription, including herbal medicines.

This is because Lioresal can affect the way some other medicines work. Also some other medicines can affect the way Lioresal works.

In particular tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- antidepressants e.g. tricyclic antidepressants and monoamine oxidase inhibitors
- medicines for high blood pressure
- other drugs which affect the kidney e.g. ibuprofen
- medicines used to treat Parkinson's disease
- medicines which slow down the nervous system e.g. anti-histamines, opiate pain killers, sedatives and anti-convulsants (some of these can be bought over the counter)
- medicines for diabetes such as insulin – your doctor may need to increase your dose
- lithium – for mood problems.

If any of the above apply to you (or you are not sure), talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Lioresal.

Operations and tests

- Your doctor may want to give you a check up from time to time while you are being treated with Lioresal, especially if you have diabetes or any liver problems.
- If you are going to have an operation of any kind, make sure that your doctor knows you are being treated with Lioresal.

Taking Lioresal with food and alcohol

- You should not drink alcohol during your treatment with Lioresal – it may affect you more than usual.

Older people (aged 65 years or above) or people with muscle spasms caused by a brain disease

If you are in one of these groups, you may experience more side effects. Therefore, your doctor will keep you under appropriate surveillance and may adapt the dose of Lioresal you take.

Children and adolescents

Lioresal tablets are not suitable for use in children with a body weight below 33 kg.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Talk to your doctor before taking this medicine if you are pregnant or might become pregnant. You should not use Lioresal during pregnancy unless your doctor advises you to do so. If you have to take Lioresal during pregnancy, your baby may have convulsions and other symptoms related to sudden stop of treatment just after delivery. Talk to your doctor before taking this medicine if you are breast-feeding. Lioresal passes into mother's milk but in small amounts and no effects on your baby are expected.

Driving and using machines

Some people may feel drowsy or dizzy or have problems with their eyes while they are being treated with Lioresal. If this happens, you should not drive or do anything that

requires you to be alert (such as operate tools or machinery) until these effects have worn off.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Lioresal

Lioresal tablets contain wheat starch. Do not take this medicine if you suffer from a wheat starch allergy (other than coeliac disease). Patients with coeliac disease can take Lioresal.

3. How to take Lioresal

The doctor will tell you how many Lioresal tablets to take and when to take them. Always follow the doctor's instructions carefully. The dose will be on the pharmacist's label. Check the label carefully.

It is important to take your medicine at the right times. Taking Lioresal at the same time each day will help you remember when to take your medicine. Take Lioresal with meals and with a little liquid. If you feel sick after taking Lioresal, you may find it helps to take it with food or a milk drink.

How much to take:

Adults: The usual starting dose for adults is 15 mg a day, preferably taken in 3 divided doses. The dose is then gradually increased until the best results are obtained, this may be between 30 mg to 80 mg a day, taken in 2 to 4 divided doses.

Your doctor may even decide to give you a higher dose.

Children (up to 18 years): The dose for a child is based on their body weight. The usual starting dose is 0.3 mg for each kilogram of body weight a day, in 2 to 4 divided doses (preferably in 4 doses). The daily dose is then gradually increased until it becomes sufficient for the child's individual requirements. This may be between 0.75 mg and 2 mg for each kilogram of body weight.

Lioresal tablets are not suitable for use in children with a body weight below 33 kg. If you have been treated for 6 weeks and you feel no improvement, tell your doctor. Your doctor will decide if you should continue taking Lioresal. If you have questions about how long to take Lioresal, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

People with kidney problems

If you have kidney disease, a lower dose of 5 mg a day is used. If you are not sure how much medicine to take, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you take more Lioresal than you should

If you accidentally take too many Lioresal tablets, tell your doctor at once or contact your nearest hospital casualty department. Take your medicines pack with you so that people can see what you have taken. Signs of overdose are:

- unusual muscle weakness (too little muscle tone) or sudden contraction of your muscles
- drowsiness
- excessive salivation
- feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting) or diarrhoea
- difficulty in breathing
- fits (convulsions)
- loss of consciousness
- abnormally low body temperature
- feeling confused or agitated
- hallucinations
- blurred vision
- poor or absent reflexes
- high or low blood pressure
- slow, fast or irregular heart beat
- trouble breathing during sleep (sleep apnoea)
- pain in muscles,
- fever and dark urine (rhabdomyolysis)

If you have **kidney disease** and have accidentally taken more tablets or more syrup than **your doctor** has prescribed, you may experience neurological symptoms of overdose (e.g. drowsiness, feeling confused, hallucinations).

If you forget to take Lioresal

If you forget a dose, just take your next dose at the usual time. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking Lioresal

You should not stop treatment suddenly. If the doctor decides to stop your treatment, the dose will be reduced gradually to prevent withdrawal symptoms such as muscle spasms and increased muscle rigidity, fast heart beat, high body temperature, pain in muscles, fever and dark urine fever, confusion, seeing things that are not really there (hallucinations), changes in mood and emotion, mental disorders, feeling persecuted or convulsion (fits).

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

4. Possible side effects

Lioresal is suitable for most people, but like all medicines, it can sometimes cause side effects. They are often mild and usually occur at the start of treatment; they normally wear off after a few days.

Some side effects can be serious

Stop taking Lioresal and tell your doctor straight away if you notice the following symptoms:

- breathing difficulties
- shortness of breath at rest or with activity, swelling in the legs and tiredness (signs of decreased cardiac output)
- feeling confused, extremely happy or depressed
- loss of coordination affecting balance and walking, limb and eye movements or speech (signs of ataxia)
- trembling

- nightmares or hallucinations
- problems with eyesight
- low blood pressure (fainting)
- skin rash and hives
- urinary incontinence, problems when urinating or a sudden decrease in urine
- seizures
- abdominal pain, yellowing of the skin or eyes and tiredness (signs of liver problems).
- slow heart beat
- symptoms following sudden discontinuation of the medicine (drug withdrawal syndrome) as explained above in Section 3 (if you stop taking Lioresal)

If you experience any of the above, stop taking Lioresal and tell your doctor straight away.

The side effects listed below have also been reported:

Very common (more than 1 in 10 people have experienced):

- feeling tired, drowsy or sick.

Common (up to 1 in 10 people have experienced):

- tiredness
- headache, dizziness or light-headedness
- insomnia
- being sick, retching, constipation or diarrhoea
- dry mouth
- weakness or pain in your muscles
- excessive sweating.

Rare (up to 1 in 1000 people have experienced)

- slurred speech
- a change in the way things taste
- tingling hands or feet
- sexual problems in men e.g impotence

Very Rare (up to 1 in 10,000 people have experienced)

- hypothermia

Also reported (frequency unknown)

- increased blood sugar

If any of the side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRAPharmacovigilance, 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 Lioresal

- Keep out of reach and sight of children.
- Do not use after the expiry date which is stated on the label and carton after exp MM/YYYY. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- Store your medicine in the original package and keep the bottle tightly closed in order to protect from moisture.
- Store below 25°C.
- Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Further information

What Lioresal contains

- The active substance is baclofen. Each tablet contains 10 mg of baclofen.
- The other ingredients are silica colloidal anhydrous, microcrystalline cellulose, magnesium stearate, povidone and wheat starch.

What Lioresal looks like and the contents of the pack

Lioresal tablets are white or faintly yellow circular, flat tablets with a bevelled edge marked with the letters CG on one side and KJ on the other and a score line to facilitate breaking. Pack sizes: Plastic container (HDPE) of 100 tablets.

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