

Package leaflet: Information for the patient

Inexium 20 mg gastro-resistant tablets

Inexium 40 mg gastro-resistant tablets esomeprazole

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

1. What Inexium is and what it is used for

Inexium contains a medicine called esomeprazole. This belongs to a group of medicines called ‘proton pump inhibitors’. They work by reducing the amount of acid that your stomach produces.

Inexium is used to treat the following conditions:

Adults

- ‘Gastroesophageal reflux disease’ (GERD). This is where acid from the stomach escapes into the gullet (the tube which connects your throat to your stomach) causing pain, inflammation and heartburn.
- Ulcers in the stomach or upper part of the gut (intestine) that are infected with bacteria called ‘*Helicobacter pylori*’. If you have this condition, your doctor may also prescribe antibiotics to treat the infection and allow the ulcer to heal.
- Stomach ulcers caused by medicines called NSAIDs (Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs). Inexium can also be used to stop stomach ulcers from forming if you are taking NSAIDs.
- Too much acid in the stomach caused by a growth in the pancreas (Zollinger-Ellison syndrome).
- Prolonged treatment after prevention of rebleeding of ulcers with intravenous Inexium.

Adolescents aged 12 years and above

- ‘Gastroesophageal reflux disease’ (GERD). This is where acid from the stomach escapes into the gullet (the tube which connects your throat to your stomach) causing pain, inflammation and heartburn.
- Ulcers in the stomach or upper part of the gut (intestine) that are infected with bacteria called ‘*Helicobacter pylori*’. If you have this condition, your doctor may also prescribe antibiotics to treat the infection and allow the ulcer to heal.

2. What you need to know before you take Inexium

Do not take Inexium:

- If you are allergic to esomeprazole or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6).
- If you are allergic to other proton pump inhibitor medicines (e.g. pantoprazole, lansoprazole, rabeprazole, omeprazole).
- If you are taking a medicine containing nelfinavir (used to treat HIV infection).

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