

Albendazole

Why is this medication prescribed?

Albendazole is an anthelmintic or anti-worm medication. It prevents newly hatched insect larvae (worms) from growing or multiplying in your body.

Albendazole is used to treat certain infections caused by worms such as pork tapeworm and dog tapeworm.

This drug may also be used to treat other types of worm infections.

How should this medicine be used?

Take this medication by mouth with meals, usually 1 to 2 times daily or as directed by your doctor. If you or your child have trouble swallowing tablets, you may crush or chew your dose and take it with water.

Dosage is based on your weight, medical condition, and response to treatment. Take this medication exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Some conditions may require you to stop the medication for 2 weeks and then restart the medication. If that is the case, it may be helpful to mark the calendar with a reminder of when you need to restart the medication.

Use this medication regularly in order to get the most benefit from it. To help you remember, take it at the same time(s) each day.

Continue to take this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may result in a return of the infection.

What special precautions should I follow?

You should not use this medication if you are allergic to albendazole, or to similar medications such as mebendazole.

You should not use albendazole if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant during treatment. Use an effective form of birth control while you are using albendazole, and for at least 1 month after your treatment ends.

Take albendazole with food to lessen stomach upset.

Take this medication for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor.

Albendazole can lower the blood cells that help your body fight infections. This can make it easier for you to bleed from an injury or get sick from being around others who are ill. To be sure your blood cells do not get too low; your blood will need to be tested on a regular basis. Your liver function may also need to be tested.

What special dietary instructions should I follow?

Albendazole should be taken with food.

What should I do if I forget a 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.

What side effects can this medication cause?

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- fever, sore throat, and headache with a severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash; or
- fever with chills, body aches, or flu-like symptoms.

Less serious side effects may include:

- stomach pain;
- nausea, vomiting;
- headache, dizziness; or
- temporary hair loss.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature between 20-25 degrees C away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.

In case of emergency/overdose

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.



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