

**ALDERFER & TRAVIS CARDIOLOGY, PC**  
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FUROSEMIDE - ORAL

OTHER NAMES: Lasix

USES: Furosemide is a diuretic. Diuretics are referred to as "water pills" because they decrease the amount of water retained in the body by increasing urination. Diuretics are used to treat edema (fluid retention and swelling especially of the hands and feet caused by heart failure and other diseases) and hypertension (high blood pressure).

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION: May take with food or milk if stomach upset occurs.

If this medication is taken in the late afternoon or evening, you may need to get up during the night to urinate. Consult with your doctor regarding your dosing schedule.

SIDE EFFECTS: This drug may cause dizziness and lightheadedness especially during the first few days as your body adjusts to it. Rise slowly from a seated or lying position. It may also increase sensitivity to sunlight.

Blurred vision, loss of appetite, itching, stomach upset, headache and weakness may also occur during initial therapy as your body adjusts to the medication.

Inform your doctor if you develop muscle cramps, pain, nausea or vomiting while taking this medication. It may be a sign of low blood potassium.

Contact your doctor if you experience dry mouth, thirst, unusual bleeding or bruising, rash, yellow eyes or skin, severe nausea or vomiting, or ringing in ears.

This medication increases urination. Expect this effect.

In the unlikely event you have an allergic reaction to this drug, seek medical attention immediately. Symptoms of an allergic reaction include rash, itching, swelling, dizziness or trouble breathing.

PRECAUTIONS: Before using this drug, tell your doctor your medical history especially of kidney problems, unusual decrease in urine output, liver disease, diabetes and of any drug allergies.

This drug may reduce the potassium levels in your blood. Ask your doctor about adding potassium to your diet. A potassium supplement may be prescribed by your doctor.

Furosemide may make you more sensitive to sunlight. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing.

Alcohol may intensify side effects. Limit your alcohol intake.

Furosemide should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

This drug is excreted into breast milk. Though, to date, no problems have been reported to nursing infants, consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

**DRUG INTERACTIONS:** Tell your doctor if you are currently taking blood thinner drugs (coumarin type), lithium, aminoglycosides (e.g., kanamycin, neomycin, gentamicin), large doses of salicylates, sucralfate, ethacrynic acid or other diuretics, digoxin, diabetic medication, NSAIDS (arthritis medication), cisplatin, blood pressure medication, probenecid, acyclovir or cyclosporine..

Tell your doctor if you are taking any OTC medication to treat nasal congestion or to control appetite.

**NOTES:** Do not share this medication with others.

**MISSED DOSE:** If you miss a dose, take as soon as remembered; do not take if it is almost time for the next dose, instead, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not "double-up" the dose to catch up.

**STORAGE:** Store at room temperature away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.

Your condition can cause complications in a medical emergency. For information on enrollment call Medic Alert(TM) at 1-800-854-1166. In Canada call 1-800-668-1507.