

Arthrinol 20 Film Coated Tablets 20mg

Please read carefully this leaflet before you start taking the medicine.

- Keep this leaflet in a safe place. You may need to read it again. If you have any questions ask your doctor or your pharmacist.
- This medicine was prescribed for you personally and you should not pass it on to others. It can be harmful, even when their symptoms are the same as yours.

Composition:

Active substance: Tenoxicam

Excipients: Microcrystalline Cellulose, Lactose, Maize Starch, Povidone, Sodium Starch Glycolate, Colloidal Silicon Dioxide, Magnesium Stearate, Talc, Hypromellose, Macrogol 400, Titanium Dioxide, Yellow Ferric Oxide E172.

Marketing Licence Holder & Manufacturer:

Remedica Ltd, Limassol Industrial Estate, Limassol, Cyprus, EU.

Marketing Licence Number:

Arthrinol 20: 20028

1. WHAT IS Arthrinol AND WHAT ARE ITS USES.

Tenoxicam, the active substance of Arthrinol, is a Non Steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drug (NSAID) that belongs to oxicams. NSAIDs are drugs that are used for relieving the symptoms caused by arthritis (rheumatism), such as inflammation, oedema (swelling), rigidity of and pain in the joints. The action of NSAIDs is due mainly to the inhibition of the synthesis of all prostaglandins.

These drugs do not cure arthritis, but only help for as long as you take them.

Indications:

Arthrinol is indicated for the relief of pain in rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis. It is also indicated for the short term management of acute musculoskeletal disorders including strains, sprains and other soft tissue injuries.

2. WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE Arthrinol

Be particularly careful with Arthrinol:

Inform your doctor,

- if you have a history of gastro-intestinal problems,
- if you suffer from renal or hepatic insufficiency,
- if you suffer from cardiac insufficiency or hypertension
- if you have a history of bronchial asthma,
- if you are about to undergo major surgery (e.g. joint replacement).

Contra-indications:

Arthrinol is contra-indicated to patients with a history of or active peptic ulcer, gastro-intestinal bleeding, (melaena, haematemesis) or a serious form of gastritis. Arthrinol is also contra-indicated to patients with hypersensitivity to tenoxicam or to patients who have suffered a hypersensitivity reaction (symptoms of asthma, rhinitis, angioedema or urticaria) to another nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug, including aspirin as the potential exists for cross-sensitivity to tenoxicam.

Interactions:

A number of medicines interact with Arthrinol and should not be used concomitantly with NSAIDs. However, a few of them can be used concomitantly under special precautions. In this case, your doctor can change the posology or take other precautions if needed.

If you are about to take Arthrinol it is important to inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medications and particularly any of the following:

Antacids, other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, warfarin and other anticoagulants, lithium, corticosteroids, diuretics, cyclosporine, methotrexate, mifepristone, cardiac glycosides, quinolones, salicylates.

Special precautions:

NSAIDs should only be given with care to patients with a history of gastrointestinal disease and in pre-existing hepatic disease. Patients with pre-existing renal disease (including diabetics with impaired renal function), nephrotic syndrome, volume depletion, hepatic disease, congestive cardiac failure and those patients receiving concomitant therapy with diuretics or potentially nephrotoxic drugs. Such patients should have their renal, hepatic and cardiac functions carefully monitored, and the dose should be kept as low as possible. NSAIDs should be given with care to patients with a history of heart failure or hypertension since oedema has been reported in association with tenoxicam administration. Medicines such as Arthrinol may be related to a small increase of the risk for cardiac attack (=myocardial infarction) or cerebrovascular episode. This is more possible to happen when taking increased doses and during prolonged therapy. Do not exceed the recommended dose and duration of treatment.

Caution is required if administered to patients suffering from, or with a previous history of bronchial asthma since tenoxicam has been reported to cause bronchospasm in such patients.

Occasional elevations of serum transaminases or other indicators of liver function have been reported. If the abnormality is significant or persistent, Arthrinol should be stopped and follow-up tests carried out. Arthrinol reduces platelet aggregation and may prolong bleeding time. This should be borne in mind for patients who undergo major surgery (e.g. joint replacement) and when bleeding time needs to be determined. Particular care should be taken to regularly monitor elderly patients to detect possible interactions with concomitant therapy and to review renal, hepatic and cardiovascular function which may be potentially influenced by non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs.

Pregnancy:

As the safe use of Tenoxicam during pregnancy has not been established, it should be avoided.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any drug.

Lactation:

It is not known whether Tenoxicam is excreted into human milk. For this reason its administration is not indicated during lactation.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist before taking any drug.

Driving and operating machinery:

Tenoxicam is rather improbable to affect the ability to drive and operate machinery.

3. HOW TO TAKE Arthrinol

Follow your doctor's instructions.

Adults: Usual dose for adults is 20mg (1 tablet) once daily. Daily doses in excess of 20mg should be avoided as they do not enhance the efficacy of the drug but may increase the frequency and severity of undesirable events.

In acute musculoskeletal disorders, treatment should not normally be required for more than 7 days. In severe cases it may be continued up to a maximum of 14 days.

Elderly: It must be administered with caution. The same conditions as for adults apply.

Children: Use of Arthrinol in children is not recommended.

Use in patients with renal and hepatic insufficiency: Dosage in this category of patients depends on the creatinine clearance.

<i>Creatinine clearance</i>	<i>Dosage regimen</i>
Greater than 25 ml/min	Usual dosage but with careful monitoring of patients
Less than 25 ml/min	Insufficient data to make dosage recommendations

Because of the high plasma protein-binding of tenoxicam, caution is required when plasma albumin concentrations are markedly reduced (e.g. in nephrotic syndrome) or when bilirubin concentrations are high.

There is insufficient information to make dosage recommendations for Arthrinol in patients with pre-existing hepatic impairment.

In order to avoid stomach upsets, you should take the drug with plenty of fluids, preferably after meals. It should be taken at the same time every day.

If you take a dose larger than normal:

In case you have taken a dose larger than normal stop taking the medicine and contact your doctor immediately.

There are no published data of serious overdosage symptoms, neither are there any specific measures to be suggested. Generally administration of H₂-antagonists may be beneficial, while gastric lavage should be carried out as soon as possible, after ingestion of the pharmaceutical product, and the patient should be closely observed. General supportive measures are recommended.

If you forget to take Arthrinol:

If you have to take the medicine continuously and you missed a dose of the drug, you should take the missed dose as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. Do not double doses.

If you missed more than one dose consult your doctor.

4. POSSIBLE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS

As with all medicines tenoxicam, may cause undesirable effects:

Most frequent are: Gastro-intestinal disorders (dyspepsia, nausea, abdominal pain, abdominal discomfort, constipation, diarrhoea, flatulence, epigastric distress, stomatitis, anorexia, peptic ulcer, gastro-intestinal bleeding).

Other side-effects: peripheral oedema of mild or moderate degree, cardiac failure, central nervous system reactions (headache, dizziness, somnolence, insomnia, depression, nervousness, abnormal dreams, mental confusion, paraesthesias, vertigo), hypersensitivity reactions, allergic reactions, (anaphylaxis, respiratory tract problems, aggravated asthma, bronchospasm, dyspnoea), skin reactions (rash, angioedema, pruritus), nail disorders, alopecia, erythema, urticaria, photosensitivity reactions, Lyell's syndrome, Steven-Johnson syndrome, vasculitis, reversible elevations of blood urea nitrogen and creatinine, decrease in haemoglobin, anaemia, aplastic or haemolytic anaemia, thrombocytopenia, non-thrombocytopenia purpura, leukopenia, eosinophilia, epistaxis, agranulocytosis, raised serum transaminase levels, hepatitis, jaundice, palpitations, dyspnoea, metabolic disorders (weight increase or decrease, hyperglycaemia), swollen eyes, blurred vision, eye irritation, malaise, tinnitus, various forms of nephrotoxicity (interstitial nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, renal failure).

If you experience undesirable effects that are not mentioned above, please inform your doctor.

5. STORAGE OF Arthrinol

Product expiry date:

Shown on the inner and outer packaging. In case the expiry date has lapsed, do not use.

Special precautions for storage of the product:

It is stored at a temperature below 25°C, away from light and moisture and safely away from the reach of children.

6. OTHER INFORMATION

Arthrinol 20: This product is available in pack-sizes of 4, 10, 20, 30, 100, 1000 tablets.

Not all pack-sizes may be marketed in all countries.

For any other information regarding this pharmaceutical product, contact the Marketing License Holder.

Date of last revision of leaflet:

February 2009.

Legal Category:

This medicine is dispensed only by medical prescription.