

AMILORIDE

Brand name Amilamont

Used in the following combined preparations Co-amilofruse, Co-amilozide, Moduretic, Navispare, and others

GENERAL INFORMATION

Amiloride is a diuretic. It acts on the kidneys to increase the amount of urine that is passed, although the diuretic effect of amiloride is very mild. The drug is used in the treatment of oedema (fluid retention), which can result from heart failure or liver disease and for hypertension (high blood pressure).

Amiloride's effect on urine flow may last for several hours, so it should be taken in the morning. Amiloride causes

the kidneys to conserve potassium (potassium-sparing diuretic) and should not be used when there is a high blood level of potassium. The drug is prescribed with caution in people taking potassium supplements or those with kidney disease. Amiloride is often combined with other diuretics such as furosemide (as co-amilofruse) and hydrochlorothiazide (as co-amilozide).

QUICK REFERENCE

Drug group Potassium-sparing diuretic (p.57)

Overdose danger rating Low

Dependence rating Low

Prescription needed Yes

Available as generic Yes

INFORMATION FOR USERS

Your drug prescription is tailored for you. Do not alter dosage without checking with your doctor.

How taken/used



Tablets, liquid.

Frequency and timing of doses

Once or twice daily, usually in the morning.

Adult dosage range

5–20mg daily.

Onset of effect

Within 2–4 hours.

Duration of action

12 hours.

Diet advice

Avoid foods that are high in potassium – for example, dried fruit, bananas, tomatoes, and “low salt” salt substitutes.

Storage

Keep in original container at room temperature out of the reach of children.

Missed dose

Take as soon as you remember. However, if it is late in the day, do not take the missed dose, or you may need to get up at night to pass urine. Take the next scheduled dose as usual.

Stopping the drug

Do not stop the drug without consulting your doctor; symptoms may recur.

Exceeding the dose

An occasional unintentional extra dose is unlikely to be a cause for concern. But if you notice any unusual symptoms, or if a large overdose has been taken, notify your doctor.

SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS

Be sure to tell your doctor if:

- You have long-term liver or kidney problems.
- You are taking other medicines.



Pregnancy

Not usually prescribed. May cause a reduction in the blood supply to the developing baby. Discuss with your doctor.



Breast-feeding

Not usually prescribed during breast-feeding. Discuss with your doctor.



Infants and children

Not recommended.



Over 60

Increased likelihood of adverse effects. Reduced dose may be necessary.



Driving and hazardous work

No known problems.



Alcohol

No special problems.

POSSIBLE ADVERSE EFFECTS

Amiloride has few adverse effects; the main problem is the possibility that potassium may be retained by the body or excessive sodium

lost in the urine, causing muscle weakness or heart rhythm problems.

Symptom/effect	Frequency		Discuss with doctor		Stop taking drug now	Call doctor now
	Common	Rare	Only if severe	In all cases		
Digestive disturbance		●	●			
Confusion		●		●		
Muscle weakness/cramps		●		●		
Dry mouth/thirst		●		●		
Dizziness		●		●		
Rash		●		●	●	

INTERACTIONS

Lithium Amiloride may increase the blood levels of lithium, leading to an increased risk of lithium toxicity.

ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II blockers, renin inhibitors (e.g. aliskiren), ciclosporin, drosperinone, tacrolimus, and NSAIDs These drugs may increase the risk of potassium retention if taken with amiloride.

PROLONGED USE

Monitoring Blood tests may be carried out to monitor levels of body salts.