

# ANTABUSE<sup>®</sup>

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

### 1. Why am I using [medicine name]?

Antabuse contains the active ingredient disulfiram. Antabuse is used to act as a deterrent to alcohol consumption

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Antabuse?](#) in the full CMI.

### 2. What should I know before I use [Antabuse

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to disulfiram or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

**Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use Antabuse?](#) in the full CMI.

### 3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Antabuse and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

### 4. How do I use Antabuse

**Starting dose:** Take between half a tablet (100 mg) and one and a half tablets (300 mg) dissolved in water as a single dose daily for one to two weeks. One tablet daily is the usual maintenance dose.

Your doctor will tell you the exact dosage

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use Antabuse?](#) in the full CMI.

### 5. What should I know while using Antabuse

<b>Things you should do</b>	Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Antabuse Always follow your doctor's instructions carefully, and seek your doctor's advice before changing or stopping treatment
<b>Things you should not do</b>	Do not take if you have consumed any alcohol in the last 24 hours. <b>DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TAKE ANY ALCOHOL OR ALCOHOL- CONTAINING PRODUCTS</b>
<b>Driving or using machines</b>	You may feel drowsy or fatigue while taking Antabuse.
<b>Drinking alcohol</b>	Do not take if you have consumed any alcohol in the last 24 hours. <b>DO NOT, UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES, TAKE ANY ALCOHOL OR ALCOHOL- CONTAINING PRODUCTS</b>
<b>Looking after your medicine</b>	Keep your Antabuse in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using Antabuse?](#) in the full CMI.

### 6. Are there any side effects?

In the first 2 weeks the following are common side effects, (headache, weakness, acne or skin rash, upset stomach, impotence in men and bad breath.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

# Antabuse®

Active ingredient(s): *disulfiram*

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Antabuse. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Antabuse.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using Antabuse?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use Antabuse?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use Antabuse?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using Antabuse?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

## 1. Why am I using Antabuse

**Antabuse contains the active ingredient disulfiram.**

Antabuse is alcohol antagonist. Antabuse inhibits an enzyme, which assists in the breakdown of alcohol in the body. A build-up of a substance called acetaldehyde results. If alcohol is consumed when a patient has received Antabuse the so called "aldehyde reaction" may occur.

**Antabuse is designed to act as a deterrent to alcohol consumption.**

Antabuse tablets have been approved for the uses listed above. However, your doctor may prescribe this medicine for another use. If you want more information, ask your doctor.

Antabuse tablets are not addictive.

## 2. What should I know before I use Antabuse?

### Warnings

**Do not use Antabuse if:**

- you are allergic to disulfiram, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. or certain other chemicals (thiuram derivatives) used in pesticides and rubber processing. (See the last section of this leaflet for a full list of ingredients). Signs of allergy include rash, itching, shortness of breath and/or swollen face
- you have heart, liver or kidney disease; organic brain damage, high blood pressure
- you have a mental illness with abnormal thoughts
- you are taking paraldehyde or metronidazole

- the packaging is torn or shows signs of being tampered with
- treating any other complaints unless your doctor says it is safe to do so.
- **You continue to consume alcohol.** Taking alcohol while using Antabuse results in the 'aldehyde reaction'. The reaction starts with a flushing from the head downwards involving the face, neck, arms and chest. This is accompanied by a feeling of heat, sweating, palpitations, fast or irregular heartbeat, shortness of breath, hyperventilation, anxiety, itchiness and headache. There is a feeling of constriction and irritation in the throat resulting in spasms and coughing. Chest pains may occur. Restlessness or a sense of uneasiness and fear of dying may develop. These symptoms are accompanied by a steep rise in blood pressure, which may be followed by a drop in blood pressure. Flushing is then replaced by the patient becoming pale, weak, feeling dizzy and sick, which turns into violent vomiting and stomach cramps. Other symptoms may include thirst, dizziness, blurred vision, numbness of the hands and feet and the inability to sleep. Severe reactions may affect the heart, and there may be fits, loss of consciousness, respiratory depression and death. The reaction usually lasts 2-4 hours and up to several hours in more severe cases.

Confusion, drowsiness and sleep usually follow. The intensity of the reaction varies with each individual, but generally depends on the amount of Antabuse and alcohol consumed.

**If such a reaction is observed, the patient's doctor should be contacted. If the patient is not in hospital or a clinic, an ambulance should be called as the patient requires close monitoring.**

**You should not take Antabuse until you have not taken any alcohol for 24 hours.** If you stop taking Antabuse, you should wait at least 14 days before consuming alcohol.

Reactions may still occur for up to three weeks after taking Antabuse.

Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.

### IMPORTANT NOTE

**Under all circumstances when taking Antabuse you MUST NOT take alcohol or alcohol-containing preparations e.g. certain cough syrups, sauces, vinegar, tonics, food prepared with wine. You should even avoid the use of after-shave lotions and alcoholic back rubs.**

### Check with your doctor if you:

- have any of the following medical conditions;
  - Diabetes
  - Epilepsy
  - Thyroid problems
  - Heart, kidney or liver disease
  - High blood pressure
  - An allergic skin reaction in you come into contact with certain irritants
  - Asthma
  - Mental illness with abnormal thought
- take any medicines for any other condition

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Do not use if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are breastfeeding.

They will advise you on whether you should take Antabuse.

## 3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

### Some medicines may interfere with Antabuse and affect how it works.

- Phenytoin, theophylline and isoniazid.
- sleeping tablets such as Valium.
- medicines which stop blood clotting (warfarin).
- metronidazole and paraldehyde.
- pain killers such as morphine, pethidine, amphetamines and barbiturates.

**Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect Antabuse.**

## 4. How do I use Antabuse?

### How much to take / use

The following are the usual doses, but your doctor may adjust them to suit your needs:

**Starting dose:** Take between half a tablet (100 mg) and one and a half tablets (300 mg) dissolved in water as a single dose daily for one to two weeks. Your doctor will tell you the exact dosage. Then go back and see your doctor.

**Maintenance dose:** Take ONE tablet daily.

Take the tablets in the morning when you wake up. However if you find the tablets make you sleepy you can take them

before bedtime. If you are taking Antabuse for a long time, then your doctor will need to do a regular check up. This may include a blood test.

### When to take / use Antabuse

Antabuse should be taken in the morning when you wake up. However if you find the tablets make you sleepy you can take them before bedtime.

### If you forget to use Antabuse

Antabuse should be used regularly at the same time each day. If you miss your dose at the usual time, do so as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

**If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.**

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.**

If you have problems remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints

### If you use too much Antabuse

If you have taken too much Antabuse you may get drowsy, experience some pain or numbness in the hands and feet which may get worse if not treated

Contact the Poisons Information Centre  
(by calling 13 11 26), or

contact your doctor, or  
go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

**You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

## 5. What should I know while using Antabuse?

### Things you should do

Always follow your doctor's instructions carefully and seek your doctor's advice before changing or stopping treatment. Your doctor will be happy to discuss any concerns you may have with your treatment

**Always read labels of food and medicines bought to check they contain no alcohol**

### Things you should not do

Ask your doctor before taking any other medicines. Antabuse can interact with other medicines. Especially check bought medicines from your chemist or supermarket to make sure they contain no alcohol]].

### Driving or using machines

**Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how Antabuse affects you.**

Antabuse may cause drowsiness or fatigue in some people.

## Drinking alcohol

**Do not drink alcohol or alcohol containing product. You will suffer from the “aldehyde reaction” which needs immediate medical treatment and may be fatal**

## Looking after your medicine

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Store it in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C, away from moisture, heat or sunlight; for example, do not store it:

in the bathroom or near a sink, or  
in the car or on window sills.

**Keep it where young children cannot reach it.**

## Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

## 6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

### Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• headache;</li><li>• weakness;</li><li>• acne or skin rash;</li><li>• stomach upset;</li><li>• impotence in men;</li><li>• metallic or garlic-like after taste; bad breath (halitosis)</li></ul>	<p><b>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</b></p> <p>You may have these effects in the first two weeks of treatment</p>

### Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• numbness, tingling, pain or weakness in hands or feet;</li><li>• change in vision or eye tenderness or pain;</li><li>• mood changes or abnormal thoughts;</li></ul>	<p><b>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest</b></p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• fatigue;</li><li>• malaise (generally feeling unwell);</li><li>• loss of appetite;</li><li>• nausea (feeling sick);</li><li>• vomiting;</li><li>• dark urine or yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice) or abdominal pain.</li></ul>	<p><b>hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</b></p>
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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

## Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at [www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems](http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.**

## 7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

### What Antabuse contains

<b>Active ingredient (main ingredient)</b>	Disulfiram 200 mg
<b>Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• maize starch,</li><li>• povidone,</li><li>• tartaric acid,</li><li>• sodium bicarbonate,</li><li>• microcrystalline cellulose,</li><li>• colloidal anhydrous silica,</li><li>• magnesium stearate,</li><li>• polysorbate 20</li><li>• and purified talc.</li></ul>
<b>Potential allergens</b>	-

**Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.**

### What Antabuse looks like

Antabuse tablets are white, flat tablets scored and marked with CDC. Antabuse comes in packs of 30 tablets. (Aust R 70468).

## **Who distributes Antabuse**

Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd

15-17 Chapel St

Cremorne VIC 3121

Ph 1800 195 055

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