

# Syntometrine®

## 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 is this Syntometrine being given?

Syntometrine contains the active ingredient oxytocin and ergometrine maleate. Syntometrine is used during and immediately after the delivery of a baby to help the birth and to prevent or treat excessive bleeding.

For more information, see Section [1. Why is this Syntometrine being given?](#) in the full CMI.

### 2. What should I know before Syntometrine is given?

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

**Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical condition or take any other medicines.**

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

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

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

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

### 4. How is Syntometrine given?

Syntometrine must only be given by a doctor or nurse and your doctor will decide what dose of Syntometrine you will receive. This depends on your medical condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How is Syntometrine given?](#) in the full CMI.

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

<b>Things you should do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remind any doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have any allergies or taking any medicines before Syntometrine is given to you.</li> <li>Receive the injection under hospital conditions and with qualified medical supervision.</li> </ul>
<b>Things you should not do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You must not have Syntometrine if you are pregnant or are in labour, but the baby's shoulder has not yet been delivered.</li> <li>You must not have Syntometrine if you have severe high blood pressure, severe heart, liver or kidney problems or a severe infection.</li> </ul>
<b>Driving or using machines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Syntometrine affects you.</li> </ul>
<b>Drinking alcohol</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol. Alcohol may affect the use of Syntometrine.</li> </ul>
<b>Looking after your medicine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Syntometrine will be stored in the surgery or ward of a hospital. The injection is stored in a refrigerator (at 2°C - 8°C) and protected from sunlight.</li> </ul>

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while Syntometrine is being used?](#) in the full CMI.

### 6. Are there any side effects?

Syntometrine may cause allergic reactions such as shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, rash and itching or hives on the skin.

Syntometrine side effects include nausea or vomiting, pain in the abdomen that is different from labour pains, headache, dizziness, lightheadedness or faintness and slow or irregular heartbeat.

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.

# Syntometrine®

**Active ingredients:** *oxytocin and ergometrine maleate*

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Syntometrine. **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 Syntometrine.**

**Where to find information in this leaflet:**

1. [Why is this Syntometrine being given?](#)
2. [What should I know before Syntometrine is given?](#)
3. [What if I am using other medicines?](#)
4. [How is Syntometrine given?](#)
5. [What should I know while using Syntometrine?](#)
6. [Are there any side effects?](#)
7. [Product details](#)

### 1. Why is this Syntometrine being given?

**Syntometrine contains the active ingredient oxytocin and ergometrine maleate.**

**Syntometrine can be used during and immediately after delivery of a baby to help the birth and to prevent or treat excessive bleeding.**

Syntometrine works by stimulating the muscles of the uterus (womb) to produce rhythmic contractions.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Syntometrine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another purpose. Syntometrine is only available with a doctor's prescription. It is not addictive.

### 2. What should I know before Syntometrine is given?

#### Warnings

**Do not use Syntometrine if:**

- you are allergic to oxytocin, ergometrine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:
  - shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
  - swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
  - rash, itching or hives on the skin

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

- you are pregnant or are in labour, but the baby's shoulder has not yet been delivered.
- you have any of the following medical conditions:
  - severe high blood pressure
  - severe heart, liver or kidney problems
  - high blood pressure, protein in the urine and swelling (preeclampsia) with convulsions or coma (eclampsia) during pregnancy or after giving birth
  - narrowing or blockage of blood vessels
  - severe infection

**Check with your doctor if you:**

- have any of the following:
  - allergy to latex  
Syntometrine may cause a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) in patients with latex allergy.
  - mild or moderate high blood pressure
  - an abnormal electrical signal of the heart called "prolongation of the QT interval"
  - mild or moderate heart, liver or kidney problems
  - any other conditions that affect the heart
  - problems with your lungs
  - poor circulation which makes the toes and fingers numb and pale caused by Raynaud's phenomenon
  - anaemic (have low iron levels in your blood)
  - toxemia during pregnancy

If you are not sure about any of the above, your doctor can advise you.

**Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.**

Your doctor will want to know if you are prone to allergies.

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?](#)

**Tell your doctor if you have recently had any grapefruit juice.**

- It is recommended that you do not drink grapefruit juice around the same time as your treatment with Syntometrine as these may interact.

## Breastfeeding

**Talk to your doctor if you intend to breastfeed after being given Syntometrine.**

Ergometrine derivatives are excreted in breast milk in unknown amounts. Its effects on breast-fed newborns are unknown.

The ergometrine in Syntometrine may affect the amount of breast milk produced.

**Your doctor will discuss the potential risks and benefits involved.**

### 3. What if I am using 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 Syntometrine and affect how it works.**

These include:

- medicines used to start labour or to treat stomach ulcers known as prostaglandins
- medicines used to narrow the blood vessels and decrease the flow of blood such as vasoconstrictors
- sympathomimetic medicines, which are used in the treatment of asthma, nasal congestion and low blood pressure in emergency situations. This includes where these types of medicines are part of a local anaesthetic.
- medicines used to treat or prevent angina, e.g. glyceryl trinitrate
- beta-blocker medicines such as propranolol, which are used to prevent migraine, treat high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, and other heart conditions
- inhalation anaesthetics
- medicines for infections, including ketoconazole, itraconazole, fluconazole, clotrimazole, erythromycin, clarithromycin
- medicines used for ulcers and heartburn such as cimetidine
- medicines used to treat HIV/AIDS, including ritonavir, indinavir, nelfinavir
- ergot alkaloids and derivatives, such as methysergide, bromocriptine, and ergometrine
- medicines used to treat migraine such as sumatriptan, and zolmitriptan

**If you have not told your doctor about any of these things, tell him/her before you are given Syntometrine.**

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

### 4. How is Syntometrine given?

#### How much to be given

- Your doctor will decide what dose of Syntometrine that you will receive.

#### When Syntometrine is given

- For prevention or treatment of excessive bleeding, Syntometrine is given after the placenta has been delivered or when bleeding occurs. If needed, the dose can be repeated after 2 hours.

#### How Syntometrine is given

- An injection of Syntometrine is given intramuscularly (into a muscle) following delivery of the baby's shoulder or immediately after delivery is over.

#### If too much Syntometrine is given

It is unlikely that you will receive an overdose as this medicine is usually administered in a hospital, under the supervision of a doctor.

Some of the symptoms of an overdose include nausea, vomiting, dizziness, lightheadedness, or shallow breathing.

If you think too much Syntometrine is given, you may need urgent medical attention.

#### You should immediately:

- phone 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 Syntometrine?

#### Things you should do

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you have been given Syntometrine.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you have been given this medicine.**

**If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you have been given this medicine.**

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

**Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.**

### Call your doctor straight away if you:

- notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.
- do not feel well while you are having Syntometrine. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Remind any doctor, nurse, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Syntometrine.

### If you feel light-headed, dizzy or faint when getting out of bed or standing up, get up slowly.

Standing up slowly, especially when you get up from bed or chairs, will help your body get used to the change in position and blood pressure. If this problem continues or gets worse, talk to your doctor.

### Driving or using machines

#### Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how Syntometrine affects you.

This medicine may cause dizziness, light-headedness and blurred vision in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Taking Syntometrine can start labour. Women having contractions should not drive or use machines.

### Drinking alcohol

#### Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol.

Alcohol may affect the use of Syntometrine.

### Looking after your medicine

- Syntometrine will be stored in the surgery or ward of a hospital. The injection is kept in a refrigerator (at 2°C - 8°C).
- The injection should not be frozen.
- The injection should be protected from sunlight by keeping the ampoules in the original pack until it is time for it to be given. Exposure to light may change the solution's appearance and product attributes.
- The medicine is kept away from children.
- Syntometrine will only be opened when it is time for you to have the injection.

## 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.

### Side effects

Side effects	What to do
<b>Digestive system:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting</li> <li>• pain in the abdomen that is different from labour pains</li> </ul> <b>Skin related:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• rash, itching or hives on the skin</li> <li>• swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body</li> </ul> <b>Nervous system:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• headache</li> <li>• dizziness, light headedness or faintness</li> </ul>	<b>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</b>

### Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<b>Respiratory system:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing</li> </ul> <b>Cardiovascular system:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• chest pain</li> <li>• slow or irregular heartbeat</li> </ul>	<b>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</b>

#### 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 Syntometrine contains

<b>Active ingredient (main ingredient)</b>	oxytocin ergometrine maleate
<b>Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)</b>	acetic acid chlorobutanol hemihydrate maleic acid sodium acetate trihydrate sodium chloride water for injections

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

## What Syntometrine looks like

Syntometrine is clear, colourless solution and it is available in an uncoloured 1 mL glass ampoule with blue colour-code rings, packaged in a pack of 5 ampoules (Aust R 13396).

## Who distributes Syntometrine

Phebra Pty Ltd

17-19 Orion Road

Lane Cove West, NSW 2066

Australia

Telephone: 1800 720 020

This leaflet was prepared in January 2025.

Phebra and the Phi symbol are registered trademarks of Phebra Pty Ltd.

Syntometrine, Alliance and associated devices are registered trademarks of Alliance Pharmaceuticals Limited, Avonbridge House, Bath Road, Chippenham, SN15 2BB, UK.

®= Registered Trademark