

DIAMOX

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 DIAMOX?

DIAMOX contains the active ingredient acetazolamide. DIAMOX is used to lower raised pressure in the eye and to treat the following forms of glaucoma: Chronic simple (open-angle) glaucoma, Secondary glaucoma, and Acute angle-closure glaucoma.

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

2. What should I know before I use DIAMOX?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to [medicine] 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 DIAMOX?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with DIAMOX 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 DIAMOX?

- The dose of DIAMOX may be different for each person. Your doctor will decide the right dose for you.
- Swallow DIAMOX with a glass of water. This medicine may be taken with or without food.

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

5. What should I know while using DIAMOX?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist, or pharmacist you visit that you are using DIAMOX.• Take DIAMOX exactly as your doctor has prescribed.• If you become pregnant while taking DIAMOX, tell your doctor immediately.• Always discuss with your doctor any problems or difficulties during or after taking DIAMOX.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop using this medicine suddenly, or change the dosage without first checking with your doctor.• Do not use this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor or pharmacist tells you to.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• DIAMOX may reduce your alertness, cause drowsiness or dizziness in some people. If affected, do not drive, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep DIAMOX in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C!• Keep DIAMOX where young children cannot reach it.

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

6. Are there any side effects?

These side effects are usually mild: tingling or numbness of fingers, toes, hands, feet, and face; loss of appetite, feeling extremely thirsty, passing more urine than normal, flushing, headache, dizziness, tiredness, irritability. *Less common or rare side effects:* drowsiness, depression, over-excitement, confusion, reduced libido, increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun, fast breathing, low potassium levels in the blood, nausea/vomiting, diarrhoea, temporary shortsightedness, itchy rash or hives, blood in the urine, sugar in the urine, black tar-like stools, liver problems, fits, paralysis where the muscles are limp and unable to move, kidney disease including kidney stones, crystals in the urine, hearing disturbances such as ringing in the ears, growth retardation in children, weakness of the bones, taste alteration, low or high blood sugar levels, unsteadiness when walking, severe skin reactions such as blisters and bleeding from the lips, eyes, mouth, nose or genitals, decrease in vision or pain in your eyes due to accumulation of fluid in the vascular layer of the eye (choroidal effusion or choroidal detachment). *Serious side effects:* frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers, sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching, hives, swelling of the face, lips or tongue and shortness of breath or wheezing, signs of shock such as rapid, shallow breathing, cold, clammy skin, a rapid, weak pulse and dizziness or fainting, bruising or bleeding more easily than normal, tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness, looking pale and yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

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.

DIAMOX

Active ingredient(s): *acetazolamide*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

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

Where to find information in this leaflet:

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

1. Why am I using DIAMOX?

DIAMOX contains the active ingredient acetazolamide.

DIAMOX is used to lower raised pressure in the eye and to treat the following forms of glaucoma:

- **Chronic simple (open-angle) glaucoma**
- **Secondary glaucoma, where glaucoma has developed as a result of other eye disorders**
- **Acute angle-closure glaucoma before undergoing surgery.**

Glaucoma is the name given to a group of eye diseases in which the optic nerve at the back of the eye is slowly destroyed. In most people this damage is caused by increased pressure in the eye. However, some people with glaucoma may have normal eye pressure.

Glaucoma is usually caused by a build up of fluid which flows into the eye. This build up occurs because the fluid drains out of your eye more slowly than it is being pumped in. Since new fluid continues to enter the eye, joining the fluid that is already there, the pressure continues to rise. This raised pressure may damage the back of the eye, resulting in gradual loss of sight. Damage can progress so slowly that the person is not aware of this gradual loss of sight. Sometimes even normal eye pressure is associated with damage to the back of the eye.

There are usually no symptoms of glaucoma. The only way of knowing is to have your eye pressure, optic nerve, and visual field checked by an eye specialist or optometrist. If glaucoma is not treated it can lead to serious problems. You may have no symptoms but eventually glaucoma can lead to total blindness. In fact, untreated glaucoma is one of the most common causes of blindness.

DIAMOX is used, either alone or in combination with other eye drops or medicines, to lower raised pressure within your eyes.

DIAMOX is also used to help treat some other conditions such as:

- Fluid retention due to congestive heart failure
- Fluid retention caused by other medicines
- Epilepsy in both adults and children

DIAMOX works by blocking an enzyme, which is responsible for fluid formation. In people with glaucoma, blocking this enzyme causes the pressure in the eye caused by fluid build up to fall. Blocking this enzyme also seems to slow down abnormal or excessive discharge from your nerves. This helps prevent fits in people with epilepsy.

It also acts as a diuretic. This gets rid of excess fluid in the body by increasing urine production. This action helps people with congestive heart failure or fluid retention caused by other medicines.

DIAMOX is not addictive.

2. What should I know before I use DIAMOX?

Warnings

Do not use DIAMOX if:

- **you are allergic to acetazolamide, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**
 - medicines called sulphonamides, which are a group of antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections, or sulphonamide related medicines. Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction to DIAMOX or sulphonamides may include fever, rash, and crystals in the urine.
- always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.
- **you have chronic noncongestive angle closure glaucoma.**
- **you have any of the following conditions:**
 - marked liver or kidney disease
If you have chronic liver disease and you take DIAMOX you are at risk of brain and nervous system damage.
 - problems with your adrenal glands
 - unusual amounts of salt in the body
 - low levels of sodium, potassium or bicarbonate in your blood
 - severe glaucoma due to peripheral anterior synechia or haemorrhagic glaucoma.
- **you are pregnant.** DIAMOX should not be used in pregnancy, especially during the first trimester.

Do not use this medicine if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not use DIAMOX after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack.

Be careful if you are elderly, unwell or taking other medicines. Some people may experience side effects such as drowsiness, confusion, and dizziness, which may increase the risk of a fall.

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

You must tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking DIAMOX during pregnancy.

You must tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking DIAMOX when breastfeeding. This medicine has been found in low levels in breast milk.

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 reduce or increase the action of DIAMOX. Also, DIAMOX may reduce or increase the action of some other medicines.

These include:

- aspirin
- phenytoin, primidone, medicines used to treat epilepsy
- medicines used to stop blood clotting
- medicines used for high blood sugar levels
- a group of medicines used to treat cancer called folic acid antagonists
- medicines used for high blood pressure
- medicines used to treat heart failure
- ciclosporin, a medicine used after an organ transplant to prevent rejection
- lithium, a medicine used to treat emotional disorders
- amphetamines (stimulants)
- other glaucoma medicines like DIAMOX
- antibiotics belonging to the methenamine class
- sodium bicarbonate, used to treat heartburn or to make your blood or urine less acidic

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

4. How do I use DIAMOX?

How much to take

- The usual dose for chronic simple (open-angle) glaucoma is 250 mg (1 tablet) to 1 gram (4 tablets) per 24 hours. If the dose per 24 hours is greater than 250 mg, then the tablets are taken in divided doses.

- For secondary glaucoma and for use before surgery in people with acute closed-angle glaucoma, the usual dose is 250 mg every 4 hours.
- For epilepsy, the recommended dose for children is based on their bodyweight. Children take 8 – 30 mg per kilogram of bodyweight a day in divided doses. The total daily dose must not be greater than 750 mg per day. This equals three tablets a day.
- For adults with epilepsy the usual dose is 250 mg (1 tablet) to 1 gram (4 tablets) daily in divided doses. If you are taking DIAMOX with another medicine for your epilepsy, the starting dose for DIAMOX is usually 250 mg once daily in addition to your epilepsy medicine.
- For congestive heart failure, the usual starting dose is 250 mg to 375mg once daily in the morning.
- For fluid retention caused by other drugs, the usual dose is 250 mg to 375 mg once daily for 1 to 2 days, alternating with a day of rest.
- Follow the instructions provided and use DIAMOX until your doctor tells you to stop.

When to take DIAMOX

- If you are taking DIAMOX in divided doses, take your tablets at evenly spaced time periods over a 24-hour period.
- For congestive heart failure, take the medicine in the morning.
- For congestive heart failure and drug-induced fluid retention if your doctor prescribes two days therapy of DIAMOX, take your medicine on the first day, then no medicine the next day and then the second dose on the third day.
- DIAMOX gets rid of excess fluid best when given every other day over a three day period.
- Follow your doctor's dosing instructions if they are different from the instructions given in this leaflet.

Swallow DIAMOX with a glass of water.

This medicine may be taken with or without food.

How long to take DIAMOX

- **For congestive heart failure and fluid retention caused by other medicines, do not take DIAMOX for longer than your doctor says.** DIAMOX may not work as well if too many doses are given.
- **For glaucoma DIAMOX helps control your condition, but does not cure it. Therefore, you must take your medicine every day.** Continue taking the tablets for as long as your doctor tells you.

If you forget to take DIAMOX

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking it as you would normally.

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

If you are unsure about whether to take your next dose, speak to your doctor or pharmacist. If you have trouble remembering when to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you use too much DIAMOX

If you think that you have used too much DIAMOX, 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 DIAMOX?

Things you should do

You must tell your doctor if:

- you have any allergies to: any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives, or dyes.
- if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.
- if you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.
- you have or have had any other medical conditions including:
 - emphysema
 - blockages in the lung
 - diabetes or impaired glucose tolerance
- if you feel DIAMOX is not helping your condition.

A small number of people being treated with anti-epileptics such as Acetazolamide have had thoughts of harming or killing themselves, if at any time you have these thoughts, immediately contact your doctor.

Visit your doctor regularly. Your doctor needs to check your progress and see whether you need to keep taking DIAMOX.

Always discuss with your doctor any problems or difficulties during or after taking DIAMOX.

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as prescribed. Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not effective and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Keep enough of this medicine to last weekends and holidays.

Remind any doctor, dentist, dentists, or pharmacist you visit that you are using DIAMOX.

Things you should not do

- **Do not take DIAMOX for a longer time than your doctor has prescribed.**
For some conditions, DIAMOX should be taken for short periods only unless advised otherwise by your doctor.

- **Do not change your dose without first checking with your doctor.**
- **Do not suddenly stop taking DIAMOX if you suffer from epilepsy.**
Stopping this medicine suddenly may make your epilepsy worse.
- **Do not use this medicine to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says to.**
- **Do not give DIAMOX to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.**

Choroidal effusion or choroidal detachment

A decrease in vision or eye pain could be symptoms of fluid accumulation in the vascular layer of the eye (choroidal effusion or choroidal detachment).

This can happen within hours of taking DIAMOX tablets. Talk to your doctor promptly if you experience these symptoms.

Driving or using machines

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

DIAMOX may cause dizziness in some people and therefore affect alertness. Make sure you know how you react to DIAMOX before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are drowsy, dizzy, or not alert.

Looking after your medicine

- Keep your tablets in their bottle until it is time to take them.
- Keep DIAMOX in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

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

Store it in a cool dry place 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
<p>These side effects are usually mild:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tingling or numbness of fingers, toes, hands, feet, and face • loss of appetite • feeling extremely thirsty • passing more urine than normal • flushing • headache • dizziness • tiredness • irritability <p>Less common or rare side effects Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • drowsiness • depression • over-excitement • confusion • increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun • fast breathing • low potassium levels in the blood • nausea/vomiting • diarrhoea • temporary shortsightedness • itchy rash or hives • blood in the urine • sugar in the urine • black tar-like stools • liver problems • fits • paralysis where the muscles are limp and unable to move • kidney disease including kidney stones • crystals in the urine • hearing disturbances such as • ringing in the ears • growth retardation in children • weakness of the bones • taste alteration • low or high blood sugar levels • unsteadiness when walking • severe skin reactions such as blisters and bleeding from the lips, eyes, mouth, nose or genitals • decrease in vision or pain in your eyes due to accumulation of fluid in the vascular layer of the eye (choroidal effusion or choroidal detachment) • non-cardiogenic pulmonary oedema 	<p>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</p>

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frequent infections such as • fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers • sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching, hives, swelling of the face, lips, or tongue and shortness of breath or wheezing • signs of shock such as rapid, shallow breathing, cold, clammy skin, a rapid, weak pulse and dizziness or fainting • bruising or bleeding more easily than normal • tiredness, headaches, being short of breath when exercising, dizziness, looking pale and yellowing of the skin and/or eyes. 	<p>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.</p>

Serious side effects are rare. Fatalities have occurred rarely due to severe adverse reactions to sulphonamides.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell when you are taking, or soon after you have finished taking, DIAMOX.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list. Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

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. 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 DIAMOX contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	acetazolamide
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • calcium hydrogen phosphate dihydrate • magnesium stearate • maize starch • povidone • sodium starch glycollate
Potential allergens	-

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

What DIAMOX looks like

DIAMOX is a white, round, convex tablet, one side plain, the other side scored into quarters (Aust R 15204).

Bottle pack of 100s and 250s tablets.

*Not all pack types may be marketed.

Who distributes DIAMOX

Arrotex Pharmaceuticals Pty Ltd

15 - 17 Chapel Street

Cremorne VIC 3121

Australia

www.arrotex.com.au

This leaflet was prepared in November 2025.