

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

## ALBENDAZOLE oral

Prescription under medical supervision

### Therapeutic action

– Anthelmintic

### Indications

- Ascariasis (*Ascaris lumbricoides*), enterobiasis (*Enterobius vermicularis*), hookworm infections (*Ancylostoma duodenale*, *Necator americanus*)
- Trichuriasis (*Trichuris trichiura*), strongyloidiasis (*Strongyloides stercoralis*)
- Trichinellosis (*Trichinella* sp)

### Forms and strengths

– 400 mg tablet

### Dosage and duration

– *Ascariasis, enterobiasis, hookworm infections*

Child over 6 months and adult: 400 mg single dose

Child over 6 months but under 10 kg: 200 mg single dose

In the event of enterobiasis, a second dose may be given after 2 to 4 weeks.

– *Trichuriasis, strongyloidiasis*

Child over 6 months and adult: 400 mg once daily for 3 days

Child over 6 months but under 10 kg: 200 mg once daily for 3 days

– *Trichinellosis*

Child over 2 years: 5 mg/kg 2 times daily for 10 to 15 days

Adult: 400 mg 2 times daily for 10 to 15 days

### Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Do not administer to children under 6 months.
- Do not administer to patients with ocular cysticercosis.
- May cause:
  - gastrointestinal disturbances, headache, dizziness;

- neurological disorders (headache, seizures)
- Pregnancy: avoid during the first trimester
- Breast-feeding: no contra-indication

## Remarks

- Tablets are to be chewed or crushed: follow manufacturer's recommendations.
- In the treatment of strongyloidiasis, ivermectin is more effective than albendazole.
- Albendazole is also used in the treatment of cutaneous larva migrans (*Ancylostoma braziliense* and *caninum*), larval cestode infections (hydatid disease, certain forms of neurocysticercosis) and in mass treatment for lymphatic filariasis (check national recommendations).
- Storage: below 25 °C - ~~☒~~ - ~~☒~~