

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

FUROSEMIDE oral

Prescription under medical supervision

Therapeutic action

- Loop diuretic

Indications

- Oedema associated with renal, hepatic or congestive heart failure

Forms and strengths

- 20 mg and 40 mg tablets

Dosage

- Adult: start with 20 mg once daily. Increase, if necessary, according to clinical response up to 80 mg once daily or 2 times daily (max. 160 mg daily). Once oedema decrease, reduce to 20 to 40 mg once daily.

Duration

- According to clinical response

Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Do not administer to patients with dehydration, severe hypokalaemia and hyponatraemia.
- May cause:
 - dehydration, hypotension, hypokalaemia, hyponatraemia, hyperuricemia;
 - renal impairment, deafness, photosensitivity.
- Avoid or monitor combination with NSAIDs, ACE inhibitors (risk of renal impairment); ototoxic drugs (e.g. aminoglycosides, quinine); lithium (increased plasma concentrations of lithium).
- Monitor combination with:
 - drugs that provoke hypotension (e.g. haloperidol, amitriptyline) and antihypertensive drugs (risk of hypotension);
 - potassium-depleting drugs (e.g. corticosteroids, laxatives, amphotericin B), sodium-depleting drugs (e.g. SSRI, carbamazepine);

- oral antidiabetics and insulin (risk of hyperglycaemia)
- Pregnancy: administer only if clearly needed
- Breast-feeding: **CONTRA-INDICATED** (excludes breastfeeding)

Remarks

- Preferably take in the morning.
- A potassium-rich diet (dates, bananas, mangos, oranges, tomatoes, etc.) is recommended during treatment. If potassium level is < 3.5 mmol/litre, administer a sustained-release potassium supplement.
- Diuretics are not indicated in the treatment of nutritional oedema or oedema associated with pre-eclampsia.
- Storage: below 25 °C - ~~7~~