

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

PRAZIQUANTEL oral

Prescription under medical supervision

Therapeutic action

– Anthelmintic

Indications

- Urinary (*S. haematobium*) and intestinal (*S. mansoni*, *S. japonicum*, *S. mekongi*, *S. intercalatum*) schistosomiasis
- Taeniasis (*T. saginata*, *T. solium*, *D. latum*, *H. nana*)
- Pulmonary (*P. westermani*), hepatobiliary (*O. felineus*, *O. viverrini*, *C. sinensis*) and intestinal (*F. buski*, *H. heterophyes*, *M. yokogawai*) flukes

Forms and strengths

– 600 mg breakable tablet

Dosage and duration

Child 4 years and over and adult:

- *Schistosomiasis*
 - *S. haematobium*, *S. mansoni*, *S. intercalatum*: 40 mg/kg single dose or 2 doses of 20 mg/kg administered 4 hours apart
 - *S. japonicum*, *S. mekongi*: 2 doses of 30 mg/kg or 3 doses of 20 mg/kg administered 4 hours apart
- *Taeniasis*
 - *T. saginata*, *T. solium*, *D. latum*: 5 to 10 mg/kg single dose
 - *H. nana*: 15 to 25 mg/kg single dose
- *Fluke infections*
 - lung and hepatobiliary: 25 mg/kg 3 times daily for 2 days
 - intestinal: 25 mg/kg 3 times daily, 1 day

Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Do not administer to patients with ocular c
- May cause:
 - drowsiness, headache, gastrointestinal dist
 - neurological disorders (headache, seizures) in patients with undiagnosed neuro cysticercosis.
- Pregnancy: *no contra-indication for the treatment of schistosomiasis and taeniasis. If immediate treatment not considered essential for fluke infections, it should be delayed until after delivery.*
- Breast-feeding: *no contra-indication*

Remarks

- Do not chew the tablets due to their bitter taste. Take during meals.
- Praziquantel is not active against certain liver flukes (*Fasciola hepatica* and *gigantica*). For this indication, use triclabendazole.
- Storage: *below 30 °C - ✘*