

This leaflet was prepared in September 2012. If in Australia, please check with your pharmacist if an updated version of this leaflet has been made available.

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment

mebendazole

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions about PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment. It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits.

If you have any concerns about using PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment. You may need to read it again.

What PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment is used for

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment is used for the treatment of threadworm in adults and children 2 years old and over.

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment can also be used under medical supervision for the treatment of infestations with other type of worms such as roundworm, hookworm and whipworm.

In addition to taking PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment you can help prevent worm reinfestation as well as infestation in other people, by understanding a few simple facts about worms.

THREADWORM

Threadworm is an intestinal infestation caused by *Enterobius vermicularis*. This is the most commonly occurring worm in Australia and New Zealand. The infestation is acquired by swallowing the eggs.

Threadworms look like tiny white threads and live in the bowel, attached to the lining. Two weeks after infestation, the female worm may begin producing eggs. Usually at night, the worms travel to the anus where they lay their eggs. The worms are often observed around the anal region early in the morning. They sometimes cause itching. This is why restless sleep is a frequent sign of threadworms, especially in children. Scratching will cause threadworm eggs to stick to the fingers. Reinfestation will result if the fingers are placed in the mouth.

The eggs, which are too small to see, stick to whatever they come in contact with e.g. bedcloths, underwear, hands and food touched by contaminated hands. Even eggs floating in the air can be swallowed and cause infestation.

Threadworms are easily transmitted and frequently the whole family becomes infested. When a family member becomes infested by threadworm the entire family should receive treatment. Even the cleanest and most careful people can become infested.

HOOKWORM, WHIPWORM AND ROUNDWORM

These worms are rare in most areas of Australia and New Zealand where effective sewerage systems have reduced the risk of infestation. Symptoms are generally more serious than with threadworm. If you suspect a rare worm infestation you should see your doctor.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about this medicine.

Before you take PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment

Evidence of worm infestation should be present before treating.

When you must not take it

Do not take PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment if you know you are allergic to it or any other medicines containing mebendazole or similar medicines or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the leaflet.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body

Do not use PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment in children under 2 years of age, unless directed by your doctor.

Do not take PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not take PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment after the expiry date (month and year) printed on the pack has passed. If you take this medicine after the expiry date it may not work as well.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or breast-feeding. Your doctor or pharmacist will advise whether you should take PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment.

These include:

- cimetidine, a medicine used to treat stomach ulcers;
- metronidazole, a medicine used to treat infections.

These medicines may be affected by PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

How to take PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment

How much to take

For treatment of threadworm

Adults and children of 2 years and over:
Tablet: A single dose of 1 tablet (100 mg)

It can take up to 3 days for the dead worms to pass through the system. If reinfestation occurs after this time, take 1 tablet (100 mg) again after 2 to 4 weeks.

For treatment of hookworm, whipworm and roundworm (use only under medical advice)

Adults and children of 2 years and over:
Tablet: A single dose of 1 tablet (100 mg) in the morning and evening for three consecutive days.

How to take it

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment tablets are to be taken by mouth.

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment Orange flavoured tablets may be swallowed whole with liquid, chewed or crushed and mixed with food or juice for children.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or Poisons Information Centre (numbers below) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

**Poisons Information Centre telephone numbers:
Australia: 13 11 26
New Zealand: 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766**

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment is not intended to be taken for long periods of time. If large amounts of PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment are taken every day for a prolonged period of time, blood, kidney, and liver disorders may occur. If you take too much PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment, you may experience abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea.

While you are taking PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment

Things you and other members of your family should do that may help prevent reinfestation

- Take a daily bath and shower
- Wash hands and fingernails with soap frequently during the day, especially before eating and after using the toilet;
- Change underwear daily. Snug fitting underpants worn day and night help to prevent scratching;
- Keep nails short, avoid scratching anal area and nail biting;
- Clean the bedroom floor thoroughly for 3 days after treatment, by vacuuming or damp mopping. Avoid dry sweeping as this may stir up dust;
- After treatment, wash bed linen and night clothes (don't shake them);
- Keep toilet seats clean.

Side Effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment.

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 side effects. PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment may have some unwanted side effects in a few people, even though it is usually well tolerated at the recommended dose.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

The following undesired effects have been reported and may occur during treatment with PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment:

Uncommon side effects

- stomach aches and pains and intestinal gas
- diarrhoea
- skin rash

Very rare side effects

- hives
- hair loss, which in some cases may be permanent
- blood and liver disorders
- kidney problems can occur with prolonged use of PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment at doses substantially higher than recommended (much more than normally prescribed)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist **immediately** if you notice the following and do not take your next dose of PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment:

- A reaction that occurs after administration and is recognized by skin rash, itching, shortness of breath and/ or swollen face.
- A severe skin disorder consisting of skin rashes, blisters on the skin and sores in the mouth, eyes, or ano-genital region, along with fever.
- A severe hypersensitivity reaction that occurs soon after administration that may be characterized by hives, itching, flushing, fainting, and difficulty breathing among other possible symptoms.

Convulsions (seizures) have been reported.

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people. **Tell your doctor if you feel unwell when you are taking, or soon after you have finished taking PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment.**

After using PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment

Storage

Keep PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Do not store PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment or any other medicines in a bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it in the car or on window sills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment where young children cannot reach it. A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres (1.5m) above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

Once you have finished using PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment, or your medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left.

Product Description

What it looks like

PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment tablet is a slightly orange, circular, flat, bevel-edged, half-scored tablet with an orange flavour.

Ingredients

Each PHARMACY ACTION Worm Treatment tablet contains:

- 100 mg of mebendazole as the active ingredient.
- Cellulose – microcrystalline, sodium starch glycollate, talc-purified, starch-maize, saccharin-sodium, cottonseed oil – hydrogenated, magnesium stearate, orange flavour, silica – colloidal anhydrous, sodium lauryl sulphate and sunset yellow SCF (orange yellow S (E110)).

Sponsor

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