

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Benzbromarone



What is Benzbromarone?

- Benzbromarone is a medication used to treat gout – a condition where high uric acid (a form of waste product from the body) crystallises to deposit in the skin and joints, causing joint inflammation, or medically known as a gout attack.
- Benzbromarone treats gout by helping your kidneys remove uric acid from your body.
- Benzbromarone is used for the long-term control of gout. It does not treat acute gout and neither does it cure gout.
- Long-term treatment with Benzbromarone usually results in various benefits which may include:
 - Less frequent gout attacks
 - Reducing uric acid crystals in the joints and skin (known as tophi)

How is Benzbromarone Taken?

- Benzbromarone tablet is taken orally, with or after food.
- Benzbromarone may cause kidney stones as a side effect. To reduce the risk of kidney stones formation while on Benzbromarone, you should drink 1.5 to 3 litres of water each day, unless advised otherwise by your doctor.
- A typical daily dose of Benzbromarone ranges from 50mg to 200mg. Dosage of Benzbromarone will depend on your disease activity and response to the medication.

What Should I do if I Miss a Dose?

- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Never take a double dosage of medication to make up for the missed dose.

How Long Does it Take for Benzbromarone to be Effective?

- Benzbromarone does not work immediately. It is therefore important that you take your medication regularly, or you may not benefit from Benzbromarone at all.

- You may continue to experience occasional gout attacks during the first few months after taking Benzbromarone. However, with regular use of Benzbromarone, the attacks will gradually reduce in frequency and become less painful. After several months of treatment, the attacks may also stop completely.

Can Benzbromarone be Taken with Other Medications?

- Benzbromarone can be taken together with non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and other gout medications (e.g. Colchicine).
- It is important that you inform the doctor, pharmacist or rheumatology nurse clinician about other medications – including over-the-counter medicines, supplements and traditional/herbal remedies – that you are currently taking, as they may affect the way you benefit from Benzbromarone.
- Some medicines, such as Fluconazole (an anti-fungal medicine), may alter the effects of Benzbromarone. On the other hand, Benzbromarone can also increase the effect of certain drugs, such as Warfarin (a blood thinning medication). These drug interactions can reduce the effectiveness of each medication, or even harm the body.

What Dietary Changes Should I Make?

- Avoid alcohol intake as it may increase the uric acid level in your blood, triggering acute gout attacks.
- Reduce intake of food and beverages with high fructose content (e.g. soft drinks) and food high in purine content (e.g. organ meats).

Should I Continue or Stop Benzbromarone During an Acute Attack of Gout?

- If you have already been taking Benzbromarone, you should continue taking it during an acute attack of gout together with the other medications for the acute gout.

What are the Important Side Effects of Benzbromarone?

- The following are the usual and important side effects. Always discuss with your doctor if you experience any side effects. You should also let your doctor know if you have liver or kidney disease.

Side Effects	Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nausea Loss of appetite Diarrhoea Abdominal discomfort 	<p>Usually mild and short lasting. Take medication after food to minimise the side effects. Sucking hard, sugar-free candy may reduce nausea.</p> <p>Inform your doctor if symptoms are severe or if you experience loss of appetite.</p>
<p>Liver disorder</p> <p>Warning signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Yellowing of eye whites or skin Dark or tea-coloured urine Constant abdominal pain 	<p>Consult your doctor immediately. Your doctor will do blood tests to check if this occurs.</p>
<p>Low back pain with dark or pinkish urine</p>	<p>Consult your doctor immediately.</p>

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- As with all medications, it is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.

What Type of Monitoring do I Require While I am Taking Benzbromarone?

- Your doctor will check your blood tests regularly to monitor for side effects from Benzbromarone. In addition, to check that Benzbromarone is working, uric acid blood tests should be done regularly to monitor the effectiveness of Benzbromarone on reducing uric acid levels.

How Do I Store Benzbromarone?

- Benzbromarone should be stored in the original packaging and protected from light. Store it in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or rheumatology nurse clinician.

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

