

## PHARMACY

Drug Information

# Benzbromarone



### What Is Benzbromarone?

- Benzbromarone is a tablet medication that reduces the level of uric acid (body's waste product) in the blood. High levels of uric acid in the blood can cause pain and swelling in the joints (known as 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 (short-term) gout attack or cure gout.
- Long-term treatment with Benzbromarone may result in benefits such as:
  - Fewer gout attacks
  - Fewer uric acid crystals in the joints and skin, leading to fewer bumps in the skin known as tophi

### How Is Benzbromarone Taken?

- The Benzbromarone tablet is taken through the mouth, with or after food.
- A typical daily dose of Benzbromarone ranges from 50mg to 200mg. The dosage depends on your condition and response to the medication.
- 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.

### 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. Do not double the dosage to make up for the missed dose.

### How Long Does It Take for Benzbromarone to Be Effective?

- Benzbromarone takes time to work. It is important that you take Benzbromarone regularly to benefit fully from the medication.
- You may experience more gout attacks during the first few months after taking Benzbromarone. However, taking Benzbromarone regularly will reduce the number of gout attacks and make them 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).
- Please inform your doctor, pharmacist or rheumatology nurse clinician about other medications that you are currently taking as they may affect the way you benefit from Benzbromarone. Such medications include over-the-counter medicines, supplements and traditional/herbal remedies.
- Some medications, such as Fluconazole (an anti-fungal medicine), may change the effects of Benzbromarone. On the other hand, Benzbromarone can also affect other drugs, such as Warfarin (a blood-thinning medication). These drug interactions can reduce the effectiveness of each medication, or even harm the body.

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

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

### 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 sugar (fructose) content (e.g. soft drinks) and food that is high in purine content (e.g. organ meats).

### What Are the Important Side Effects of Benzbromarone?

- 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. Some common and important side effects you may experience are:

Side Effects	Management
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nausea</li> <li>• Loss of appetite</li> <li>• Diarrhoea</li> <li>• Abdominal discomfort</li> </ul>	<p>Symptoms are usually mild and short lasting.</p> <p>Take medication after food to reduce the side effects. Sucking on 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><u>Warning Signs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yellowing of skin or eye whites</li> <li>• Dark or tea-coloured urine</li> <li>• Constant abdominal pain</li> </ul>	<p>Consult your doctor <b>immediately</b>.</p> <p>You will have to do blood tests to check your liver function.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lower back pain with dark or pinkish urine</li> </ul>	<p>Consult your doctor <b>immediately</b>.</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?

- Do inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.

### What Check-Ups Do I Need When Taking Benzbromarone?

- You will have to do blood tests regularly to check for side effects from Benzbromarone.
- Uric acid blood tests should also be done regularly to check that Benzbromarone is effective in 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.

