

Acetazolamide: Patient information

- You should not drive or operate machinery if you feel sleepy or feel your vision is disturbed after taking this medicine.

About acetazolamide

Type of medicine	Carbonic anhydrase inhibitor
Used for	Glaucoma Epilepsy Fluid retention Altitude sickness
Also called	Diamox Diamox SR
Available as	Tablet Injection

Acetazolamide works by stopping the action of a chemical in the body called *carbonic anhydrase*. This reduces the amount of a substance called *bicarbonate* which is responsible for high pressure in the eye.

Before taking acetazolamide

Before taking acetazolamide make sure your doctor or pharmacist knows:

- If you are pregnant, trying for a baby or breast-feeding.
- If you are allergic to drugs known as *carbonic anhydrase inhibitors*, *sulfonamides* or *thiazide diuretics*.
- If you have low potassium or sodium in your blood.
- If you have liver or kidney problems.
- If you have a type of glaucoma called *chronic, non-congestive angle-closure glaucoma*.
- If you suffer from *diabetes mellitus*.
- If you have problems with your lungs.
- If you suffer from *gout*.
- If you suffer from *Addison's disease*.

How to take acetazolamide

- The dose will vary depending on what you are being treated for.

- Take exactly as directed by your doctor.

Getting the most from your treatment

- You should keep your appointments with your doctor- s/he will want to monitor your progress and may take blood tests from time to time.
- You should not drive or operate machinery if you feel sleepy or if your vision is disturbed after taking this medicine.

Can acetazolamide cause problems?

Along with their useful effects all medicines can cause unwanted side effects, which usually improve as your body adjusts to the new medicine. Speak with your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following side effects continue or become troublesome.

Common side-effects - these affect less than 1 in 10 people What can I do if I experience this who take this medicine

Nausea, vomiting	Eat little and often. Stick to simple foods such as dry toast. If you are sick, drink plenty of water.
Diarrhoea	Drink plenty of water to replace lost fluids.
Headache	Ask your pharmacist to recommend a suitable pain-killer.
Rash	Speak to your doctor if you notice any unusual skin rash.
Dizziness, drowsiness	Make sure your reactions are normal before driving, operating machinery or doing any other jobs which could be dangerous if you were not fully alert.
<i>Myopia</i> (far-away objects appear blurred)	Speak to your doctor.

How to store acetazolamide

- Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct heat and light.