

Essential drugs / Oral drugs

## METRONIDAZOLE oral

Prescription under medical supervision

### Therapeutic action

– Antiprotozoal, antibacterial (group of nitroimidazoles)

### Indications

- Amoebiasis, giardiasis, trichomoniasis
- Bacterial vaginitis, infections due to anaerobic bacteria (e.g. *Clostridium* sp, *Bacteroides* sp, etc.)

### Forms and strengths

- 250 mg and 500 mg tablets
- 200 mg/5 ml oral suspension

### Dosage and duration

– *Amoebiasis*

Child: 15 mg/kg 3 times daily

Adult: 500 mg 3 times daily

The treatment lasts 5 days in intestinal amoebiasis and 5 to 10 days in hepatic amoebiasis.

– *Giardiasis*

Child: 30 mg/kg once daily for 3 days

Adult: 2 g once daily for 3 days

– *Trichomoniasis and bacterial vaginitis*

Adult: 2 g single dose

In the event of trichomoniasis, also treat sexual partner.

– *Infections due to anaerobic bacteria*

Child: 10 mg/kg 3 times daily

Adult: 500 mg 3 times daily

According to indication, metronidazole may be used in combination with other anti bacteria; treatment duration depends on indication.

### Contra-indications, adverse effects, precautions

- Do not administer to patients with hypersensitivity (e.g. to secnidazole, etc.).
- May cause: gastrointestinal disturbances; risk of antabuse reaction when combined with alcohol.
- Administer with caution in patients taking oral anticoagulants (risk of haemorrhage), lithium, phenytoin, ergometrine (increased plasma concentrations of these drugs).
- Reduce total daily dose to one third and give once daily to patients with severe hepatic impairment.
- Pregnancy: no contra-indication; divide into smaller doses, avoid prolonged use.
- Breast-feeding: significantly excreted in milk (risk of gastrointestinal disturbances in breastfed infants); divide into smaller doses, avoid prolonged use.

## Remarks

- Storage: below 25 °C - ~~✓~~
- For the oral suspension: follow manufacturer's instructions.*