

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

Celebrex 100 mg hard capsule
Celebrex 200 mg hard capsule

celecoxib

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again
- If you have any further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours
- If any of the side effects gets serious or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist

In this leaflet:

1. **What Celebrex is and what it is used for**
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1. WHAT CELEBREX IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

Celebrex is used for the relief of signs and symptoms of **rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis** and **ankylosing spondylitis**.

Celebrex belongs to a group of medicinal products called nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID), and specifically a sub-group known as (COX-2) inhibitors. Your body makes prostaglandins that may cause pain and inflammation. In conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis your body makes more of these. Celebrex acts by reducing the production of prostaglandins, thereby reducing the pain and inflammation.

2. BEFORE YOU TAKE CELEBREX

You have been prescribed Celebrex by your doctor. The following information will help you get the best results with Celebrex. If you have any further questions please ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take Celebrex

Tell your doctor if any of the following are true for you as patients with these conditions should not take Celebrex.

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to celecoxib or any of the other ingredients of Celebrex
- if you have had an allergic reaction to a group of medicines called “sulphonamides” (e.g. some antibiotics used to treat infections)
- if you **currently** have an ulcer in your stomach or intestines, or bleeding in your stomach or intestines
- if as a result of taking acetylsalicylic acid or any other anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving medicine (NSAID) you have had asthma, nose polyps, severe nose congestion, or an allergic reaction such as an itchy skin rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, breathing difficulties or wheezing
- if you are pregnant. If you can become pregnant during ongoing treatment you should discuss methods of contraception with your doctor
- if you are breast-feeding
- if you have severe liver disease
- if you have severe kidney disease
- if you have an inflammatory disease of the intestines such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn’s disease
- if you have heart failure, established ischaemic heart disease, or cerebrovascular disease, e.g. you have been diagnosed with a heart attack, stroke, or transient ischaemic attack (temporary reduction of blood flow to the brain; also known as “mini-stroke”), angina, or blockages of blood vessels to the heart or brain
- if you have or have had problems with your blood circulation (peripheral arterial disease) or if you have had surgery on the arteries of your legs

Take special care with Celebrex

Check with your doctor if any of the following applies to you:

- if you have **previously** had an ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestines. (**Do not take Celebrex** if you **currently** have an ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestine).
- if you are taking acetylsalicylic acid (even at low dose for heart protective purposes)
- if you use medicines to reduce blood clotting (e.g. warfarin)
- if you are using Celebrex at the same time as other non-acetylsalicylic NSAIDs such as ibuprofen or diclofenac. The use of these medicines together should be avoided
- if you smoke, have diabetes, raised blood pressure or raised cholesterol
- if your heart, liver or kidneys are not working well your doctor may want to keep a regular check on you
- if you have fluid retention (such as swollen ankles and feet)
- if you are dehydrated, for instance due to sickness, diarrhoea or the use of diuretics (used to treat excess fluid in the body)
- if you have had a serious allergic reaction or a serious skin reaction to any medicines
- if you feel ill due to an infection or think you have an infection, as Celebrex may mask a fever or other signs of infection and inflammation
- if you are over 65 years of age your doctor may want to keep a regular check on you

As with other NSAIDs (e.g. ibuprofen or diclofenac) this medicine may lead to an increase in blood pressure, and so your doctor may ask to monitor your blood pressure on a regular basis.

Some cases of severe liver reactions, including severe liver inflammation, liver damage, liver failure (some with fatal outcome or requiring liver transplant), have been reported with celecoxib. Of the cases that reported time to onset, most severe liver reactions occurred within one month of start of treatment.

Celebrex may make it more difficult to become pregnant. You should inform your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant or if you have problems to become pregnant (see section on Pregnancy and breast-feeding).

Taking other medicines

Some medicines can affect the way other medicines work. Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription:

- Dextromethorphan (used to treat coughs)
- ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II antagonists (used for high blood pressure and heart failure)
- Diuretics (used to treat excess fluid in the body)
- Fluconazole and rifampicin (used to treat fungal and bacterial infections)
- Warfarin or other oral anticoagulants (“blood-thinning” agents that reduce blood clotting)
- Lithium (used to treat some types of depression)
- Other medicines to treat depression, sleep disorders, high blood pressure or an irregular heartbeat
- Neuroleptics (used to treat some mental disorders)
- Methotrexate (used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and leukaemia)
- Carbamazepine (used to treat epilepsy/seizures and some forms of pain or depression)
- Barbiturates (used to treat epilepsy/seizures and some sleep disorders)
- Ciclosporin and tacrolimus (used for immune system suppression e.g. after transplants)

Celebrex can be taken with low dose acetylsalicylic acid (75mg or less daily). Ask your doctor for advice before taking both medicines together.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicine.

Celebrex must not be used by women who are pregnant or can become pregnant (i.e. women of child bearing potential who are not using adequate contraception) during ongoing treatment. If you become pregnant during treatment with Celebrex you should discontinue the treatment and contact your doctor for alternative treatment.

Celebrex must not be used during breast-feeding.

Driving and using machines

You should be aware of how you react to Celebrex before you drive or operate machinery. If you feel dizzy or drowsy after taking Celebrex, do not drive or operate machinery until these effects wear off.

Important information about some of the ingredients of Celebrex

Celebrex contains **lactose** (a type of sugar). If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicinal product.

3. HOW TO TAKE CELEBREX

Always take Celebrex exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure. If you think or feel that the effect of Celebrex is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor will tell you what dose you should take. As the risk of side effects associated with heart problems may increase with dose and duration of use, it is important that you use the lowest dose that controls your pain and you should not take Celebrex for longer than necessary to control symptoms.

Celebrex should be swallowed whole with a drink of water. The capsules can be taken at any time of the day, with or without food. However, try to take each dose of Celebrex at the same time each day.

Contact your doctor within two weeks of starting treatment if you do not experience any benefit.

For osteoarthritis the usual dose is 200 mg each day, increased by your doctor to a maximum of 400 mg, if needed.

The dose is usually:

- one 200 mg capsule once a day; or
- one 100 mg capsule twice a day.

For rheumatoid arthritis the usual dose is 200 mg each day, increased by your doctor to a maximum of 400 mg, if needed.

The dose is usually:

- one 100 mg capsule twice a day.

For ankylosing spondylitis the usual dose is 200 mg each day, increased by your doctor to a maximum of 400mg, if needed.

The dose is usually:

- one 200 mg capsule once a day; or
- one 100 mg capsule twice a day.

Kidney or liver problems: make sure your doctor knows if you have liver or kidney problems as you may need a lower dose.

The elderly, especially those with a weight less than 50 kg: if you are over 65 years of age and especially if you weigh less than 50 kg, your doctor may want to monitor you more closely.

Children: Celebrex is for adults only, it is not for use in children.

You should not take more than 400 mg per day.

If you take more Celebrex than you should:

You should not take more capsules than your doctor tells you to. If you take too many capsules contact your doctor, pharmacist or hospital and take your medicine with you.

If you forget to take Celebrex:

If you forget to take a capsule, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten doses.

If you stop taking Celebrex:

Suddenly stopping your treatment with Celebrex may lead to your symptoms getting worse. Do not stop taking Celebrex unless your doctor tells you to. Your doctor may tell you to reduce the dose over a few days before stopping completely.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Celebrex can have side-effects, although not everybody gets them.

If any of the side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

The side effects listed below were observed in arthritis patients who took Celebrex. Side effects marked with an asterisk (*) are listed below at the higher frequencies that occurred in patients who took Celebrex to prevent colon polyps. Patients in these studies took Celebrex at high doses and for a long duration.

If any of the following happen, stop taking Celebrex and tell your doctor immediately:

If you have:

- an allergic reaction such as skin rash, swelling of the face, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- heart problems such as pain in the chest
- severe stomach pain or any sign of bleeding in the stomach or intestines, such as passing black or bloodstained stools, or vomiting blood.
- a skin reaction such as rash, blistering or peeling of the skin
- liver failure (symptoms may include nausea (feeling sick), diarrhoea, jaundice (your skin or the whites of your eyes look yellow)).

Very common: affects more than 1 user in 10:

- High blood pressure*

Common: affects 1 to 10 users in 100:

- Heart attack*

- Fluid build up with swollen ankles, legs and/or hands
- Urinary infections
- Shortness of breath*, sinusitis (sinus inflammation, sinus infection, blocked or painful sinuses), blocked or runny nose, sore throat, coughs, colds, flu-like symptoms
- Dizziness, difficulty sleeping
- Vomiting*, stomach ache, diarrhoea, indigestion, wind
- Rash, itching
- Muscle stiffness
- Difficulty swallowing*
- Worsening of existing allergies

Uncommon: affects 1 to 10 users in 1,000:

- Stroke*
- Heart failure, palpitations (awareness of heart beat), fast heart rate
- Worsening of existing high blood pressure
- Abnormalities in liver-related blood tests
- Abnormalities in kidney-related blood tests
- Anaemia (changes in red blood cells that can cause fatigue and breathlessness)
- Anxiety, depression, tiredness, drowsiness, tingling sensations (pins and needles)
- High levels of potassium in blood test results (can cause nausea (feeling sick), fatigue, muscle weakness or palpitations)
- Impaired or blurred vision, ringing in the ears, mouth pain and sores, difficulty hearing*
- Constipation, burping, stomach inflammation (indigestion, stomach ache or vomiting), worsening of inflammation of the stomach or intestine
- Leg cramps
- Raised itchy rash (hives)

Rare: affects 1 to 10 users in 10,000:

- Ulcers (bleeding) in the stomach, gullet or intestines; or rupture of the intestine (can cause stomach ache, fever, nausea, vomiting, intestinal blockage), dark or black stools, inflammation of the gullet (can cause difficulty in swallowing), inflammation of the pancreas (can lead to stomach pain)
- Reduced number of white blood cells (which help protect the body from infection) and blood platelets (increased chance of bleeding or bruising)
- Difficulty coordinating muscular movements
- Feeling confused, changes in the way things taste
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Loss of hair

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data:

- Bleeding within the brain causing death
- Serious allergic reactions (including potentially fatal anaphylactic shock) which can cause skin rash, swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat, wheezing or difficulty breathing; difficulty swallowing
- Bleeding of the stomach or intestines (can lead to bloody stools or vomiting), inflammation of the intestine or colon, nausea (feeling sick)

- Serious skin conditions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, exfoliative dermatitis and toxic epidermal necrolysis (can cause rash, blistering or peeling of the skin) and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (red swollen area with numerous small pustules)
- Liver failure, liver damage and severe liver inflammation (sometimes fatal or requiring liver transplant). Symptoms may include nausea (feeling sick), diarrhoea, jaundice (yellow discolouration of the skin or eyes), dark urine, pale stools, bleeding easily, itching or chills
- Kidney problems (possible kidney failure, inflammation of the kidneys)
- Blood clot in the blood vessels in the lungs. Symptoms may include sudden breathlessness, sharp pains when you breathe or collapse
- Irregular heartbeat
- Meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord)
- Hallucinations
- Worsening of epilepsy (possible more frequent and/or severe seizures)
- Inflamed blood vessels (can cause fever, aches, purple blotches on the skin)
- Blockage of an artery or vein in the eye leading to partial or complete loss of vision, inflammation of the conjunctiva, bleeding in the eye
- A reduction in the number of red and white blood cells and platelets (may cause tiredness, easy bruising, frequent nose bleeds and increased risk of infections)
- Chest pain
- Impaired sense of smell
- Skin discolouration (bruising), muscle pain and weakness, painful joints
- Menstrual disturbances
- Headache, flushing
- Low levels of sodium in blood test results (can cause loss of appetite, headache, nausea (feeling sick), muscle cramps and weakness)

In clinical studies not associated with Arthritis or other arthritic conditions, where Celebrex was taken at doses of 400mg per day for up to 3 years, the following additional side effects have been observed:

Common: affects 1 to 10 users in 100:

- Heart problems: angina (chest pain)
- Stomach problems: irritable bowel syndrome (can include stomach ache, diarrhoea, indigestion, wind)
- Kidney stones (which may lead to stomach or back pain, blood in urine), difficulty passing urine
- Weight gain

Uncommon: affects 1 to 10 users in 1,000:

- Deep vein thrombosis (blood clot usually in the leg, which may cause pain, swelling or redness of the calf or breathing problems)
- Stomach problems: stomach infection (which can cause irritation and ulcers of the stomach and intestines)
- Lower limb fracture
- Shingles, skin infection, eczema (dry itchy rash), pneumonia (chest infection (possible cough, fever, difficulty breathing))

- Floaters in the eye causing blurred or impaired vision, vertigo due to inner ear troubles, sore, inflamed or bleeding gums, mouth sores
- Excessive urination at night, bleeding from piles/ haemorrhoids, frequent bowel movements
- Fatty lumps in skin or elsewhere, ganglion cyst (harmless swellings on or around joints and tendons in the hand or foot), difficulty speaking, abnormal or very heavy bleeding from the vagina, breast pain
- High levels of sodium in blood test results

If any of the side effects get serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

5. HOW TO STORE CELEBREX

Keep out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not use Celebrex after the expiry date stated on the blister and carton. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store Celebrex above 30° C.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Celebrex contains

The active substance is celecoxib.
1 capsule contains 100 mg or 200 mg celecoxib.

The other ingredients are:

Lactose monohydrate, sodium lauryl sulphate, povidone K30, croscarmellose sodium, magnesium stearate. Capsule shells contain gelatin, titanium dioxide E171. Ink contains indigotine E132 (100 mg capsule) or iron oxide E172 (200 mg capsule), shellac, propylene glycol.

What Celebrex looks like and contents of the pack

Celebrex is available as hard capsules.

Opaque, white with two blue bands marked 7767 and 100 (Celebrex 100 mg).
Opaque, white with two gold bands marked 7767 and 200 (Celebrex 200 mg).

The capsules are packaged in clear and opaque PVC blisters or aluminium blisters.

Celebrex is contained in packs of 2, 5, 6, 10, 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, 100, 10x10, 10x30, 10x50, 1x50 unit dose, 1x100 unit dose, 5x(10x10).

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

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