



# Enoximone for pulmonary hypertension

This leaflet is about the use of enoximone for pulmonary hypertension.



This leaflet has been written for parents and carers about how to use this medicine in children. Our information sometimes differs from that provided by the manufacturers, because their information is usually aimed at adult patients. Please read this leaflet carefully. Keep it somewhere safe so that you can read it again.

## Name of drug

**Enoximone**

**Brand name:** Perfan®

## Why is it important for my child to take this medicine?

Pulmonary hypertension means high blood pressure in the lungs, which often occurs after heart surgery. Taking enoximone will reduce the blood pressure in the lungs, which helps the lungs to work properly.

## What is enoximone available as?

- **Ampoules** containing 100 mg in 20 mL (5 mg in 1 mL); these may contain small amounts of propylene glycol and alcohol. If you have any concerns or questions, speak with your child's doctor or pharmacist.


## When should I give enoximone?

Enoximone is usually given **three times each day**. This should be first thing in the morning, early afternoon and at bedtime. Ideally, these times are at least 6 hours apart, for example 8am, 2pm and 8pm.

Give the medicine at about the same times each day so that this becomes part of your child's daily routine, which will help you to remember.

## How much should I give?

Your doctor will work out the amount of enoximone (the dose) that is right for *your* child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label.

 **It is important that you follow your doctor's instructions about how much to give.**

## How should I give it?

- This medicine is given by mouth to children with pulmonary hypertension.
- Open the ampoule and draw up the right volume into a plastic syringe. You can prepare one day's doses (three syringes) from one ampoule.
- Put the ampoule and any remaining contents into the sharps container provided.
- Give your child one dose (one syringe) by squirting the contents gently into the side of their mouth. They should then swallow the liquid.
- You can empty the syringe contents into a very small glass of milk just before your child is due to take the

medicine. They should drink it all straight away. You should not add the medicine to other drinks such as water or juice.

- Keep the other prepared syringes at room temperature and use them for the doses over the next 24 hours. Throw away syringes 24 hours after they were prepared if they have not been used.
- Do not store the ampoules or syringes in the fridge as this can cause the liquid to crystallise.

## When should the medicine start working?

Your child will usually start the medicine while in hospital. It will start to work within a few days although you may not notice any difference in your child. The doctors will check that it is helping your child.

## What if my child is sick (vomits)?

- If your child is sick less than 30 minutes after having a dose of enoximone, give them the same dose again.
- If your child is sick more than 30 minutes after having a dose of enoximone, you **do not** need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

If your child is sick again, seek advice from your doctor, pharmacist or hospital. They will decide what to do based on your child's condition and the specific medicine involved.

## What if I forget to give it?

- If you miss a dose, wait until the next normal dose. Do not give the missed dose.

 Never give a double dose of enoximone.

## What if I give too much?


 **It can be dangerous to give too much enoximone.**


If you are concerned that you may have given too much, contact your doctor or local NHS services (call 111 in England and Scotland; 111 or 0845 4647 in parts of Wales) or take your child to hospital. Have the medicine or packaging with you if you telephone for advice.

## Are there any possible side-effects?

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don't want (side-effects).

## Side-effects you must do something about

 Your child may get an irregular or fast heart beat. (Your child may say that their heart is racing or feels fluttery.) Contact your doctor straight away if this happens.

 If your child has any unexplained bruising or bleeding, or cuts don't stop bleeding quickly, contact your doctor straight away as there may be a problem with your child's blood.

### Other side-effects you need to know about

- Your child may have stomach ache or cramps and may feel sick or be sick (vomit). This usually wears off after a few days. It may help to give each dose with some food. If this is still a problem after taking the medicine for a week, contact your doctor.
- Your child may not feel very hungry. Encourage them to eat smaller meals more often than usual. If this is still a problem after a week, contact your doctor.

There may sometimes be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

You can report any suspected side-effects to a UK safety scheme at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard)

More information on side-effects can be found in the following leaflet [www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/side-effects-childrens-medicines](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk/side-effects-childrens-medicines)

### Can other medicines be given at the same time as enoximone?


- You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen, unless your doctor has told you not to.
- Enoximone should not be taken with some medicines that you get on prescription. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any other medicines your child is taking before giving enoximone.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or complementary medicines.

### Is there anything else I need to know about enoximone?

- Enoximone is often given by intravenous injection. The same liquid can be given by mouth to children with pulmonary hypertension.

### General advice about medicines

- Try to give medicines at about the same times each day, to help you remember.
- If you are not sure a medicine is working, contact your doctor but continue to give the medicine as usual in the meantime. Do not give extra doses as you may do harm.

- Only give this medicine to *your* child. Never give it to anyone else, even if their condition appears to be the same, as this could do harm.
-  If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact your doctor straight away.
- Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Order a new prescription at least 2 weeks before you will run out.
  - Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the 'best before' or 'use by' date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

### Where I should keep this medicine?

- Keep the medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight.
- It should not be kept in the fridge as the solution may crystallise.
- Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.
- Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

### Who to contact for more information

Your child's doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about enoximone and about other medicines used to treat pulmonary hypertension.

You can also get useful information from:

#### England: NHS 111

Tel 111

[www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

#### Scotland: NHS 24

Tel 111

[www.nhs24.com](http://www.nhs24.com)

#### Wales: NHS Direct

Tel 0845 46 47 (2p per minute) or 111 (free)

[www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nhsdirect.wales.nhs.uk)

#### Northern Ireland: NI Direct

[www.nidirect.gov.uk](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk)

#### The Pulmonary Hypertension Association

Tel 01709 761450

[www.phassociation.uk.com](http://www.phassociation.uk.com)

[www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk)



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The primary source for the information in this leaflet is the British National Formulary for Children. For details on any other sources used for this leaflet, please contact us through our website, [www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk](http://www.medicinesforchildren.org.uk)

We take great care to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct and up-to-date. However, medicines can be used in different ways for different patients. It is important that you ask the advice of your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about something. This leaflet is about the use of these medicines in the UK, and may not apply to other countries. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), the Neonatal and Paediatric Pharmacists Group (NPPG), WellChild and the contributors and editors cannot be held responsible for the accuracy of information, omissions of information, or any actions that may be taken as a consequence of reading this leaflet.