

Iodoquinol

Other NAMES: Diodoquin®

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Iodoquinol is a drug used to treat infections caused by parasites (amoeba). It can be given to treat diarrhea caused by *Entamoeba histolytica* or *Giardia lamblia*.

HOW should this drug be taken?

Iodoquinol is available as 210 mg and 650 mg tablets. The usual dose is 650 mg three times a day for 20 days.

Each dose of iodoquinol should be taken after a meal.

Your dosage is:

210 mg tablet

650 mg tablet

___tablets(___mg)___times a day

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of iodoquinol, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is time for your next

dose, do not double the dose, just carry on with your regular schedule.

Why should you not forget to take this drug?

If you miss doses of iodoquinol, the infection will continue and possibly worsen. Therefore, it is extremely important that you take iodoquinol for the entire duration of the treatment.

What ADVERSE EFFECTS can this drug cause? What should you do about them?

Adverse effects seen on occasion with iodoquinol are **nausea, vomiting, abdominal cramps, diarrhea and skin itchiness. Fever, chills, headache, dizziness and an enlarged thyroid** have also been reported. If these effects appear and are bothersome, call your doctor or pharmacist.

Some people may develop **vision problems**. Also, a **tingling or numbness feeling** in the hands, legs and feet may appear (peripheral neuropathy). If you notice any of these symptoms, please talk with your doctor or pharmacist.

Rarely, an **allergic reaction** with a skin rash, hives or acne-like eruptions may occur. Please consult a doctor immediately if this happens.

It is important that you keep your doctor appointments and come for your laboratory tests so that your progress can be followed.

What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

Before starting iodoquinol, please inform your doctor if you have problems with your thyroid, liver or vision. Also, inform your doctor if you are allergic to iodine. You should NOT use iodoquinol if you have a known allergy to iodine-containing preparations (including shrimp).

Inform your doctor and pharmacist of all prescribed and non-prescribed drugs you are taking. As well, you should inform them of natural products you are taking. If you wish to start a new drug or natural product, please consult with your pharmacist before doing so.

The safety of iodoquinol during pregnancy and breastfeeding has not yet been established. Please discuss this with your doctor if this is a concern.

When you have diarrhea, it is crucial to always drink appropriate amounts of fluids in order to avoid dehydration. If you have minor diarrhea (less than 4 stools daily) drinking caffeine-free soft drinks, juices or sport rehydration drinks can be sufficient. If the diarrhea is more severe, specially formulated rehydration drinks should be taken.

These products can be obtained in pharmacies (for example, Pedialyte® or Gastrolyte®). These drinks contain sugar as well as other substances that you may lose in high amounts because of the diarrhea (sodium, potassium). Your pharmacist can tell you how much of these drinks you need to take to avoid dehydration.

You should consult a doctor if you have one or more symptoms associated with dehydration. These are dry mouth, excessive thirst, wrinkled skin, little or no urination, dizziness and lightheadedness.

How should this drug be STORED?

Iodoquinol tablets should be stored in a cool (15-30°C) dry place, protected from light and well out of the reach of children. Ensure that the drug has not expired by checking the expiry date ("EXP")

shown on the outside of the package.

Do not store in your bathroom or kitchen, as heat and moisture may cause the drug to be less active.

If you have any questions or concerns about this drug or if you are experiencing adverse effects, please discuss them with your pharmacist, doctor or nurse.

Write questions or concerns down to ensure they are addressed.

The following pharmacist is available to answer questions:

Pharmacist: _____

Telephone: _____

Reference: Product Monograph Diodoquin® (iodoquinol); Oakville, ON, Canada: Glenwood Laboratories Canada Ltd., 2002. Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, 2003. Reviewed 2009.

Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: www.hivclinic.ca

IODOQUINOL

MEDICATION

FACT SHEET