



ANTABUSE - INFORMED CONSENT FOR MEDICATION

Medication Category: Anti-alcoholic	Medications in this Category: disulfiram (Antabuse)
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Anticipated dosage range: _____

About your medicine: Disulfiram blocks the normal breakdown of alcohol. It produces an intolerance to alcohol which results in numerous side effects, including: flushing, throbbing in the head and neck, headache, nausea, profuse vomiting, difficulty breathing, sweating, thirst, chest pain, heart pounding (palpitations), increased heart rate, low blood pressure, dizziness, weakness, blurred management of selected alcoholics who wish to remain in the a state of enforced sobriety.

Side Effects: Every medication is capable of producing side effects. Many disulfiram users experience no, or minor side effects. The frequency and severity of side effects depend on many factors including dose, duration of therapy and individual susceptibility.

Possible side effects include:

More Common: drowsiness, fatigue, headache, upset stomach or nausea, restlessness.

Less Common: chest pain, metallic or garlic-like aftertaste, impotence, psychotic reaction, abnormal liver function. Severe liver disease occurs in approximately 1 out of 25,000 people taking Antabuse. Deaths have been reported from this.

Precautions: Disulfiram-alcohol reaction: ALL Alcohol Must Be AVOIDED, even the small amounts in cough medicine or mouth wash. Drinking alcohol while taking Antabuse produces flushing, throbbing in the head and neck, throbbing headaches, fainting, nausea, vomiting, sweating, thirst, chest pain, heart pounding (palpitations), painful and difficult breathing, increased heart rate, weakness, vertigo (feeling of whirling motion), blurred vision and confusion. In severe reactions, there may be collapse, irregular heart rhythm, heart attack, acute congestive heart failure, unconsciousness, convulsions and death. The intensity of the reaction is proportional to the amounts of disulfiram and alcohol ingested. The reaction may last from 30 to 60 minutes to several hours.

Patients with heart disease, cirrhosis or diabetes are particularly at risk for dangerous complications if they use alcohol while taking Antabuse.

By my signature below, I give consent for the above-named medication to be administered and for a change of medication within this medication category. My signature also indicates that I am aware of, have read and discussed the reasons for the use of this medication, and its potential risks and benefits.

Client Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

Witness Signature: _____ Date Signed: _____

General Use Guidelines:

- Antabuse should never be used by intoxicated individuals Do not take for at least 12 hours after drinking alcohol. A reaction may occur for up to 2 weeks after disulfiram~ has been stopped. The alcohol / disulfiram reaction can have serious adverse effects on the heart and respiratory systems.
- Avoid alcohol in all forms. This includes: Alcoholic beverages including beer and wine, vinegars, many liquid medications (including prescription and non prescription products), some sauces, after-shave lotions, colognes liniments, etc.
- Always read product labels or ask your pharmacist about alcohol contents in all liquid medications before choosing one.
- Antabuse should never be given without an individual's knowledge and complete understanding of the need to avoid all alcohol use.
- Most people take Antabuse once a day. If a dose is missed, take it as soon as possible. If it is nearing time for the next dose, take the next dose early but do not double the dose in order to "catch up".
- Antabuse may cause drowsiness. Use caution while driving or performing other tasks requiring alertness.
- Always carry identification indicating you are taking disulfiram.
- Anyone taking Antabuse who develops signs of serious liver disease (loss of appetite, jaundice, nausea or lethargy) should contact their physician. Lab tests may be required during treatment with disulfiram
- Notify your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant or if you are breastfeeding
- Keep out of the reach of children.