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2. Caffeine/ergotamine

Caffeine and ergotamine (oral/rectal)

Generic name: caffeine and ergotamine (oral/rectal) [*KAF-eeen-and-er-GOT-a-meen*]

Brand names: [Cafergot](#), [Migergot](#), Wigraine, Cafetrate, Ercaf, Cafatine

Dosage forms: oral tablet (100 mg-1 mg), rectal suppository (100 mg-2 mg)

Drug class: [Antimigraine agents](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Sep 26, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

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What is caffeine and ergotamine?

Caffeine is a stimulant that causes narrowing of blood vessels (vasoconstriction). Ergotamine is an ergot alkaloid (ER-got AL-ka-loid) that works by narrowing blood vessels around the brain.

Caffeine and ergotamine is a combination medicine used to treat or prevent a migraine type headache.

This medication **will only treat** a headache that has already begun. It **will not prevent** migraine headaches or reduce the number of attacks.

Caffeine and ergotamine should not be used to treat common tension headaches or any headache that seems to be different from your usual migraine headaches.

Caffeine and ergotamine may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Caffeine and ergotamine side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Caffeine and ergotamine may cause serious side effects. Stop using caffeine and ergotamine and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe pain in your stomach or back;
- bloody or tarry stools, coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds;
- cramps in your hips or legs, leg pain or swelling;
- weak pulses in your arms and legs, numbness and tingling or pain in your hands or feet, blue-colored fingers or toes;
- muscle pain or weakness in your arms or legs;

- fast or [slow heart rate](#);
- severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears;
- sudden numbness or weakness (especially on one side of the body), sudden severe headache, slurred speech, problems with vision or balance; or
- painful sores on your rectum after using the rectal suppositories.

Serious side effects are more likely with overuse of caffeine and ergotamine. **caffeine and ergotamine is not for daily use.**

Common side effects of caffeine and ergotamine may include:

- numbness, tingling, burning pain;
- dizziness, spinning sensation;
- weakness;
- itching or swelling;
- nausea, vomiting; or
- (with suppository use) a rectal sore or ulcer.

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Caffeine / ergotamine side effects](#) (more detail)

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Warnings

Some medicines can cause a dangerous decrease in blood flow when used with caffeine and ergotamine. A severe decrease in blood flow to the brain and other parts of the body can lead to dangerous side effects.

You should not use this medicine if you have [coronary heart disease](#), [high blood pressure](#), circulation problems, liver or kidney disease, or sepsis.

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any you start or stop using. **Many drugs can interact, and some drugs should not be used together.**

Do not use if you are pregnant or could become pregnant.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use caffeine and ergotamine if you are allergic to caffeine or ergotamine, or if you have:

- coronary [heart disease](#);
- high blood pressure;
- blood circulation problems;
- sepsis (a severe reaction to an infection);
- [liver disease](#);

- kidney disease; or
- if you are pregnant or could become pregnant.

Many drugs can cause a dangerous decrease in blood flow when used with caffeine and ergotamine. A severe decrease in blood flow to the brain and other parts of the body can lead to dangerous side effects. Some drugs should not be used together with caffeine and ergotamine. Your doctor may change your treatment plan if you also use:

- zileuton;
- **an antidepressant**--fluoxetine, fluvoxamine, nefazodone;
- **an antibiotic**--clarithromycin, erythromycin, metronidazole, telithromycin;
- **antifungal medicine**--clotrimazole, fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole; or
- **antiviral medicine to treat HIV/AIDS**--indinavir, nelfinavir, ritonavir, saquinavir.

Do not use caffeine and ergotamine if you are pregnant. It could harm the unborn baby or cause birth defects. Use effective birth control to prevent pregnancy while you are using this medicine and tell your doctor if you become pregnant.

You should not breastfeed while using this medicine.

How should I use caffeine and ergotamine?

Follow all directions on your prescription label. **Never use more than your recommended dose.** Overuse of migraine headache medicine can make headaches worse. Tell your doctor if the medicine seems to stop working as well in treating your migraine attacks. This medicine is not for daily use.

To use caffeine and ergotamine tablets:

- Take 2 tablets of caffeine and ergotamine as soon as you notice headache symptoms, or after an attack has already begun.
- If your headache does not completely go away, you may take 1 more tablet after at least 30 minutes have passed.
- If additional medication is needed, you may take 1 tablet every 30 minutes up to a total of 6 tablets for one migraine attack.

If you still have migraine symptoms after taking a total of 6 tablets, call your doctor. **Do not take more than a total of 6 tablets in any 24-hour period.** Do not take more than a total of 10 tablets over a period of 7 days.

Do not take a **rectal suppository** by mouth. It is for use only in your rectum.

Wash your hands before and after inserting the suppository.

To use caffeine and ergotamine rectal suppositories:

- Insert 1 suppository at the first sign of migraine headache symptoms, or after an attack has already begun.
- Remove the wrapper before inserting the suppository. Avoid handling the suppository too long or it will melt.
- Lie on your back with your knees up toward your chest. Gently insert the suppository into your rectum about 1 inch, pointed tip first.

- Stay lying down for a few minutes while the suppository melts. You should feel little or no discomfort. Avoid using the bathroom for at least an hour.
- If your headache does not completely go away, use 1 more suppository after at least 1 hour has passed.

If you still have migraine symptoms after using a total of 2 rectal suppositories, call your doctor. **Do not use more than a total of 2 suppositories per headache.** Do not use more than a total of 5 suppositories over a period of 7 days.

Do not share this medication with another person, even if they have the same symptoms you have.

Store **tablets** at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

Store **rectal suppositories** in the refrigerator, do not freeze.

Caffeine and ergotamine dosing information

Usual Adult Dose for Migraine:

Oral: Ergotamine 1 mg-caffeine 100 mg per tablet:

Initial dose: 2 tablets orally at first sign of an attack; 1 additional tablet every half-hour as needed not to exceed maximum doses

Maximum doses: 6 tablets per attack; 10 tablets per 7-day period

Rectal: Ergotamine 2 mg-caffeine 100 mg per suppository:

Initial dose: 1 suppository rectally at first sign of a migraine attack; 1 additional suppository may be administered after 1 hour if needed for full relief

Maximum dose: 2 suppositories per attack; 5 suppositories per 7-day period

Comments:

- Early administration at onset provides maximum effectiveness.
- This drug should not be used for chronic daily administration.

Use: To abort or prevent vascular headaches, such as a migraine, migraine variants, or "histaminic cephalalgia".

 [Detailed Caffeine / ergotamine dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since caffeine and ergotamine is used only when needed, you are not likely to miss a dose.

Do not take more than 6 caffeine and ergotamine tablets per day or more than 10 tablets per week.

Do not use more than 2 suppositories per headache or 5 suppositories per week.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention if you think you have used too much of caffeine and ergotamine. **An overdose of caffeine and ergotamine can be fatal.**

Overdose symptoms may include vomiting, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears, feeling drowsy or light-headed,

seizure, or signs of decreased blood flow in your arms or legs (pain, numbness, tingling, weak pulses, or a blue appearance).

What should I avoid while using caffeine and ergotamine?

Do not use caffeine and ergotamine within 24 hours before or after using another migraine headache medicine, including:

- [dihydroergotamine](#), ergonovine, or [methylergonovine](#); or
- almotriptan, eletriptan, [frovatriptan](#), naratriptan, sumatriptan, rizatriptan, or [zolmitriptan](#).

Grapefruit and [grapefruit juice](#) may interact with caffeine and ergotamine and lead to unwanted side effects. **Avoid the use of grapefruit products while taking caffeine and ergotamine.**

What other drugs will affect caffeine and ergotamine?

Tell your doctor about all your current medicines. Many drugs can affect caffeine and ergotamine, especially:

- nicotine gum or skin patch;
- an antibiotic or antifungal medicine;
- diet pills, stimulants, or medicine to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD);
- heart or blood pressure medicine; or
- medicines to treat asthma, colds or allergies.

This list is not complete and many other drugs may affect caffeine and ergotamine. This includes prescription and over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

 [Caffeine / ergotamine drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does caffeine/ergotamine interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

+

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- [Ergotamine and caffeine \(Oral\) advanced reading](#)
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Other brands

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Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.

Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

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DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

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Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug

Approval History



Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

9.1 / 10

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