



## What's my Drug?

**Esomeprazole** reduces the amount of acid made by the stomach. It is useful for certain types of indigestion, acid reflux (heartburn), and things like stomach ulcers. It can also help reduce stomach irritation that certain medicines can cause e.g. ibuprofen. And it can also be used to help get rid of Helicobacter infection of the stomach.

**How to take it:** Swallow them whole with a glass of water. Do not bite or chew them. Most people take it in the morning.

**Possible side effects include:** Headache, and tummy problems (sickness, diarrhoea, constipation, passing wind, and loss of appetite). You could get dizzy.

**Rare but important side effects:** Rarely, this medication can cause a serious skin condition called subacute cutaneous lupus erythematosus (SCLE). This might cause joint pains too. It is rare but if you get a rash, especially on sun-exposed areas let your health professional know. Long-term treatment can cause blood levels of the mineral magnesium to run low. This could cause muscle twitching, sickness, fatigue, and loss of appetite. Confusion, agitation, and low mood (depression) are uncommon side effects. You could get blurred vision. Hair thinning (alopecia) is a rare complication. You may be more at risk of developing stomach or bowel infections. This could cause tummy pains and diarrhoea, sometimes severe. Long-term use can make bones thinner (osteoporosis) which may increase the risk of bone fractures.

**Warnings and Cautions:** This medicine can lower the levels of Vitamin B12 in the body. It can also affect mineral levels in the blood e.g. magnesium. This medication does not mix well with a number of other drugs so check this out with your health professional if necessary. If you feel dizzy or your vision is affected you should not drive or operate machines. Check the Product Information Leaflet for full details of all its other potential side effects. Any woman taking this who plans to become pregnant, or finds that she is pregnant should discuss this with her doctor.