Co-codamol contains two different medicines called codeine phosphate and paracetamol. Codeine belongs to a group of medicines called opioid analgesics which act to relieve pain. It can be used on its own or in combination with other painkillers such as paracetamol. Co-codamol is used to treat headache including migraine, toothache, neuralgia, period pain, pain caused by rheumatism and arthritis and to relieve the symptoms of colds, flu and sore throats.

Co-codamol can be used in children over 12 years of age for the short-term relief of moderate pain that is not relieved by other painkillers such as paracetamol or ibuprofen alone.

Important things you should know about co-codamol

• Do not take for longer than your doctor tells you to
• Taking codeine regularly for a long time can lead to addiction, which might cause you to feel restless and irritable when you stop the tablets
• Taking a painkiller for headaches too often or for too long can make them worse

Warnings and precautions

Do not take co-codamol and tell your doctor if:

• You are allergic (hypersensitive) to codeine, paracetamol or any of the other ingredients in your medicine (listed in Section 6: Further information)
• Signs of an allergic reaction include a rash and breathing problems. There can also be swelling of the legs, arms, face, throat or tongue
• The person going to take the tablets is under 12 years of age. Co-codamol must not be given to children under 12 years of age
• You are under 18 years of age and have had your tonsils or adenoids removed due to obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome
• You know you metabolise very rapidly codeine into morphine
• You are breastfeeding or planning to breastfeed

Do not take co-codamol if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking co-codamol.

Take special care and check with your doctor before taking co-codamol if:

• You have severe kidney or liver problems
• Codeine is transformed to morphine in the liver by an enzyme. Morphine is the substance that produces the effects of codeine and relieves pain and symptoms of cold. Some people have a variation of this enzyme and this can affect people in different ways. In some people, morphine is not produced or produced in very small quantities, and it will not provide enough pain relief or relieve their cold. Other people are more likely to get serious side effects because a very high amount of morphine is produced. If you notice any of the following side effects, you must stop taking this medicine and seek immediate medical advice: slow or shallow breathing, confusion, sleepiness, small pupils, feeling or being sick, constipation, lack of appetite

Children and adolescents

Use in children and adolescents after surgery

Co-codamol should not be used for pain relief in children and adolescents after removal of their tonsils or adenoids due to Obstructive Sleep Apnoea Syndrome.

Use in children and adolescents with breathing problems

Co-codamol is not recommended in children with breathing problems, since the symptoms of morphine toxicity may be worse in these children.

Co-codamol is not recommended in adolescents over 12 years of age with breathing problems for the treatment of breathlessness.

If you are not sure if the above applies to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking co-codamol.

Taking other medicines

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines obtained without a prescription, including herbal medicines. This is because co-codamol can affect the way some other medicines work. Also, some other medicines can affect the way co-codamol works.

While taking co-codamol you should not take any other medicines which contain paracetamol.

This includes some painkillers, cough and cold remedies. It also includes a wide range of other medicines available from your doctor and more widely in shops.

Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

• Medicines used to thin the blood such as warfarin
• Metoclopramide or domperidone - used to stop you feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting)
• Colestyramine - for lowering blood cholesterol levels
• If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking co-codamol.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Talk to your doctor before taking these tablets:

• You are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or plan to get pregnant
• You are planning to breastfeed
• Do not take co-codamol while you are breastfeeding. Codeine and morphine passes into breast milk.

Driving and using machines

Co-codamol can affect your ability to drive as it may make you sleepy or dizzy.
• Do not drive whilst taking this medicine unless you know how it affects you.


CO-CODAMOL 8/500 TABLETS

Codeine Phosphate and Paracetamol

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again. If you have further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist. Do not pass this medicine on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours. If any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

What is in this leaflet:

1. What co-codamol is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take co-codamol
3. How to take co-codamol
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store co-codamol
6. Contents of the pack and other information

The name of your medicine is Co-codamol 8/500 Tablets (called co-codamol throughout this leaflet).

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