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OMEPRAZOLE

Brand names: Prilosec®

What is this medication used for?

Omeprazole decreases the acid production in the stomach. It is used to treat the symptoms of GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease) or “heartburn.”

How should I take this medication?

Omeprazole is taken by mouth.

Omeprazole should be taken first thing in the morning on an empty stomach.

Do not crush or chew omeprazole.

Omeprazole capsule may be opened and sprinkled on applesauce if desired.

If this is done, the medicine should not be chewed, but swallowed right away.

Do not save any opened capsules.

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up for the missed dose.

Do not take any new medication (prescription or over-the-counter) without checking with your doctor or pharmacist first.

What are the side effects of this medication?

- stomach pain, gas
- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- headache

Other side effects not listed may also occur. Check with your physician if you notice any other effects.

Contact your doctor immediately if you experience any of the following while taking this medicine:

blurred vision, fast heartbeat, excessive nausea or vomiting that doesn't go away, unusual sweating, intense headache, or excessive dry mouth.

Special Instructions:

Omeprazole is *not* for immediate relief of heartburn symptoms.

Heartburn is often confused with the first symptoms of a heart attack. Seek emergency medical attention if you have chest pain or heavy feeling, pain spreading to the arm or shoulder, nausea, sweating, and a general ill feeling.

Taking a proton pump inhibitor such as omeprazole may increase your risk of bone fracture in the hip, wrist, or spine. This effect has occurred mostly in people who have taken the medication long term or at high doses, and in those who are age 50 and older. It is not clear whether omeprazole is the actual cause of an increased risk of fracture. Before you take this medication, tell your doctor if you have osteoporosis or osteopenia (low bone mineral density).

This information is only a summary. Please contact your healthcare professional for additional information about this medication.

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