

**PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION**

**LOPERAMIDE - 2**  
Loperamide Hydrochloride Tablets, USP  
Caplets: 2 mg

**This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when LOPERAMIDE was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about LOPERAMIDE. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.**

**ABOUT THIS MEDICATION****What the medication is used for:**

LOPERAMIDE is used for the rapid relief of diarrhea symptoms.

**What it does:**

LOPERAMIDE makes the stools more solid and less frequent.

**When it should not be used:**

You should not use LOPERAMIDE if you have any of the following conditions:

- if there is blood in the stools or you have a fever;
- if you are constipated or your abdomen is swollen or have abdominal pain;
- if you have a bacterial infection in your digestive system, or suspect food-poisoning due to bacterial contamination;
- if you have an inflammation of the lower bowel;
- if you are taking prescription drugs that may cause constipation such as anti-psychotic and anti-depressant medications;
- if you are taking antibiotics or have ulcerative colitis;
- if you know you are sensitive to one of the ingredients or to any other component of this formulation (see *What the nonmedicinal ingredients are*);
- if in doubt, ask your pharmacist or doctor for advice.

**What the medicinal ingredient is:**

Loperamide hydrochloride.

**What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:**

Caplet: croscarmellose sodium, D&C Yellow No.10 Aluminum Lake, FD&C Blue No.1 Aluminum Lake, lactose monohydrate, magnesium stearate, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone.

**What dosage forms it comes in:**

Caplets: 2 mg

**WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS**

KEEP THIS AND ALL DRUGS OUT OF THE REACH OF CHILDREN

**BEFORE you use LOPERAMIDE talk to your doctor or pharmacist if:**

- are pregnant or nursing a baby. LOPERAMIDE are not recommended for nursing mothers because small amounts of loperamide can end up in your milk;
- Have meningitis or liver disease, as you may need medical supervision while taking LOPERAMIDE

**STOP USE and see your doctor or pharmacist if:**

- Diarrhea gets worse, lasts longer than 48 hours or you get any unusual symptoms;
- You are infected with HIV and you have any signs of abdominal swelling or bulging.

Although LOPERAMIDE stop diarrhea, it will not treat the cause of it. Whenever possible, the cause of diarrhea should also be treated.

Tiredness, dizziness, or drowsiness may occur in the setting of diarrheal symptoms treated with loperamide. Therefore, it is advisable to use caution when driving a car or operating machinery.

**INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION**

Always tell your doctor or pharmacist

- if you are using other drugs including herbal medicines because some drugs should not be taken together
- If you are taking drugs that slow down the action of the stomach and intestines (for example, some antidepressants and cold and allergy medication), because these can make the effect of LOPERAMIDE too strong
- If you are taking sedating medications

In particular, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:

- Ritonavir (used to treat HIV)
- Quinidine (used to treat abnormal heart rhythms)
- Oral desmopressin (used to treat excessive urination)
- Itraconazole or ketoconazole (used to treat fungal infections)
- Gemfibrozil (used to lower cholesterol)

**PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**

LOPERAMIDE should be taken by the mouth. You can take LOPERAMIDE at any time of day. The caplets should be taken with liquid.

When you have diarrhea,

- You will lose a lot of fluids. Therefore, drink plenty of clear fluids, water, unsweetened juices or clear soups.
- Do not drink alcohol or milk and avoid fruit, green vegetables and spicy or fatty foods. These items tend to aggravate diarrhea.

**Usual dose:**

Adults (12 years and older): Take 2 caplets (4 mg) initially and 1 caplet (2 mg) every time you have a loose bowel movement, to a maximum of 8 caplets (16 mg) per day.

Stop use if you have a solid or hard stool or if you go for 24 hours without a bowel movement.

**Overdose:**

In case of drug overdose, contact a health care practitioner, hospital emergency department or regional Poison Control Center immediately, even if there are no symptoms.

**SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

LOPERAMIDE are usually well tolerated and few undesired effects are likely when it is taken as directed.

Constipation may occur. If so, stop LOPERAMIDE and if these effects are severe, consult your doctor.

Over sensitivity to LOPERAMIDE is rare. It can be recognized, for instance, by skin rash or itching. If any of these signs occur, see your doctor. The following complaints sometimes occur, but they may be due to the diarrhea itself: nausea and vomiting, tiredness, dizziness or drowsiness, dry mouth and flatulence.

**SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM**

Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency medical attention
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Uncommon	Abdominal pain		√	√
	Difficulty urinating		√	√
	Bloating		√	√
	Shortness of breath		√	√
	Swollen face		√	√

*This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking LOPERAMIDE, contact your doctor or pharmacist.*

**HOW TO STORE IT**

LOPERAMIDE should be stored at room temperature between 15°C and 30°C.

**Reporting Side Effects**

You can help improve the safe use of health products for Canadians by reporting serious and unexpected side effects to Health Canada. Your report may help to identify new side effects and change the product safety information.

**3 ways to report:**

- Online at [MedEffect](#);
  - By calling 1-866-234-2345 (toll-free);
  - By completing a Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form and sending it by:
    - Fax to 1-866-678-6789 (toll-free), or
    - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program  
Health Canada, Postal Locator 0701E  
Ottawa, ON  
K1A 0K9
- Postage paid labels and the Consumer Side Effect Reporting Form are available at [MedEffect](#).

*NOTE: Contact your health professional if you need information about how to manage your side effects. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.*

**MORE INFORMATION**

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals, can be obtained by contacting Pro Doc Ltée at 1-800-361-8559, [www.prodoc.qc.ca](http://www.prodoc.qc.ca) or [info@prodoc.qc.ca](mailto:info@prodoc.qc.ca).

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