



## Clinical Efficacy of Pharmacological Treatment of Gastroesophageal Reflux Disease with Omeprazole Drug

Hassan Ferro\*

Department of Pharmacology, University Clinical Hospital Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

### DESCRIPTION

Omeprazole drug is used to treat certain conditions in which there is too much stomach acid, gastric ulcer, duodenal ulcer, erosive esophagitis, and Gastro-Esophageal Reflux Disease (GERD). Gastro-esophageal reflux disease is a condition in which stomach acid flows back up into the esophagus. Omeprazole is sometimes used in combination with antibiotics (eg, amoxicillin, clarithromycin) to treat ulcers associated with infection with *H. pylori*. Prescription omeprazole is used alone or in combination with other drugs to treat symptoms of gastro-esophageal reflux disease. Gastro-esophageal reflux disease is a condition in which the reflux of acid from the stomach can cause heartburn and damage the esophagus (the tube between the throat and stomach) in adults and children from 1 year old. Prescription omeprazole is used to treat damage caused by GERD in adults and children over the age of one month. Prescription omeprazole is used to heal the esophagus and prevent further damage to the esophagus in adults with GERD and children over the age of one year.

Omeprazole belongs to a class of drugs known as Proton Pump Inhibitors (PPIs). Proton pumps, also called potassium hydrogen pumps, are located along the lining of the stomach. These pumps are responsible for releasing acid into the stomach. PPIs like omeprazole block acid release and reduce gastric acidity. Omeprazole takes about an hour to block the production of stomach acid, and its maximum effect occurs about two hours after taking the pill [1]. The effect of omeprazole lasts for about 3 days. An Omeprazole oral capsule is a prescription drug available only in over-the-counter form. Omeprazole is also available as an oral suspension and an Over-The-Counter (OTC) drug.

Omeprazole oral capsules do not cause drowsiness. However, it can cause other side effects. The side effects of this drug are slightly different in children and adults. Side effects in adults include headache, abdominal pain, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, and flatulence. If these effects are mild, they may disappear

within days or weeks [2]. If symptoms worsen or do not improve, consult the doctor or pharmacist. Omeprazole oral capsules may interact with other medications, vitamins, or herbs that are taken by a person. This can be harmful or cause the medicine to work less well.

Consult a doctor if the urination is less than usual or if there is blood in the urine, joint pain, or a rash on the cheeks or arms that is made worse by the sun. Diarrhea can be a sign of a new infection. Omeprazole can cause kidney problems. Omeprazole should not be used for immediate relief of heartburn. Omeprazole may cause new or worsening symptoms of lupus [3].

Take this medicine as directed, usually once a day, before meals. The dosage and duration of treatment depend on the medical condition and response to treatment. For children, the dosage also depends on their weight [4]. Do not increase the dose or take this medicine more often than prescribed. Do not crush, break, or chew delayed-release tablets. This increases the risk of side effects as all the drug is released at once. While using sustained-release disintegrating tablets, handle the tablets with dry hands. Place the tablet on the tongue and let it dissolve. After the tablet has dissolved, it can be swallowed with or without water [5]. The tablets can also be swallowed whole with water. Antacids can be taken with this medicine if needed. If a person who is taking sucralfate, take omeprazole at least 30 minutes before sucralfate. Use this medicine regularly for maximum benefit. Take it at the same time each day to make it easier to remember. Continue taking this medicine for the prescribed treatment period, even if a person feels better. If a patient is self-medicating with over-the-counter medications, do not take more than 14 days unless directed by the doctor [6]. Do not start, stop, or change the dosage of the medicine without the doctor's approval. Also, seek immediate medical attention if a person has these signs of serious illness before self-treating with this medication. Difficulty/pain swallowing food, bloody/black vomit, bloody/black stools, heartburn over 3 months, frequent chest pains, frequent wheezing (especially with heartburn), nausea/vomiting, stomach pain.

**Correspondence to:** Hassan Ferro, Department of Pharmacology, University Clinical Hospital Santiago de Compostela, Santiago de Compostela, Spain, E-mail: ferrhass@UCHSC.edu

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## CONCLUSION

Some products require stomach acid for the body to absorb them properly. Omeprazole reduces stomach acid and may affect how these products work. Some affected products include, atazanavir, erlotinib, levoketoconazole, nelfinavir, pazopanib, rilpivirine, and certain azole antifungals (itraconazole, ketoconazole, posaconazole). Keep this medicine in its original packaging, tightly closed and out of reach of children. Store at room temperature away from light, excessive heat, and moisture (avoid bathrooms).

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