

# Pantoprazole

## Names

The generic drug name is pantoprazole (pan-TOE-pra-zole). The brand name is Protonix®. There may be other names for this medication.

## Why am I Taking Pantoprazole and How is it Given??

Pantoprazole is used to treat GERD (gastroesophageal reflux disease) and conditions in which the stomach makes too much acid.

Pantoprazole is available as a delayed-release capsule and as delayed-release granules. **Swallow the tablets whole** - do not split, chew, or crush them. For the granules - open the packet and mix with a teaspoon of applesauce OR stir it (for 5 seconds) into 1 teaspoon of apple juice. Swallow the mixture right away without chewing or crushing. Follow the applesauce with a few sips of water. If you sprinkled the granules into apple juice, rinse the cup once or twice with apple juice and drink the juice right away.

Pantoprazole granules mixed with apple juice may be given through a feeding tube. If you have a feeding tube, ask your doctor how you should take pantoprazole.

Pantoprazole is also available as a powder to be mixed with liquid and given intravenously (into a vein) by a doctor or nurse in a medical facility.

## How Does it Work?

Pantoprazole is a proton pump inhibitor (PPI); it decreases the amount of acid made in the stomach.

## What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?

Tell your doctor if you:

- are allergic to pantoprazole, or other medications
- have or have ever had: A low blood level of magnesium, low B-12, osteoporosis, or an autoimmune disease such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, or ulcerative colitis
- are taking rilpivirine (Edurant®, Odefsey®)
- are pregnant or breastfeeding

**This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.**

What Are Some Side Effects?

- Headaches
- Nausea, gas, vomiting
- Joint pain
- Diarrhea

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency room if you have signs of severe allergic reaction such as trouble breathing, feeling your throat is closing up, heart palpitations, swelling of tongue or face, nausea and vomiting, a blue or gray color in your skin.

Call your doctor **immediately** if you have:

- any signs of an allergic reaction: rash, itching, hives.
- severe diarrhea
- skin: blistering or peeling skin; rash on cheeks or arms that is sensitive to sunlight
- decreased urination or blood in your urine
- irregular heartbeat, muscle spasms, lightheadedness, and uncontrollable shaking of a part of the body

What Else Should I Know About Pantoprazole?

- Try to take pantoprazole at around the same time every day.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. **Do not take a double dose.**
- Store away from heat, moisture, and direct light (not in the bathroom).
- Keep all your lab and doctor appointments. Before blood is drawn, tell the lab you are taking pantoprazole.
- Taking PPI medications for a year or more may increase your risk of a bone fracture. Talk to your doctor about this risk and whether to take a calcium or vitamin D supplement.
- Long term use may weaken the stomach lining and cause a vitamin B12 deficiency.
- If you would like more information about pantoprazole, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.