

Famotidine

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| Names | The generic drug name is famotidine (fa moe' ti deen). The brand drug name is Pepcid®. There may be other names for this medication. |
| How is it Administered? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Famotidine is taken by mouth as a tablet, a chewable tablet, a capsule, or a liquid, usually once or twice a day.• Swallow tablets whole with a full glass of water.• If you are given chewable tablets, chew them thoroughly before swallowing them with a full glass of water.• If you are taking liquid, shake it well for 5-10 seconds before each dose. Take it 15 to 60 minutes before eating foods or drinking drinks that may cause heartburn.• Take famotidine exactly as directed. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often or for a longer time than prescribed by your doctor.• Do not take more than 2 tablets, capsules, or chewable tablets in 24 hours if you are taking over-the-counter famotidine, unless your doctor tells you that you should.• If you forget a dose of prescription famotidine, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue your regular dosing schedule. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed one |
| What is it Used For and How Does it Work? | <p>This medication is used to treat ulcers, gastroesophageal reflux disease [GERD], and conditions in which the stomach makes too much acid.</p> <p>Famotidine is in a class of drugs called H2 blockers. It works on certain cells in your stomach and lowers the amount of acid they produce. Less acid means less irritation in your gastrointestinal tract.</p> |
| What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin? | <p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to famotidine, cimetidine (Tagamet), nizatidine (Axid), ranitidine (Zantac), or any other medications.• are taking any other medications for heartburn• have phenylketonuria (PKU)• have, or have ever had, kidney disease or trouble swallowing• are pregnant or breastfeeding |

This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.

What Are Some Side Effects?

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Constipation
- Diarrhea

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- Take this medication with food, water, or milk, to reduce the risk of irritating your stomach.
- Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen headache or diarrhea.
- Increase your fluid and fiber intake and activity level if you have constipation. Talk to your doctor before taking any laxative products.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Though allergic reactions are uncommon, call your doctor **immediately** if you have signs such as itching or rash. Note: Call 911 or go to nearest emergency room If you have signs of a severe reaction such as difficulty breathing or swallowing; swelling or tingling in your mouth, tongue, face, or throat; chest tightness; dizziness; or palpitations.

What Else Should I Know About Pepcid®?

- Do not take over-the-counter Pepcid® with any other prescription or nonprescription medications for heartburn unless your doctor has allowed it.
- Keep this medication in the container it came in, tightly closed, and out of reach of children. Store it at room temperature and away from excess heat and moisture (not in the bathroom). Do not allow the liquid to freeze.
- Dispose of unused famotidine liquid after 30 days. Do not flush this medication down the toilet. Roswell has drug disposal containers available on the 1st floor of the main hospital. They are located just past the ATM on the left. New York has *Take Back* programs for the collection of household drugs. Go to the NY Department of Conservation website www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/67720.html and click on “Find a free collection site near you”