

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX

Anagrelide Hydrochloride

Consumer Medicine Information

For a copy of a large print leaflet, Ph: 1800 195 055

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about ANAGRELIDE APOTEX. It does not contain all of the available information. Reading this leaflet does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may want to read it again.

What this medicine is used for

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX Capsules contain a medicine called anagrelide hydrochloride which acts upon the bone marrow and prevents it from producing too many of the blood cells known as "platelets".

In a disease such as "thrombocythaemia", the bone marrow produces too many of these cells, and the very large numbers of platelets in the blood can cause serious problems with blood circulation. By preventing too many platelets from being made, ANAGRELIDE APOTEX can help prevent these problems.

Your doctor may have prescribed ANAGRELIDE APOTEX for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why ANAGRELIDE APOTEX have been prescribed for you.

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX are not addictive.

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX are only available on a doctor's prescription.

Before you take this medicine

When you must not take it

Do not take this medicine if:

- You are allergic to anagrelide or any of the other ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- You have severe liver problems.
- You are pregnant or breast feeding.
- The expiry date (EXP) printed on the bottle has passed. If you take ANAGRELIDE APOTEX Capsules after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.
- The packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX Capsules contain lactose and microcrystalline cellulose. These may cause a problem in a small number of people who are sensitive to them.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if:

- You have any allergies.
- You have had or now have any liver or kidney disease.
- You have heart disease, heart failure or are at high risk of vascular events (thrombosis or bleeding).

If you become pregnant whilst taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX, you should stop taking the capsules and see your doctor immediately. Women taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX and who are at risk of becoming pregnant should make sure that they are using adequate contraception.

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX should not be taken by anyone under 16 years of age.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and ANAGRELIDE APOTEX may interfere with each other. These include:

- Aspirin or a medicine containing aspirin.
- Medicines used to treat depression such as fluvoxamine.
- Medicines used to treat gastrointestinal problems such as omeprazole.

- Medicines used to treat severe asthma and breathing problems such as theophylline.
- Medicines used to treat heart disorders such as milrinone.
- Other medicines used to treat conditions affecting the platelets in your blood.
- Medicines containing sucralfate.

How to take this medicine

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

How much to take

The recommended adult starting dose of anagrelide is 1 mg/day, which can be taken orally in two divided doses. This dosage will then be adjusted until your doctor has decided which dosage is best for you. Any single dose taken during the day should not exceed 2.5 mg. Your total daily dose should not exceed four times this, i.e. 10 mg (20 of the 0.5 mg capsules).

If you are elderly, you should take the normal adult dose.

When to take it

Take your capsules the same time each day. This will help you remember when to take the capsules.

Food reduces the absorption of ANAGRELIDE APOTEX slightly, but this does not have any effect on the ability of ANAGRELIDE APOTEX to reduce your platelet count.

How long to take it

You should not normally stop taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX unless your doctor tells you to. If ANAGRELIDE APOTEX have been successfully reducing the excess of platelets in your blood, stopping

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX will cause the number of platelets in your blood to rise again within three or four days, so that the risk of problems with blood circulation may return.

If you feel unwell during your course of treatment, tell your doctor.

If you forget to take it

If you forget to take a dose of ANAGRELIDE APOTEX, leave out that dose completely. Take your next dose at the normal time it is due.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have trouble remembering to take ANAGRELIDE APOTEX, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much ANAGRELIDE APOTEX. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Symptoms of an overdose may include fast heartbeat, vomiting and bleeding.

While you are using this medicine

Things you must do

Make sure that all of your doctors and pharmacists know about your use of ANAGRELIDE APOTEX.

Remind them if any new medicines are about to be started.

Tell your doctor immediately if you experience shortness of breath and

fatigue while taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX.

Things you must not do

Do not take ANAGRELIDE APOTEX to treat any complaint other than that directed by your doctor. It may not be safe to take ANAGRELIDE APOTEX for another complaint.

Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you. It may not be safe for another person to take ANAGRELIDE APOTEX.

Do not stop taking your ANAGRELIDE APOTEX or change the dosage without checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX may cause dizziness in some patients. Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how ANAGRELIDE APOTEX affect you.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ANAGRELIDE APOTEX.

Like all medicines, ANAGRELIDE APOTEX may have some side effects. Most side effects are mild and patients often find that these wear off after a few weeks.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Some serious side effects that may occur include:

- Heart problems, including heart attack or a disturbed heartbeat, enlargement of the heart. As a precaution, your doctor may have to order some special straightforward heart function tests, both before and during your treatment.

- Chest pain with or without rapid breathing.
- Lung problems, including shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing.
- Allergic coughing.
- Abdominal pain or tenderness, stomach discomfort, vomiting blood or passing black stools.
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes caused by inflammation of the liver (hepatitis).
- Bleeding, which can sometimes be serious if you are also taking aspirin.

If you suffer from any of these effects, you should contact your doctor immediately.

Less serious side effects that may occur include:

- Headache
- Aches and pains, including the back and the chest
- Palpitations, an unusually rapid heartbeat
- Water retention, swelling of the hands or feet
- Abdominal pain
- Difficult or painful breathing
- Loss of appetite
- Rash
- Wind, diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting
- Feeling unwell
- Weakness, dizziness
- Fever
- Worsening of a cough
- Tingling sensation like pins and needles
- Alopecia (hair loss)

If these events persist, you should consult your doctor.

As a precaution, your doctor may have your blood, liver and kidney tested regularly during treatment with ANAGRELIDE APOTEX.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell

your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Storage and Disposal

Storage

Keep your capsules in the bottle until it is time to take them.

If you take the capsules out of the bottle they may not keep well.

Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not store this medicine or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX capsules 0.5 mg are white, opaque capsules.

ANAGRELIDE APOTEX Capsules are available in HDPE bottles containing 100 capsules.

AUST R 293282

Ingredients

This medicine contains 0.5 mg of Anagrelide Hydrochloride as the active ingredient.

This medicine also contains the following:

- Crespovidone Type A
- lactose anhydrous
- lactose monohydrate
- magnesium stearate
- microcrystalline cellulose
- povidone.

Sponsor

Neo Health (Australia) Pty Ltd
Level 1, 313 Burwood Rd
Hawthorn VIC 3122 Australia

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