

INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT:

PrSERC[®] (betahistine dihydrochloride) Tablets

Please read the following information carefully.

This (booklet/leaflet/sheet) contains general information about SERC. If you need more specific information, ask your doctor or pharmacist. It is important for you to carefully follow your doctor's instructions regarding how and when to take SERC.

What is SERC[®] and what is it used for?

SERC is the brand name for a drug called "betahistine dihydrochloride".

SERC is used for reducing the episodes of recurrent vertigo associated with Meniere's disease.

What should I tell my doctor before taking SERC[®]?

There are a few things your doctor should know about your health before you take SERC. This will help your doctor decide if SERC is the best medicine for you at this time.

Be sure to tell your doctor:

- if you have a peptic ulcer or have a history of this condition;
- if you have an adrenal tumour that produces excessive amounts of adrenalin (pheochromocytoma);
- if you suffer from bronchial asthma, since asthmatic patients should use SERC with caution;
- about all health problems you have now, or have had in the past;
- about all other medications you take, including ones you can take without a doctor's prescription including, for example, "natural" or "herbal" remedies;
- if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding;
- if you are allergic to any of the components that are present in SERC tablets (see "What is in SERC").

How do I take SERC[®] properly?

It is very important to take SERC exactly as your doctor has instructed. If you're not sure when or how many tablets to take each day, check with your doctor or pharmacist. SERC is not recommended for use in children.

It is recommended that SERC tablets be taken with meals.

If you forget to take one dose of SERC, take a tablet (s) as soon as you remember, unless it is almost time for your next dose. If it is almost time for your next dose, do not take the missed tablet (s) at all. Never double-up on a dose to make up for the one you have missed; just go back to your regular schedule.

Are there any side effects?

Like any medication, SERC may cause side effects in some people. Most people have few or no side effects from SERC. Side effects that do occur tend to be generally mild and do not last a long time. The few side effects that have been reported are allergic skin reactions (such as rashes of various types, hives and itching), stomach-ache, nausea, vomiting, bloating, indigestion, drowsiness and headache. If any of these become troublesome, consult your doctor. If in the rare event you experience a severe allergic reaction (which might include but is not limited to breathing or swallowing difficulties, or swelling in the face or skin) consult your doctor immediately. If you experience any unusual or unexpected symptoms while using SERC consult your doctor.

What should I do in case of overdose?

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

What is in SERC[®]?

Each SERC 16 mg and 24 mg tablet contains either 16 mg or 24 mg of betahistine dihydrochloride, respectively, and the following non-medicinal ingredients: citric acid, colloidal anhydrous silica, mannitol, microcrystalline cellulose, and talc.

Check with your doctor whether you might be allergic to any of the above ingredients.

What does SERC[®] look like?

The 16 mg tablets are round, biconvex, scored, white to almost white tablet with bevelled edges, one side inscribed with “ S ”, the other side with “267” on either side of the score. The tablet can be divided into equal halves.

The 24 mg tablets are round, biconvex, scored, white to almost white tablet with bevelled edges, one side inscribed with “ S ” the other side with “289” on either side of the score. The scoreline is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

Where should I keep SERC[®]?

Keep your tablets at room temperature (15 to 30°C), protect from exposure to moisture, and where children cannot reach them.

Important Note:

This information is intended to alert you to some of the times when you should call your doctor or pharmacist. Other situations which cannot be predicted may arise while you are taking medicines. Nothing should stop you from calling your doctor or pharmacist with any questions or concerns you have about using SERC.

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