

# Liothyronine Sodium 20 microgram Tablets

## Package leaflet: Information for the patient

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

## What is in this leaflet

1. What Liothyronine Sodium is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Liothyronine Sodium
3. How to take Liothyronine Sodium
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Liothyronine Sodium
6. Contents of the pack and other information

### 1 What Liothyronine Sodium is and what it is used for

Liothyronine Sodium Tablets are a form of thyroxine which is quick acting and long lasting. Thyroxine is a hormone produced by the thyroid gland in the neck which controls many body functions.

Liothyronine Sodium Tablets are used to:

- treat some of the more severe conditions in which the thyroid does not produce enough thyroxine
- balance the effect of medicines used to treat an overactive thyroid.

### 2 What you need to know before you take Liothyronine Sodium

**Do not take Liothyronine Sodium if you:**

- are allergic to liothyronine sodium or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- have angina (chest pain when exercising) or conditions affecting your heart or circulation
- are suffering from thyrotoxicosis (condition due to over activity of the thyroid gland).

Speak to your doctor before you take this medicine if any of the above applies to you.

### Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Liothyronine Sodium if you:

- have suffered from low levels of thyroid hormone in your body for a long time, as this may affect how your adrenal glands work. You may be given additional medication (corticosteroids) if this is the case
- are suffering from diabetes. Liothyronine Sodium may raise blood sugar levels
- are suffering from a condition called myxoedema (which can happen when you have a problem with your thyroid gland) which makes your skin look swollen and dry
- are elderly
- are suffering from any heart problems
- are having increased blood pressure
- suffer from increased heart rate, sleeplessness, loose watery stools (suggesting increased metabolism) on initiation of treatment, dose reduction would be required
- are initiating treatment, as an ECG test done at the time would be valuable

- are pregnant or breast-feeding.

If you are about to undergo laboratory testing for monitoring your thyroid hormone levels, you must inform your doctor and/or the laboratory personnel that you are taking or have recently taken biotin (also known as vitamin H, vitamin B7 or vitamin B8). Biotin may affect results of your laboratory tests. Depending on the test, the results may be falsely high or falsely low due to biotin. Your doctor may ask you to stop taking biotin before performing laboratory tests. You should also be aware that other products that you may take, such as multivitamins or supplements for hair, skin, and nails could also contain biotin. This could affect the results of laboratory tests. Please inform your doctor and/or the laboratory personnel, if you are taking such products (see section Other medicines and Liothyronine Sodium). Speak to your doctor before you take this medicine if any of the above applies to you.

### **Other medicines and Liothyronine Sodium**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Liothyronine Sodium may affect or be affected by the following medicines:

- anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin) used to thin the blood and prevent blood clots
- anticonvulsants (e.g. carbamazepine or phenytoin) used to prevent fits
- insulin and other treatments for diabetes
- medicines called cardiac glycosides (e.g. digoxin) used to treat heart conditions such as heart failure

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- tricyclic antidepressants (e.g. amitriptyline / imipramine) used to treat depression
- colestyramine / colestipol which reduces the level of cholesterol (fats) in the blood
- oral contraceptives ('the pill')
- amiodarone, used to treat irregular heart beats
- barbiturates, used to induce sleep and decrease anxiety
- primidone, used for seizures or fits
- oestrogen, used for hormone replacement therapy.

If you are taking or have recently taken biotin, you must inform your doctor and/or the laboratory personnel when you are about to undergo laboratory testing for monitoring your thyroid hormone levels. Biotin may affect results of your laboratory tests (see section Warnings and precautions).

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine. The decision on whether it is best to take Liothyronine Sodium during pregnancy or breast-feeding will be made by your doctor.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking any medicines.

### **Driving and using machines**

This medicine does not affect your ability to drive or use machinery.

## **3 How to take Liothyronine Sodium**

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

Liothyronine Sodium Tablets are taken by mouth. If you have been

prescribed a dose of 20 micrograms, you should swallow a whole tablet with a glass of water.

If you have been prescribed a **dose lower than 20 micrograms**, you should allow a tablet to **dissolve/disperse in 20 ml of water** for 10 minutes in a small measuring cup.

You should stir the suspension gently for 15 seconds and then, using a syringe, draw the amount of liquid corresponding to the dose prescribed for you (**5 ml for a 5 microgram dose; 10 ml for a 10 microgram dose**). You can squirt the liquid directly into your mouth from the syringe by gently pressing the plunger.

Please ask for an appropriate syringe and dosing cup from your pharmacist.

Do not worry if the solution appears cloudy.

Any unused liquid should be discarded **immediately**.

If you are unsure how to take the medicine correctly, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **Adults**

The dose will depend upon your condition, ranging from 10 micrograms to 60 micrograms daily in divided doses.

#### **Children and elderly**

The dose may be started at 5 micrograms a day.

Please note that your doctor will monitor your thyroid function regularly to make sure that you are given the right dose for your condition.

#### **If you take more Liothyronine Sodium than you should**

This may cause agitation, confusion, headache, sweating and a rapid pulse. If you take too many tablets contact your doctor or nearest hospital casualty department **as soon as possible**. Take any remaining tablets and this leaflet with you so the medical staff will know what you have taken.

#### **If you forget to take Liothyronine Sodium**

Take the next dose at the correct time and then go on as before. It is important, in order for your medicine to work, that doses are not forgotten. **Do not** take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

#### **If you stop taking Liothyronine Sodium**

**Do not** stop taking Liothyronine Sodium unless your doctor tells you to.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

### **4 Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Seek urgent medical advice if you experience the following side effects:

- Allergic reactions such as rash, itching, oedema (abnormal accumulation of body fluid)
- Angina pain (pain in the chest when exercising), irregular, thumping or fast heart beats. Seek urgent advice from your doctor if you experience these heart-related symptoms. This may be a sign that your dose of liothyronine needs to be reduced. You must not stop or reduce the amount of liothyronine medicine you are taking without consulting with your doctor first.

Other side effects you could experience are:

**Not known: (frequency cannot be estimated from the available data)**

- vomiting (being sick)
- insomnia (sleeplessness)



- fever
- intolerance to heat
- tremor (involuntary, rhythmic muscle movements)
- angina pain (pain in the chest when exercising)
- irregular, thumping or fast heart beats
- muscle cramps or weakness
- diarrhoea
- restlessness or excitability
- headache, face and neck redness, sweating
- loss of weight

#### **Additional side effects in children**

Not Known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data. Temporary loss of hair in children.

These effects normally mean the dose of the medicine needs changing. You should consult your doctor if they occur. The effects usually go away when the dose has been changed.

#### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme Website:

[www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5 How to store Liothyronine Sodium**

### **Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.**

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton, blister or bottle after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package in order to protect from light and moisture.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help protect the environment.

## **6 Contents of the pack and other information**

### **What Liothyronine Sodium contains**

- The active substance is liothyronine sodium. Each tablet contains 20 micrograms of liothyronine sodium.
- The other ingredients are microcrystalline cellulose, maize starch, pregelatinised starch, colloidal anhydrous silica and magnesium stearate.

### **What Liothyronine Sodium looks like and contents of the pack**

Liothyronine Sodium Tablets are white, biconvex, round tablets embossed "L20" on one side and plain on the other.

Liothyronine Sodium Tablets are available in blister packs and bottles containing 28 tablets.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder**

TEVA UK Limited, Ridings Point, Whistler Drive, Castleford, WF10 5HX, United Kingdom

### **Manufacturer**

TEVA Gyógyszergyár Zrt., Pallagi út 13, Debrecen 4042, Hungary

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