

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

EXXIB 200 mg, scored tablets Celecoxib

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.

In this leaflet:

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

1. WHAT EXXIB IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

EXXIB is used for the relief of signs and symptoms of **rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis and ankylosing spondylitis**.

EXXIB belongs to a group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID), and specifically a sub-group known as (COX-2) inhibitors. Your body makes prostaglandins that may cause pain and inflammation. In conditions such as rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis your body makes more of these. EXXIB acts by reducing the production of prostaglandins, thereby reducing the pain and inflammation.

You should expect your medicine to start working within hours of taking the first dose, but you may not experience a full effect for several days.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE EXXIB

You have been prescribed EXXIB by your doctor. The following information will help you get the best results with EXXIB. If you have any further questions, please ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not take EXXIB

Tell your doctor if any of the following are true for you as patients with these conditions should not take EXXIB.

- if you are allergic to celecoxib or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- if you have had an allergic reaction to a group of medicines called “sulphonamides” (e.g. some antibiotics used to treat infections)

- if you **currently** have an ulcer in your stomach or intestines, or bleeding in your stomach or intestines
- if as a result of taking acetylsalicylic acid or any other anti-inflammatory and pain-relieving medicine (NSAID) you have had asthma, nose polyps, severe nose congestion, or an allergic reaction such as an itchy skin rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat, breathing difficulties or wheezing
- if you are pregnant. If you can become pregnant during ongoing treatment you should discuss methods of contraception with your doctor
- if you are breast-feeding
- if you have severe liver disease
- if you have severe kidney disease
- if you have an inflammatory disease of the intestines such as ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease
- if you have heart failure, established ischaemic heart disease, or cerebrovascular disease, e.g. you have been diagnosed with a heart attack, stroke, or transient ischaemic attack (temporary reduction of blood flow to the brain; also known as "mini-stroke"), angina, or blockages of blood vessels to the heart or brain
- if you have or have had problems with your blood circulation (peripheral arterial disease) or if you have had surgery on the arteries of your legs.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking EXXIB:

- if you have **previously** had an ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestines. (**Do not take EXXIB** if you **currently** have an ulcer or bleeding in your stomach or intestine)
- if you are taking acetylsalicylic acid (even at low dose for heart protective purposes)
- if you use medicines to reduce blood clotting (e.g. warfarin/warfarin like anticoagulants or novel oral anti-clotting medicines, e.g. apixaban)
- if you use medicines called corticosteroids (e.g. prednisone)
- if you are using EXXIB at the same time as other non-acetylsalicylic NSAIDs such as ibuprofen or diclofenac. The use of these medicines together should be avoided
- if you smoke, have diabetes, raised blood pressure or raised cholesterol
- if your heart, liver or kidneys are not working well your doctor may want to keep a regular check on you
- if you have fluid retention (such as swollen ankles and feet)
- if you are dehydrated, for instance due to sickness, diarrhoea or the use of diuretics (used to treat excess fluid in the body)
- if you have had a serious allergic reaction or a serious skin reaction to any medicines
- if you feel ill due to an infection or think you have an infection, as EXXIB may mask a fever or other signs of infection and inflammation
- if you are over 65 years of age your doctor may want to keep a regular check on you.
- the consumption of alcohol and NSAIDs may increase the risk of gastrointestinal problems.

As with other NSAIDs (e.g. ibuprofen or diclofenac) this medicine may lead to an increase in blood pressure, and so your doctor may ask to monitor your blood pressure on a regular basis.

Some cases of severe liver reactions, including severe liver inflammation, liver damage, liver failure (some with fatal outcome or requiring liver transplant), have been reported with celecoxib. Of the cases that reported time to onset, most severe liver reactions occurred within one month of start of treatment.

EXXIB may make it more difficult to become pregnant. You should inform your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant or if you have problems to become pregnant (see section on Pregnancy and breast-feeding).

Other medicines and EXXIB

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines:

- dextromethorphan (used to treat coughs)
- ACE inhibitors or angiotensin II antagonists, beta-blockers and diuretics (used for high blood pressure and heart failure)
- fluconazole and rifampicin (used to treat fungal and bacterial infections)
- warfarin or other oral anticoagulants (“blood-thinning” agents that reduce blood clotting) including newer medicines like apixaban
- lithium (used to treat some types of depression)
- other medicines to treat depression, sleep disorders, high blood pressure or an irregular heartbeat
- neuroleptics (used to treat some mental disorders)
- methotrexate (used to treat rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis and leukaemia)
- carbamazepine (used to treat epilepsy/seizures and some forms of pain or depression)
- barbiturates (used to treat epilepsy/seizures and some sleep disorders)
- ciclosporin and tacrolimus (used for immune system suppression e.g. after transplants)

EXXIB can be taken with low dose acetylsalicylic acid (75 mg or less daily). Ask your doctor for advice before taking both medicines together.

EXXIB with food, drink and alcohol

Not applicable

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and fertility

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.

Pregnancy

EXXIB must not be used by women who are pregnant or can become pregnant (i.e. women of child bearing potential who are not using adequate contraception) during ongoing treatment. If you become pregnant during treatment with EXXIB you should discontinue the treatment and contact your doctor for alternative treatment.

Breast-feeding

EXXIB must not be used during breast-feeding.

Fertility

NSAIDs, including EXXIB, may make it more difficult to become pregnant. You should tell your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant or if you have problems becoming pregnant.

Driving and using machines

You should be aware of how you react to EXXIB before you drive or operate machinery. If you feel dizzy or drowsy after taking EXXIB, do not drive or operate machinery until these effects wear off.

3. HOW TO TAKE EXXIB

Always take EXXIB exactly as your doctor has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure. If you think or feel that the effect of EXXIB is too strong or too weak, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor will tell you what dose you should take. As the risk of side effects associated with heart problems may increase with dose and duration of use, it is important that you use the lowest dose that controls your pain and you should not take EXXIB for longer than necessary to control symptoms.

The tablets can be taken at any time of the day, with or without food. However, try to take each dose of EXXIB at the same time each day.

Method of administration

EXXIB should be swallowed with small amount of water, any time of the day, with or without food. Nevertheless, you should try to take EXXIB at the same time each day.

Contact your doctor within two weeks of starting treatment if you do not experience any benefit.

The recommended dose is:

For osteoarthritis the usual dose is 200 mg each day, increased by your doctor to a maximum of 400 mg, if needed.

The dose is usually: one tablet once a day; or a half tablet (100 mg) twice a day.

For rheumatoid arthritis the usual dose is 200 mg each day, increased by your doctor to a maximum of 400 mg, if needed.

The dose is usually: half a tablet (100 mg) twice a day.

For ankylosing spondylitis the usual dose is 200 mg each day, increased by your doctor to a maximum of 400 mg, if needed.

The dose is usually: one tablet once a day; or a half tablet (100 mg) twice a day.

Kidney or liver problems: make sure your doctor knows if you have liver or kidney problems as you may need a lower dose.

The elderly, especially those with a weight less than 50 kg: if you are over 65 years of age and especially if you weigh less than 50 kg, your doctor may want to monitor you more closely.

You should not take more than 400 mg celecoxib per day.

Use in children: EXXIB is for adults only, it is not for use in children.

If you take more EXXIB than you should

You should not take more tablets than your doctor tells you to. If you take too many tablets contact your doctor, pharmacist or hospital and take your medicine with you.

If you forget to take EXXIB

If you forget to take a tablet, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you stop taking EXXIB

Suddenly stopping your treatment with EXXIB may lead to your symptoms getting worse. Do not stop taking EXXIB unless your doctor tells you to. Your doctor may tell you to reduce the dose over a few days before stopping completely.

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

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

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

The side effects listed below were observed in arthritis patients who took celecoxib. Side effects marked with an asterisk (*) are listed below at the higher frequencies that occurred in patients who took celecoxib to prevent colon polyps. Patients in these studies took celecoxib at high doses and for a long duration.

If any of the following happen, stop taking EXXIB and tell your doctor immediately:

If you have:

- an allergic reaction such as skin rash, swelling of the face, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- heart problems such as pain in the chest
- severe stomach pain or any sign of bleeding in the stomach or intestines, such as passing black or bloodstained stools, or vomiting blood
- a skin reaction such as rash, blistering or peeling of the skin
- liver failure (symptoms may include nausea (feeling sick), diarrhoea, jaundice (your skin or the whites of your eyes look yellow))

Very common: affects more than 1 user in 10:

- High blood pressure, including worsening of an existing high blood pressure*

Common: affects 1 to 10 users in 100:

- Heart attack*
- Fluid build-up with swollen ankles, legs and/or hands
- Urinary infections
- Shortness of breath*, sinusitis (sinus inflammation, sinus infection, blocked or painful sinuses), blocked or runny nose, sore throat, coughs, colds, flu-like symptoms
- Dizziness, difficulty sleeping
- Vomiting*, stomach ache, diarrhoea, indigestion, wind
- Rash, itching
- Muscle stiffness
- Difficulty swallowing*
- Headache

- Nausea (feeling sick)
- Painful joints
- Worsening of existing allergies
- Accidental injury

Uncommon: affects 1 to 10 users in 1,000:

- Stroke*
- Heart failure, palpitations (awareness of heart beat), fast heart rate
- Abnormalities in liver-related blood tests
- Abnormalities in kidney-related blood tests
- Anaemia (changes in red blood cells that can cause fatigue and breathlessness)
- Anxiety, depression, tiredness, drowsiness, tingling sensations (pins and needles)
- High levels of potassium in blood test results (can cause nausea (feeling sick), fatigue, muscle weakness or palpitations)
- Impaired or blurred vision, ringing in the ears, mouth pain and sores, difficulty hearing*
- Constipation, burping, stomach inflammation (indigestion, stomach ache or vomiting), worsening of inflammation of the stomach or intestine
- Leg cramps
- Raised itchy rash (hives)
- Eye inflammation
- Difficulty breathing
- Skin discolouration (bruising)
- Chest pain (generalised pain not related to the heart)
- Face swelling

Rare: affects 1 to 10 users in 10,000:

- Ulcers (bleeding) in the stomach, gullet or intestines; or rupture of the intestine (can cause stomach ache, fever, nausea, vomiting, intestinal blockage), dark or black stools, inflammation of the gullet (can cause difficulty in swallowing), inflammation of the pancreas (can lead to stomach pain)
- Low levels of sodium in the blood (a condition known as hyponatraemia)
- Reduced number of white blood cells (which help protect the body from infection) and blood platelets (increased chance of bleeding or bruising)
- Difficulty coordinating muscular movements
- Feeling confused, changes in the way things taste
- Increased sensitivity to light
- Loss of hair
- Hallucinations
- Bleeding in the eye
- Acute reaction that may lead to lung inflammation
- Irregular heartbeat
- Flushing
- Blood clot in the blood vessels in the lungs. Symptoms may include sudden breathlessness, sharp pain when you breathe or collapse
- Bleeding of the stomach or intestines (can lead to bloody stools or vomiting), inflammation of the intestine or colon

- Severe liver inflammation (hepatitis). Symptoms may include nausea (feeling sick), diarrhoea, jaundice (yellow discolouration of the skin or eyes), dark urine, pale stools, bleeding easily, itching or chills
- Acute kidney failure
- Menstrual disturbances
- Swelling of the face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat, or difficulty swallowing

Very rare: may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people

- Serious allergic reactions (including potentially fatal anaphylactic shock)
- Serious skin conditions such as Stevens-Johnson syndrome, exfoliative dermatitis and toxic epidermal necrolysis (can cause rash, blistering or peeling of the skin) and acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis (symptoms include the skin becoming red with swollen areas covered in numerous small pustules)
- A delayed allergic reaction with possible symptoms such as rash, swelling of the face, fever, swollen glands, and abnormal test results (e.g. liver, blood cells (eosinophilia, a type of raised white blood cell count))
- Bleeding within the brain causing death
- Meningitis (inflammation of the membrane around the brain and spinal cord)
- Liver failure, liver damage and severe liver inflammation (fulminant hepatitis) (sometimes fatal or requiring liver transplant). Symptoms may include nausea (feeling sick), diarrhoea, jaundice (yellow discolouration of the skin and eyes), dark urine, pale stools, bleeding easily, itching or chills
- Liver problems (such as cholestasis and cholestatic hepatitis, which may be accompanied by symptoms such as discoloured stools, nausea and yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Inflammation of the kidneys and other kidney problems (such as nephrotic syndrome and minimal change disease, which may be accompanied by symptoms such as water retention (oedema), foamy urine, fatigue and a loss of appetite)
- Worsening of epilepsy (possible more frequent and/or severe seizures)
- Blockage of an artery or vein in the eye leading to partial or complete loss of vision
- Inflamed blood vessels (can cause fever, aches, purple blotches on the skin)
- A reduction in the number of red and white blood cells and platelets (may cause tiredness, easy bruising, frequent nose bleeds and increased risk of infections)
- Muscle pain and weakness
- Impaired sense of smell
- Loss of taste

Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data:

- Decreased fertility in females, which is usually reversible on discontinuation of the medicine

In clinical studies not associated with Arthritis or other arthritic conditions, where celecoxib was taken at doses of 400mg per day for up to 3 years, the following additional side effects have been observed:

Common: affects 1 to 10 users in 100:

- Heart problems: angina (chest pain)
- Stomach problems: irritable bowel syndrome (can include stomach ache, diarrhoea, indigestion, wind)

- Kidney stones (which may lead to stomach or back pain, blood in urine), difficulty passing urine
- Weight gain

Uncommon: affects 1 to 10 users in 1,000:

- Deep vein thrombosis (blood clot usually in the leg, which may cause pain, swelling or redness of the calf or breathing problems)
- Stomach problems: stomach infection (which can cause irritation and ulcers of the stomach and intestines)
- Lower limb fracture
- Shingles, skin infection, eczema (dry itchy rash), pneumonia (chest infection (possible cough, fever, difficulty breathing))
- Floaters in the eye causing blurred or impaired vision, vertigo due to inner ear troubles, sore, inflamed or bleeding gums, mouth sores
- Excessive urination at night, bleeding from piles/haemorrhoids, frequent bowel movements
- Fatty lumps in skin or elsewhere, ganglion cyst (harmless swellings on or around joints and tendons in the hand or foot), difficulty speaking, abnormal or very heavy bleeding from the vagina, breast pain
- High levels of sodium in blood test results

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 national reporting system

5. HOW TO STORE EXXIB

Keep out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use EXXIB after the expiry date which is stated on the carton after the mention EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Do not store above 30°C.

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. CONTENT OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What EXXIB contains

The active substance is celecoxib. Each tablet contains celecoxib 200 mg.

Other ingredients are: maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, povidone K30, crospovidone, talc, colloidal anhydrous silica, magnesium stearate, sodium lauryl sulfate.

What EXXIB looks like and contents of the pack

White round scored tablets engraved XX.

The tablets are packaged in PVC/PVDC-aluminium blisters. Box of 10 scored tablets.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

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