

# INFORMATION FOR THE PATIENT

**DRUGS-ABOUT.COM**

## APO-ETODOLAC

### Etodolac Capsules

APO-ETODOLAC (etodolac), which has been prescribed to you by your physician, is one of a large group of nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) and is used to treat the symptoms of certain types of arthritis. It helps to relieve joint pain, swelling, stiffness and fever by reducing the production of certain substances (prostaglandins) and helping to control inflammation and other body reactions.

You should take APO-ETODOLAC only as directed by your physician. Do not take more of it, do not take it more often and do not take it for a longer period of time than your physician ordered.

Be sure to take APO-ETODOLAC regularly as prescribed. In some types of arthritis, up to two weeks may pass before you feel the full effects of this medicine. During treatment, your physician may decide to adjust the dosage according to your response to the medication.

To lessen stomach upset, take this medicine immediately after a meal or with food or milk. If stomach upset (indigestion, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain or diarrhea) occurs and continues, contact your physician.

Do not take ASA (acetylsalicylic acid), ASA-containing compounds or other drugs used to relieve symptoms of arthritis while taking APO-ETODOLAC unless directed to do so by your physician.

If you are prescribed this medication for use over a long period of time, your doctor will check your health during regular visits to assess your progress and to ensure that this medication is not causing unwanted effects.

Along with its beneficial effects, APO-ETODOLAC like other NSAIDs, may cause some undesirable reactions. Elderly, frail or debilitated patients often seem to experience more frequent or more severe side effects. Although not all of these side effects are common, when they do occur they may require medical attention. Check with your physician immediately if any of the following are noted:

- bloody or black tarry stools;
- shortness of breath, wheezing, any trouble in breathing or tightness in the chest;
- skin rash, swelling, hives or itching;
- indigestion, nausea, vomiting, stomach pain or diarrhea;
- yellow discolouration of the skin or eyes, with or without fatigue;
- any changes in the amount or colour of your urine (such as dark; red or brown);
- swelling of the feet or lower legs ;
- blurred vision or any visual disturbance;
- mental confusion, depression, dizziness, lightheadedness; hearing problems.

#### **ALWAYS REMEMBER**

Before taking this medication tell your physician and pharmacist if you:

- are allergic to etodolac or other related medicines of the NSAID group such as acetylsalicylic acid, diclofenac, diflunisal, fenoprofen, flurbiprofen, ibuprofen, indomethacin, ketoprofen, mefenamic acid, piroxicam, sulindac, tiaprofenic acid, or tolmetin;
- have a history of stomach upset, ulcers, or liver or kidney diseases;
- are pregnant or intend to become pregnant while taking this medication;
- are breast feeding;
- are taking any other medication (either prescription or non-prescription);
- have any other medical problem(s).

While taking this medication:

- tell any other physician, dentist or pharmacist that you consult or see, that you are taking this medication;
- be cautious about driving or participating in activities that require alertness if you are drowsy, dizzy or lightheaded after taking this medication;
- check with your doctor if you are not getting any relief or if any problems develop.
- report any untoward reactions to your doctor. This is very important as it will aid in the early detection and prevention of potential complications.
- your regular medical checkups are essential.
- if you require more information on this drug, consult your physician or pharmacist.

APO-ETODOLAC is not recommended for use in children.

#### **WHO MANUFACTURES APO-ETODOLAC**

Apotex Inc.  
150 Signet Drive  
Weston, Ontario  
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#### **REMINDERS:**

**This medicine has been prescribed only for you. Do not give it to anybody else.**

***If you require any further information or advise please consult your doctor or pharmacist.***

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