

CELECOXIB

DRUG NAME

Generic: Celecoxib

Class of drug: Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug OR COX-2 inhibitor

Brands in Australia: Celaxib, Celebrex, Celexi (other generic brands available)

DOSAGE FORM

Available as a 100 mg capsule. Quantity 60.

Also available as a 200 mg capsule. Quantity 30.

HOW IT WORKS

A "COX-2 inhibitor" is an anti-inflammatory. It blocks chemicals (prostaglandins) that cause swelling, heat, and pain.

Used in pain management for musculoskeletal pain from inflammation or trauma. Can sometimes be used for conditions that cause inflammation that irritates nerves.

Onset of action

- Onset of action is after 1 hour, and often lasts at least 5 hours after single dose, and much longer with continued use.

DOSAGE & FREQUENCY

Your doctor will advise on the starting dose and guide the dose changes.

- start with _____
- if tolerated, increase to _____ after _____ days
- if necessary, increase by _____ every _____ week(s)
- if successive increases are well tolerated *and bring additional benefit*, continue to titrate up to a maximum of _____
- to be reviewed by your doctor on _____

For chronic pain, the lowest effective dose for the shortest duration is recommended.

ROUTE OF ADMINISTRATION

Oral (by mouth) unless otherwise specified.

WHAT ELSE SHOULD I KNOW WHILE TAKING THIS MEDICATION

- Don't take this medicine if you are dehydrated, for example due to vomiting or diarrhoea, because it might increase the likelihood of side effects, particularly for elderly people. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if necessary.
- If you develop swollen ankles, difficulty in breathing, chest pain, black stools or dark coffee-coloured vomit, stop taking the medicine and tell your doctor immediately.

- Do not take aspirin for pain relief as it will increase the risk of side effects with this medicine.

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS

Store at room temperature, below 25°C, away from moisture and sunlight. Keep out of reach of children.

DISPOSAL INSTRUCTIONS

Return unused or expired medication to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

MISSED DOSE INSTRUCTIONS

Ask your doctor or pharmacist.

EMERGENCY INSTRUCTIONS

Seek urgent medical attention if you:

- Take too much (over dose may cause nausea, vomiting, stomach bleeding)
- Develop sudden swollen ankles, sudden difficulty breathing
- Develop slurry speech or weakness
- Black stools or vomiting blood/coffee-looking vomit

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS

- Indigestion, stomach upset
- Diarrhoea
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Swelling of ankles or feet

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS

- Chest pain, shortness of breath (possible heart problems)
- Severe stomach pain, black/tarry stools (stomach bleeding or ulcer)
- Allergic reaction (rash, swelling, difficulty breathing)
- Severe dizziness, fainting
- Unexplained bruising or bleeding

MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR SIDE EFFECTS

- **Stomach upset:** Take with food. If you are experiencing stomach upset despite taking it with food, you may also need to be prescribed a stomach protection medication (proton pump inhibitor) such as esomeprazole (Nexium) or pantoprazole (Somac).
- **Swelling:** Elevate legs, reduce salt intake, and inform your doctor.
- **Headache:** Ensure good hydration; paracetamol may help if approved by your doctor.
- **Dizziness:** Stand up slowly; avoid driving if affected.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Interactions:

- May interact with blood thinners (e.g., warfarin), other NSAIDs, aspirin, some antidepressants (increased bleeding risk).
- Avoid heavy alcohol use (increases stomach bleeding risk).

Precautions:

- Use with caution in people with heart disease, stroke risk, high blood pressure, kidney disease, or stomach ulcers.

- Not recommended in pregnancy.
- Dose adjustment may be required in liver or kidney impairment.

Elective surgery advice

- Usually stopped at least 3–5 days before surgery to reduce risk of bleeding.
- Always tell your surgeon and anaesthetist if you are taking celecoxib.
- Do not restart after surgery until your doctor says it is safe.
- Sometimes another pain medicine (like paracetamol) is recommended instead during this period.

TITRATION DIARY

Date	Dose Taken	Side Effects	Notes (e.g., sleep, pain relief)