

Pulmozyme

Information for adult patients with cystic fibrosis

This information sheet explains how to take your nebuliser, possible side effects and advice on use, cleaning and storage.

What is Pulmozyme®?

Pulmozyme (also called dornase alfa or DNase) helps to break down thick mucus in your airway and makes your sputum looser and easier to clear. This can improve lung function and make your chest infections less frequent and less severe.

Not everyone benefits from Pulmozyme, which is why you have been given a one-month supply of the drug to see if it works for you. You will usually start the trial when you are stable. We will measure your lung function before you begin.

Usual dose

Pulmozyme via an I-neb, eFlow or conventional compressor:

- o 2.5mg once a day.

Are there any side effects?

When you first start Pulmozyme you might find that you cough more and bring up more sputum. This is the result we want and it is usually a sign that it is working for you.

Side effects can include: chest pain, fever, an upset stomach, a hoarse voice, a sore throat, difficulty breathing, a runny or blocked nose, eye irritation or a skin rash. These are usually mild and temporary.

The patient information leaflet that comes in the package has a full list of possible side effects. If you have any of these or any other symptoms, contact the CF team.

Confirming your identity

Before you have a treatment or procedure, our staff will ask you your **name** and **date of birth** and check your **ID band**. If you don't have an ID band we will also ask you to confirm your address.

If we don't ask these questions, then please ask us to check.
Ensuring your safety is our primary concern.

How do I take Pulmozyme?

Using an eFlow or conventional compressor

- Empty one 2.5ml plastic ampoule into the nebuliser pot.
- Nebulise until there is no more vapour or the device completes its pre-set delivery.
- You do not need to use a filter.

Using an I-neb

- Fill the green chamber with 1ml from the vial ampoule and inhale the dose.
- Discard the remaining drug.

How will I know if Pulmozyme has helped me?

We will assess you at the end of the trial period. We will look at a number of things to see if Pulmozyme has worked, such as an improvement in your:

- lung function
- exercise tolerance
- appetite
- weight
- general wellbeing
- ability to clear secretions.

We will then decide with you whether to add Pulmozyme to your daily treatment programme long term.

General advice

- Do not mix Pulmozyme with any other drug in the same nebuliser pot or chamber.
- Nebulise Pulmozyme at least one hour before physiotherapy to ensure the drug has enough time to work
- Take it at least one hour apart from nebulised antibiotics.
- Filters are not needed when taking this medication.

Cleaning and storage

- After each use, clean the nebuliser pot or chamber as advised by the manufacturer and the CF team.
- Store Pulmozyme in the fridge at 2-8°C and protect from light.
- It will last out of the fridge for 24 hours at below 30°C.

Who do I contact with queries and concerns?

Monday to Friday, 9am – 5pm: Adult CF Physiotherapists, tel 020 3299 5284

At all other times: King's Adult CF Ward, tel 020 3299 8652

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you.

PALS at King's College Hospital, Denmark Hill, London SE5 9RS:

Tel: 020 3299 3601

Email: kch-tr.pals@nhs.net

You can also contact us by using our online form at www.kch.nhs.uk/contact/pals

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact PALS on 020 3299 1844.