

Cambia® - A New Acute Migraine Treatment Medication Now Available By Prescription

Diclofenac Potassium Powder for Oral Solution (Cambia®)

A new formulation of an already-existing prescription medication – diclofenac potassium – has been recently marketed in Canada under the name “Cambia®” for the acute treatment of migraine attacks in adults 18 years of age and older. It is available only on prescription.

Cambia® is a buffered and flavoured (anise and mint) powder formulation supplied in individual dose packets. It has been shown in this formulation to be effective for treating migraine attacks. It has a fast onset of pain relief (within 15-30 minutes). Cambia® should not be used on a daily basis to prevent migraine attacks, only to treat migraine attacks.

Cambia® (diclofenac potassium) belongs to the class of medications known as non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). These medications reduce certain chemicals in the body that cause pain and inflammation (swelling). Like other drugs in this class (such as ibuprofen, naproxen), Cambia® should be avoided in people with stomach or bowel problems, severe kidney disease, heart failure, recent heart bypass surgery and high blood pressure. Elderly patients have a higher chance of having side effects. People should not take Cambia® together with ASA (acetylsalicylic acid – Aspirin®), other NSAIDs (such as ibuprofen, naproxen – Advil®/Aleve®) or blood thinners (such as warfarin). It should be avoided during the last 3 months of pregnancy. Check with your pharmacist or doctor if you are taking other medications.

Although Cambia® (diclofenac potassium) is usually well tolerated, Possible side effects of Cambia® (diclofenac potassium) may include: drowsiness, stomach or intestinal upset, sensitivity to sunlight, sunlamps or tanning beds, or allergic reactions (uncommon). Other less common side effects may also occur.

The contents of the Cambia® packet should be emptied into a cup containing 30 to 60 mL (1 to 2 ounces) of water and mixed well. Ensure powder is completely dissolved before drinking. Drink the water-powder mixture immediately after dissolving. No liquids other than water should be used. Only a single dose should be used for one

migraine attack. Taking the medication with food may delay pain relief; however, food may reduce possible stomach and intestinal side effects. The powder contains aspartame.

Do not take more than the prescribed amount (one dose) for a migraine attack. To prevent the development of medication overuse headache (caused by taking acute migraine medications too often), do not take diclofenac or similar medications more than 14 days per month.

Reprinted with minor modifications from Headache Network Canada website (www.headachenetwork.ca)

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