



MEDA

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Tasmar 100 mg film-coated tablets  
Tolcapone

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 further questions, please ask your doctor or your pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. 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.

What is in this leaflet:

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

1. What Tasmar is and what it is used for

For the treatment of Parkinson’s disease, Tasmar is used together with the medicinal product levodopa (as levodopa/benserazide or levodopa/carbidopa). Tasmar is used when all other alternative medicines cannot stabilise your Parkinson’s disease.

For the treatment of your Parkinson’s disease you already take levodopa. A natural protein (enzyme) in your body, the (COMT) Catechol-O-methyltransferase breaks down the levodopa. Tasmar blocks this enzyme and thus slows the breakdown of levodopa. This means when it is taken together with

levodopa (as levodopa/benserazide or levodopa/carbidopa) you should have an improvement in the symptoms of your Parkinson’s disease.

2. What you need to know before you take Tasmar

Do not take Tasmar:

- if you have liver disease or increased liver enzymes
- if you have severe involuntary movement (dyskinesia)
- if you have a previous history of severe symptoms of muscle stiffening, fever or mental confusion (Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) Symptom Complex ) and /or if you have damage of skeletal muscle tissue (non-traumatic Rhabdomyolysis) or fever (Hyperthermia).
- if you are hypersensitive (allergic) to the active substance tolcapone or to any of the other ingredients of Tasmar.
- if you have a special type of tumor in the adrenal medulla (Phaeochromocytoma)
- if you take a certain medication to treat depression and anxiety, called non-selective mono amino oxidase (MAO) inhibitors

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Tasmar.

You should not start taking Tasmar until your doctor

- has described the risks of treatment with Tasmar,
- has explained the measures necessary to minimise those risks,
- has answered any questions you may have.
- if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking Tasmar during pregnancy. The effects of Tasmar have not been studied in infants. You should not breast-feed your infant during treatment with Tasmar.

Tell your doctor if you or your family/ carer notices you are developing urges or cravings to behave in ways that are unusual for you or you cannot resist the impulse, drive or temptation to carry out certain activities that could harm yourself or others. These behaviours are called impulse control disorders and can include addictive gambling, excessive eating or spending, an abnormally high sex drive or a preoccupation with an increase in sexual thoughts or feelings. Your doctor may need to review your treatments.

You should only receive Tasmar if your Parkinson’s disease is not adequately controlled by the use of other therapies.

In addition, your doctor will stop Tasmar treatment if after 3 weeks you do not improve enough to justify the risks of continuing treatment.

Liver Injury:

Tasmar may cause rare but potentially fatal liver injury. Liver injury has occurred most often after 1 month and before 6 months. It should also be noted that female patients may have a higher risk of liver injury. Therefore, the following preventive measures have to be considered.

Before beginning treatment:

To reduce the risk of liver injury you should not use Tasmar if

- you have a liver disease
- in case of elevated liver function tests in the blood test done before starting treatment (tests of alanine amino transferase (ALT) and aspartate amino transferase (AST)).

While receiving treatment:

During treatment, blood tests will be done in the following time intervals:

- every 2 weeks during the first 12 months of therapy,
- every 4 weeks during the following 6 months of therapy,
- every 8 weeks during further treatment.

The treatment will be stopped, if these blood tests become abnormal.

The treatment with Tasmar may sometimes lead to disturbances in the way the liver works. Therefore, you should contact your doctor immediately if you experience symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, pain in your stomach (particularly over the liver in the right upper area), loss of appetite, weakness, fever, darkening of urine, jaundice (yellow skin or eyes) or if you tire more easily.

If you have been already treated with Tasmar and developed acute liver injury during treatment, Tasmar should not be re-introduced again.

NMS (Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome):

Symptoms of Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (NMS) may occur during Tasmar treatment.

The NMS consists of some or all of the following:

- severe muscle stiffness, jerking movements of muscles, arms or legs, and soreness of muscles.
- Muscle injury can sometimes cause dark urine.
- other important symptoms are high fever and mental confusion.

Rarely, after abruptly reducing or stopping Tasmar or other antiparkinsonian drugs, you may experience severe symptoms of muscle stiffening, fever or mental confusion. If this happens notify your doctor.

The following preventive measures have to be considered.

Before beginning treatment:

To reduce the risk of NMS you should not use Tasmar if your doctor says you have severe involuntary movement (dyskinesia) or a previous illness that may have been NMS.

Inform your doctor about all prescription and non-prescription medications as the risk of NMS may be increased if you are taking some specific medications.

While receiving treatment:

If you develop any symptoms as described above, that you think may be NMS, you should report them to your doctor immediately.

Do not stop Tasmar or any other Parkinson’s medications without telling your doctor as this may increase the risk of NMS.

Inform your doctor also:

- if you have any illnesses other than Parkinson’s disease,
- if you are allergic to other medicines, food and dyes,
- if soon after beginning and during treatment with Tasmar you have symptoms which may be caused by levodopa such as involuntary movement (dyskinesia) and nausea.

If you feel unwell, you should contact your doctor because you may need to take less levodopa.

Children and adolescents

Tasmar is not recommended for use in children below the age of 18 due to insufficient data on safety or efficacy. There is no relevant indication for use in children and adolescents.

Other Medicines and Tasmar

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, even those not prescribed (non-prescription medicines and herbals).

Please inform your doctor about all other medicines you are taking especially:

- antidepressants,
- *alpha*-methyldopa (used to treat increased blood pressure),
- apomorphine (used for Parkinson’s disease),
- dobutamine (used for the chronic heart disease),
- adrenaline and isoprenaline (both used for heart attacks),
- anticoagulants of the warfarin type (that prevent blood clotting). In this case your doctor may perform regular blood tests to monitor how easily your blood clots.

If you go to hospital or if you are prescribed a new medicine, you must tell your doctor that you are taking Tasmar.

Tasmar with food and drink and alcohol

Tasmar can be taken with or without food.

Tasmar should be taken with 1 glass of water.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding and fertility

You must tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking Tasmar during pregnancy.

The effects of Tasmar have not been studied in infants. You should not breast-feed your infant during treatment with Tasmar.

Driving and using machines

Since your ability to drive a car or operate machinery may be affected by Parkinson’s disease, you should discuss this with your doctor.

Tasmar has an effect on the symptoms of your Parkinson’s disease.

Tasmar used with your other Parkinson medicines can cause excessive drowsiness (somnolence) and sudden sleep onset episodes (you may suddenly fall asleep). Therefore you must refrain from driving or operating machines until such recurrent episodes and excessive drowsiness have resolved.

Tasmar contains lactose

If you have been told by your doctor that you have an intolerance to some sugars, contact your doctor before taking this medicine.

3. How to take Tasmar

Always take Tasmar exactly as your doctor has told you. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.

Dose and frequency of administration

Your doctor should always begin your treatment with the standard dose of 3 times daily 1 tablet (100 mg (1 tablet)).

If benefits are not seen within 3 weeks of the initiation of the treatment, Tasmar should be discontinued.

To improve efficacy your doctor should only increase the dose to 3 times daily 2 tablets (200 mg three times a day) if the increase in how your Parkinson’s disease symptoms are controlled outweighs the expected increase in side effects. The side effects at the higher dose can often be severe and affect your liver. If you do not get better at the higher dose after a total of 3 weeks, your doctor should stop your treatment with Tasmar.

When beginning and during treatment with Tasmar, your dose of levodopa may need to be changed. Your doctor will advise you what to do.

How to take the medication:

Swallow Tasmar with 1 glass of water.

Do not break or crush the tablets.

The first Tasmar tablet is to be taken in the morning together with your other parkinsonian medicine ‘levodopa’.

The following doses of Tasmar should be taken 6 and 12 hours later.

Time of day	Dose	Note
Morning	1 film-coated tablet Tasmar	Together with the first daily dose ‘levodopa’
During the day	1 film-coated tablet Tasmar	
Evening	1 film-coated tablet Tasmar	

If you take more Tasmar than you should

Contact your doctor, pharmacist or hospital immediately as you may need urgent medical attention.

If another person accidentally takes your medicine, contact a doctor or hospital immediately as he or she may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of overdose may include nausea, vomiting, dizziness and breathing difficulties.

If you forget to take Tasmar

Take it as soon as you remember, then continue to take it at the usual times. However, if taking the next dose should be directly ahead, do not make up for the forgotten dose. Do not take a double dose to make up for forgotten individual doses. If you have missed several doses, please inform your doctor and follow the advice given to you

If you stop taking Tasmar

Do not reduce or stop taking your medicine unless your doctor tells you. Always follow the instructions of your doctor about the duration of the treatment with Tasmar.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, this medicine can have side effects, although not everybody gets them.

The frequency of possible side effects listed below is defined using the following convention:

Very common:	may affect more than 1 in 10 people
Common:	may affect up to 1 in 10 people
Uncommon:	may affect up to 1 in 100 people
Rare:	may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people
Very rare:	may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people
Not known:	frequency cannot be estimated from the available data

Tell your doctor or a pharmacist as soon as possible:

- if you **do not feel well** while you are taking Tasmar
- if you experience symptoms such as **nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, weakness, fever, darkening of urine or jaundice** since uncommonly disturbances in the way the liver works, sometimes severe hepatitis was observed,
- if you notice a **darkening of your urine** since this could be a sign of a muscular or liver injury.  
Any other yellow urine discolouring is usually harmless.
- if you develop **persistent or severe diarrhoea**

Soon after beginning and during your treatment with Tasmar, you may have symptoms caused by levodopa such as involuntary movement and nausea. Therefore, if you feel unwell, you should contact your doctor since you may need to have your levodopa dose changed.

Other possible side effects:

Very common:

- involuntary movement (dyskinesia),
- nausea, decreased appetite, diarrhoea,
- headache, dizziness
- sleep problems, somnolence,
- feeling lightheaded while you stand, orthostatic complaints, mental confusion and hallucinations,
- movement disorder with involuntary muscle spasms or malpositions (dystonia),
- excessive dreaming

Common:

- chest pain,
- fainting
- constipation, dyspepsia, stomach ache, vomiting, dry mouth,
- increased sweating,
- influenza-like symptoms
- reduced voluntary and involuntary movement (hypokinesia),
- upper respiratory tract infection,

- increase in specific liver enzymes
- urine discoloration.

Uncommon:

- liver injury, in rare cases with fatal outcome.

Rare:

- severe symptoms of muscle stiffening, fever or mental confusion (Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome) when antiparkinsonian treatments are abruptly reduced or withdrawn
- Impulse control disorders (inability to resist the impulse of an action that could be harmful). This may include:
  - o Strong impulse to gamble excessively despite serious personal or family consequences.
  - o Altered or increased sexual interest and behaviour of significant concern to you or to others, for example, an increased sexual drive.
  - o Uncontrolled excessive shopping or spending.
  - o Binge eating (eating large amounts of food in a short time period) or compulsive eating (eating more food than normal and more than needed to satisfy your hunger).

Tell your doctor if you experience any of these behaviours; they will discuss ways of managing or reducing the symptoms.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at: [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard). By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Tasmar

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use after the expiry date stated on the pack.

This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions

Do not use Tasmar if you notice that the tablets are damaged.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Tasmar contains

- The active substance is tolcapone (100 mg in each film-coated tablet)
- The other ingredients are:  
Tablet core: Calcium hydrogen phosphate, Microcrystalline cellulose, Povidone K30, Sodium starch glycollate, Lactose, Talc, Magnesium stearate.  
Film-coat: Hydroxypropylmethylcellulose, Talc, Yellow iron oxide, Ethylcellulose, Titanium dioxide, Triacetin, Sodium lauril sulfate.

What Tasmar looks like and contents of the pack

Tasmar is a pale to light yellow, oval shaped, film-coated tablet. “TASMAR” and “100” are engraved on one side. Tasmar is supplied as film-coated tablets containing 100 mg tolcapone. It is available in blisters in pack sizes of 30 and 60 tablets and in glass bottles in pack sizes of 30, 60, 100 and a multi-pack containing 200 (2 packs of 100) film-coated tablets.

Not all pack-sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Meda AB  
Pipers väg 2A  
S-170 09 Solna  
Sweden

Manufacturer:

ICN Polfa Rzeszów S.A.  
ul. Przemysłowa 2  
35-959 Rzeszów  
Poland

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the local representative of the Marketing Authorisation Holder.

België/Belgique/Belgien

MEDA Pharma S.A./N.V.  
Chaussée de la Hulpe 166/  
Terhulpsesteenweg 166  
B-1170 Brussels  
Tél/Tel: +32 2 5 04 08 11

България

ТП Меда  
Фармасойтикалс  
Ул. Одрин 71-75, ет.2, ап 7  
1303 София  
Тел.: +359 2 4177977

Česká republika

MEDA Pharma s.r.o.  
Kodaňská 1441/46  
CZ 100 00 Praha 10  
Tel: +420 234 064 203

Danmark

Meda A/S  
Solvang 8  
DK-3450 Allerød  
Tlf: +45 44 52 88 88

Deutschland

MEDA Pharma GmbH & Co. KG  
Benzstraße 1  
D-61352 Bad Homburg  
v.d.H.  
Tel: + 49 6172 888 01

Eesti

SIA Meda Pharma  
Narva mnt 11D  
EE - 10151 Tallinn, Eesti  
Tel. + 372 6261 025

Ελλάδα

MEDA Pharmaceuticals  
A.E.  
Ευρυτανίας 3  
Χαλάνδρι, 15231  
Τηλ: +30 210 6775690  
Fax: +30 210 6775695

España

MEDA Pharma S.A.U.  
Avenida de Castilla, 2  
Parque Empresarial San  
Fernando

Edificio Berlin  
E-28830 San Fernando de  
Henares (Madrid)  
Tel: +34 91 669 93 00

France

MEDA PHARMA SAS  
25 Bd. de l’Amiral Bruix  
F-75016 Paris  
Tél : +33 156 64 10 70

Hrvatska

Medical Intertrade d.o.o  
Dr Franje Tuđmana 3  
10431 Sveta Nedelja  
Tel.: +385 1 3374 010

Ireland

Meda Health Sales Ireland  
Ltd.  
Unit 34/35, Block  
A Dunboyne Business  
Park  
Dunboyne  
IRL - Co Meath  
Tel: +353 1 802 66 24

Ísland

Meda AB  
Box 906  
S-170 09 Solna  
Svíþjóð.  
Sími: +46 8 630 1900

Italia

Meda Pharma S.p.A.  
Viale Brenta, 18  
I-20139 Milano  
Tel: +39 02 57 416 1

Κύπρος

Χρ.Γ. Παπαλοΐζου Λτδ  
Λεωφ. Κιλκίς 35  
2234 Λατσιά  
Τηλ. +357 22 49 03 05

Latvija

SIA Meda Pharma  
Vienibas gatve 109  
LV-1058 Riga, Latvia  
Tel.: +371 67616137

Lietuva

SIA Meda Pharma  
Veiverių g. 134,  
LT-46352 Kaunas,  
Lithuania  
Tel. + 370 37330509

Luxembourg/  
Luxemburg

MEDA Pharma S.A./N.V.  
Chaussée de la Hulpe 166/  
Terhulpsesteenweg 166  
B-1170 Brussels  
Belgique/Belgien  
Tél/Tel: +32 2 5 04 08 11

Magyarország

MEDA PHARMA  
Hungary Kereskedelmi  
Kft.  
H-1139 Budapest  
Váci ut 91  
Tel.: +36 1 236 3410

Malta

Alfred Gera & Sons Ltd.  
10, Triq il-Masgar  
Qormi QRM 3217  
Tel: +356 21 446 205

Nederland

MEDA Pharma B.V.  
Krijgsman 20  
NL-1186 DM Amstelveen  
Tel: +31 20 751 65 00

Norge

Meda A/S  
Askerveien 61  
N-1384 Asker  
Tlf: +47 66 75 33 00

Österreich

MEDA Pharma GmbH  
Guglgasse 15  
A-1110 Wien  
Tel: + 43 1 86 390 0

Polska

MEDA Pharmaceuticals  
Sp. z o.o.  
Al. Jana Pawła II nr 15  
PL-00-828 Warszawa  
Tel: +48 22 697 71 00

Portugal

MEDA Pharma Produtos  
Farmacêuticos, SA  
Rua do Centro Cultural  
13  
P-1749-066 Lisboa  
Tel: +351 21 842 0300

România

MEDA Pharmaceuticals  
Switzerland GmbH  
Reprezentanta Romania  
Calea Floreasca 141-143,  
et4  
014467 Bucuresti  
Tel.: +40 21 230 90 30

Slovenija

MEDA Pharmaceuticals  
Switzerland GmbH  
Podružnica Ljubljana  
Cesta 24, junija 23  
1231 Ljubljana  
Tel.: +386 (0)59 096 951

Slovenská republika

MEDA Pharma spol. s r.o.  
Trnavská cesta 50  
SK-821 02 Bratislava  
Tel: +421 2 4914 0172

Suomi/Finland

Meda Oy  
Vaisalandie 4/  
Vaisalavägen 4  
FI-02130 Espoo/ Esbo  
Puh/Tel:  
+358 20 720 9550

Sverige

Meda AB  
Box 906  
S-170 09 Solna  
Tel: +46 8 630 1900

United Kingdom

Meda Pharmaceuticals  
Ltd.  
Skyway House  
Parsonage Road  
Takeley  
Bishop’s Stortford  
CM22 6PU - UK  
Tel: +44 845 460 0000

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