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## Tiaprofenic acid for pain and inflammation (Surgam)

Tiaprofenic acid is a medicine called a non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug. It is also known as 'an NSAID'.

Take one 300 mg tablet twice each day, after a meal or snack.

If you experience any problems when passing urine (such as pain, an increased need to pass urine urgently, or any blood in your urine) then stop taking the tablets and see your doctor as soon as possible for advice.

### About tiaprofenic acid

Type of medicine	A non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug (NSAID)
Used for	Relief of pain and inflammation in adults
Also called	Surgam®
Available as	Tablets

[Anti-inflammatory painkillers](#) like tiaprofenic acid are sometimes called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), or just 'anti-inflammatories'. Tiaprofenic acid is used to ease pain and reduce inflammation in [rheumatic conditions](#), and also to treat painful conditions such as [sprains and strains](#), and other [muscle or joint injuries](#).

Tiaprofenic acid works by blocking the effect of chemicals in your body, called cyclo-oxygenase (COX) enzymes. These enzymes help to make other chemicals in the body, called prostaglandins. Some prostaglandins are produced at sites of injury or damage, and cause pain and inflammation. By blocking the effect of COX enzymes, fewer prostaglandins are produced, which means pain and inflammation are eased.

## Before taking tiaprofenic acid

Some medicines are not suitable for people with certain conditions, and sometimes a medicine may only be used if extra care is taken. For these reasons, before you start taking tiaprofenic acid, it is important that your doctor knows:

- If you have a urinary tract disorder, or if you tend to get urine infections.
- If you have asthma or any other allergic disorder.
- If you have ever had a stomach or duodenal ulcer, or if you have an inflammatory bowel disorder such as Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.
- If you are pregnant, trying for a baby, or breastfeeding.
- If you have any problems with your liver, kidneys, or prostate gland.
- If you have a heart condition, or a problem with your blood vessels or circulation.
- If you have high blood pressure.
- If you have ever had blood clotting problems.
- If you have a connective tissue disorder, such as systemic lupus erythematosus (an inflammatory condition also called lupus, or SLE).

- If you are taking any other medicines. This includes any medicines you are taking which are available to buy without a prescription, as well as herbal and complementary medicines.
- If you have ever had an allergic reaction to any other NSAID (such as aspirin, naproxen, diclofenac, and ibuprofen), or to any other medicine.

## How to take tiaprofenic acid

- Before you start taking tiaprofenic acid, read the manufacturer's printed information leaflet from inside the pack. It will give you more information about the tablets and will provide you with a full list of the side-effects which you may experience from taking them.
- Take one tablet twice a day, exactly as your doctor tells you to. Swallow the tablet whole - do not break or crush the tablet. Most people find it helps to swallow the tablets with a drink of water. Take the tablets with a snack, or just after eating a meal. This is because the food in your stomach will help to protect it from side-effects such as indigestion and irritation.
- If you have been prescribed tiaprofenic acid for a muscle or joint injury, it is likely that your course of treatment will last for a week, or possibly two weeks at the most. Longer courses of treatment are prescribed for people with rheumatic conditions.
- If you forget to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If when you remember, it is nearly time for your next dose then take your next dose when it is due but leave out the missed dose. Do not take two tablets together to make up for a forgotten dose.

## Getting the most from your treatment

- Your doctor will try to prescribe you the lowest dose for the shortest time to reduce the risk of side-effects. If you need to take tiaprofenic acid for a long time, your doctor may want to prescribe another medicine along with it to protect your stomach from irritation.
- Try to keep any regular appointments with your doctor. This is so your doctor can check on your progress, and is especially important if you are taking tiaprofenic acid for a long-term condition.

- If you have asthma, symptoms such as wheeze or breathlessness can be made worse by anti-inflammatories such as tiaprofenic acid. If this happens to you, you should stop taking the tablets and see your doctor as soon as possible.
- If you buy any medicines, check with a pharmacist that they are safe to take with an anti-inflammatory like tiaprofenic acid. This is because you should not take these tablets with any other types of anti-inflammatory painkiller, some of which are available in cold and flu remedies which can be bought over the counter.
- If you are having an operation or dental treatment, tell the person carrying out the treatment which medicines you are taking.

## **Can tiaprofenic acid cause problems?**

Along with their useful effects, most medicines can cause unwanted side-effects although not everyone experiences them. The table below contains some of the most common ones associated with painkillers like tiaprofenic acid. You will find a full list in the manufacturer's information leaflet supplied with your medicine. The unwanted effects often improve as your body adjusts to the new medicine, but speak with your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following continue or become troublesome.

Common tiaprofenic acid side-effects	What can I do if I experience this?
Feeling sick (nausea) or being sick (vomiting)	Stick to simple meals – avoid rich or spicy foods
Indigestion, heartburn, stomach pain	Make sure you take your doses with a meal or a snack. If the discomfort continues, speak with your doctor
Feeling dizzy or sleepy	Do not drive and do not use tools or machines while affected
Constipation or diarrhoea	Drink plenty of water
Headache	Drink plenty of water and let your doctor know if headaches continue or happen regularly

**Important:** if you experience any of the following less common but more serious symptoms, stop taking tiaprofenic acid and contact your doctor for advice straightaway:

- If you feel an urgent need to pass urine more regularly than normal or during the night, or if you notice any blood in your urine.
- If you have any breathing difficulties such as wheeze or breathlessness.
- If you have any signs of an allergic reaction such as swelling around your mouth or face, or a severe itchy skin rash.
- If you pass blood or black stools, bring up (vomit) blood, or have severe tummy (abdominal) pains.

If you experience any other symptoms which you think may be due to the tablets, speak with your doctor or pharmacist for further advice.

## How to store tiaprofenic acid

- Keep all medicines out of the reach and sight of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct heat and light.

## Important information about all medicines

Never take more than the prescribed dose. If you suspect that you or someone else might have taken an overdose of this medicine, go to the accident and emergency department of your local hospital. Take the container with you, even if it is empty.

This medicine is for you. Never give it to other people even if their condition appears to be the same as yours.

Do not keep out-of-date or unwanted medicines. Take them to your local pharmacy which will dispose of them for you.

If you have any questions about this medicine ask your pharmacist.

Report suspected side effects to medicines, vaccines, e-cigarettes, medical device incidents, defective or falsified (fake) products to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to ensure safe and effective use.

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## Further reading

- [Manufacturer's PIL, Surgam® 300 mg tablets](#); Beaumont Pharma Ltd, The electronic Medicines Compendium. Dated June 2023.
- [Medicines Complete BNF 87th Edition](#); British Medical Association and Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain, London.

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