

## Sodium bicarbonate

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### About This Drug

Sodium bicarbonate is used to decrease acidity in your blood/urine. It is given in the vein (IV) or orally (by mouth).

### Possible Side Effects

- Skin and tissue irritation may involve redness, pain, warmth, or swelling at the IV site. This happens if the drug leaks out of the vein and into nearby tissue. Very rarely, it may cause local tissue necrosis (tissue death).
- An increase of sodium bicarbonate in your body, which can sometimes cause muscle twitching, hand tremor, muscle spasms, excess gas, pain in your abdomen, bloating (distention), and irritability.
- Electrolyte changes

**Note:** *Not all possible side effects are included above.*

### Warnings and Precautions

- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body. When receiving this medicine in the vein, there is an increased risk of fluid building up around your lungs and/or heart. If you have congestive heart failure, it could get worse.

**Note:** *Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.*

### How to Take Your Medication

- **For Oral only:** Take this drug by mouth without food, at least 1 - 3 hours after you eat. Dissolve tablets in a glass of water before taking. Do not take tablets whole.
- **Missed dose:** If you vomit or miss a dose, take your next dose at the regular time, and contact your physician. Do not take 2 doses at the same time and do not double up on the next dose.



- **Storage:** Store this medicine in the original container at room temperature. Discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

## Food and Drug Interactions

- There are no known interactions of sodium bicarbonate with food, however this medicine should be taken on an empty stomach. Do not take this medicine when overly full from food or drink.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs, and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with sodium bicarbonate. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.

## When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Pain in your chest
- Cough
- Feeling that your heart is beating fast or in a not normal way (palpitations)
- While you are getting this drug, please tell your nurse right away if you have any pain, redness, or swelling at the site of the IV infusion
- Muscle twitching, spasms
- Hand tremors
- Irritability and/or confusion
- Swelling of the hands, feet, or any other part of the body
- Weight gain of 5 pounds in one week (fluid retention)
- Pain or bloating in your abdomen that does not go away
- If you think you may be pregnant

## Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** It is not known if this drug may harm an unborn child. For this reason, be sure to talk with your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant while receiving this drug. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should talk to their doctor about the risks and benefits of breastfeeding during treatment with this drug because this drug may enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk to your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant.



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