

PART III: CONSUMER INFORMATION

PrEXELON® PATCH 5
Rivastigmine Transdermal Patch

PrEXELON® PATCH 10
Rivastigmine Transdermal Patch

PrEXELON® PATCH 15
Rivastigmine Transdermal Patch

This leaflet is part III of a three-part "Product Monograph" published when EXELON® PATCH was approved for sale in Canada and is designed specifically for Consumers. This leaflet is a summary and will not tell you everything about EXELON® PATCH. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if you have any questions about the drug.

Patients and/or caregivers should read this leaflet before using EXELON® PATCH. Remember, this information does not take the place of your doctor's instructions.

- Wearing more than one patch at a time is potentially dangerous and can be a medical emergency. If you accidentally apply more than one EXELON® PATCH remove all the patches from your skin and get medical help right away.
- Make sure you read and understand the section, **PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION**. Follow the instructions. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain the proper use of EXELON® PATCH if you do not understand these instructions. Serious side effects, including death, have occurred when EXELON® PATCH was not used properly.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT INFORMATION I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT EXELON® PATCH

EXELON® PATCH contains rivastigmine. **An overdose with serious and life threatening side effects can happen if you wear more than one patch at a time. An overdose with EXELON® PATCH may cause the following serious side effects:**

- severe nausea (feeling sick) and/or vomiting (being sick)
- diarrhea
- high blood pressure
- trouble breathing, or slow or shallow breathing
- slow heart beat and fainting
- seizure
- increasing muscle weakness
- hallucinations

Get medical help right away, if you have been wearing more than one patch at a time, even if you do not have these side effects.

ABOUT THIS MEDICATION

What the medication is used for:

EXELON® PATCH is one of a group of drugs known as "cholinesterase inhibitors" which is used for the treatment of the symptoms of patients with mild to moderately severe Alzheimer's disease.

The symptoms include progressive memory loss, increasing confusion and behavioural changes, as a result of which it becomes more and more difficult to carry out activities of daily living.

This medication should only be taken after proper diagnosis of your condition has been made by your doctor.

What it does:

People with Alzheimer's disease have decreased levels of acetylcholine, a substance which is found in the brain and which is thought to be necessary for memory and other mental functions. EXELON® PATCH works by inhibiting an enzyme (acetylcholinesterase) which breaks down acetylcholine. This in turn increases the amount of acetylcholine in the brain. EXELON® PATCH is a treatment of symptoms, not a cure of the disease.

When it should not be used:

If any of the following conditions apply to you, tell your doctor and do not use EXELON® PATCH.

- If you know that you are allergic (hypersensitive) to rivastigmine (including EXELON® capsules or oral solution) or to any of the other ingredients listed in this leaflet (see **'What the nonmedicinal ingredients are'**).
- If you have ever had an allergic reaction to a similar type of medicine (e.g. carbamate derivate).
- If you have severe liver disease.
- If you have had a previous allergic skin reaction with EXELON® PATCH that spread beyond the patch size and/or if there was a more severe reaction at the patch site (such as blisters, increasing skin inflammation, swelling) that did not improve within 48 hours after removal of the transdermal patch.
- If you have had severe rash on large areas of your body or blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes, or genitals when taking EXELON® PATCH, EXELON® capsules or oral solution.

What the medicinal ingredient is:

The active substance of EXELON® PATCH is rivastigmine.

What the nonmedicinal ingredients are:

EXELON® PATCH contain the following nonmedicinal ingredients: acrylic copolymer, poly(butylmethacrylate, methylmethacrylate), silicon adhesive applied to a flexible polymer backing film, silicon oil and vitamin E

What dosage forms it comes in:

Transdermal patch providing continuous smooth delivery of the medication.

EXELON® PATCH 5: each 5 cm² transdermal patch contains 9 mg rivastigmine. The release rate is 4.6mg/24h. EXELON® PATCH 5 is available in light peach cartons and pouches.

EXELON® PATCH 10: each 10 cm² transdermal patch contains 18 mg rivastigmine. The release rate is 9.5mg/24h. EXELON® PATCH 10 is available in light violet cartons and pouches.

EXELON® PATCH 15: each 15 cm² transdermal patch contains 27 mg rivastigmine. The release rate is 13.3 mg/24h. EXELON® PATCH 15 is available in light pink cartons and pouches.

WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS

BEFORE you use EXELON® PATCH talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- Have, or ever had an irregular heartbeat;
- Have, or ever had an active stomach ulcer;
- Have, or ever had difficulties in passing urine;
- Have, or ever had seizures;
- Have, or ever had asthma or a severe respiratory disease;
- Suffer from trembling; or are being treated with medications that can cause trembling, such as antipsychotic medications;
- Have a low body weight (for example less than 50 kg);
- Have, or ever had liver or kidney problems;
- Have, or ever had inflammation of the pancreas;
- Are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breast-feeding;
- Have fainting episodes.
- Experience gastro-intestinal reactions such as severe nausea (feeling sick), vomiting (being sick) and diarrhea. You may become dehydrated (losing too much fluid) if vomiting or diarrhea are prolonged.

If any of these apply to you, your doctor may need to monitor you more closely while you are on this medicine.

Talk to your doctor right away if you have skin inflammation, blisters or swelling of the skin that are increasing and spreading.

If you have not applied EXELON® PATCH for more than 3 days do not apply the next patch until you have talked to your doctor.

Your doctor will tell you whether your illness allows you to drive vehicles and use machines safely. If you feel dizzy or drowsy, do not drive, use machines or perform any other tasks that require your attention.

INTERACTIONS WITH THIS MEDICATION

Tell your doctor or pharmacist about any other medicines you are taking or have recently taken, including drugs, or herbal (natural) products that you have bought without a prescription.

EXELON® PATCH should not be given together with other medicines that work similar to EXELON® PATCH

(cholinomimetic agents) or with anticholinergic medicines (e.g. medicines used to relieve stomach cramps or spasms, or to treat Parkinson's disease or to prevent travel sickness).

EXELON® PATCH should not be given together with metoclopramide (a medicine used to alleviate or prevent nausea and vomiting). There may be additive effects such as stiff limbs and trembling hands.

If you have to undergo surgery while using EXELON® PATCH, you should inform your doctor because EXELON® PATCH may exaggerate the effects of some muscle relaxants during anesthesia.

Caution when EXELON® PATCH is given together with beta-blockers (medicines such as atenolol used to treat hypertension, angina, and other heart conditions). There may be additive effects such as bradycardia (slow heartbeat) that may result in syncope (fainting, loss of consciousness).

PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICATION

Follow all instructions given to you by your doctor carefully, even if they differ from the ones given in this leaflet.

This medicine must not be given to children.

Do not eat EXELON® PATCH.

IMPORTANT:

- **ONLY ONE patch should be worn at a time.**
- **You must remove the previous day's EXELON® PATCH before applying a new one.**
- **Having multiple patches on your body could expose you to an excessive amount of this medicine which is potentially dangerous.**
- **Do not cut the patch into pieces. EXELON® PATCH will not work properly or may not be safe if it is damaged in any way.**

Usual adult dose:

Your doctor will tell you which EXELON® PATCH is more suitable for you. Treatment usually starts with EXELON® PATCH 5 (4.6 mg/24h) applied once a day. The usual daily dose is EXELON® PATCH 10 (9.5 mg/24h) or EXELON® PATCH 15 (13.3 mg/24h), applied once a day, depending on your individual condition.

ONLY ONE patch should be worn at a time and the patch should be replaced by a new one after 24 hours.

During the course of the treatment your doctor may adjust the dose to suit your individual needs.

If you have not been applying EXELON® PATCH for more than 3 days do not apply the next patch before you have talked to your doctor.

Application of EXELON® PATCH

Where to apply EXELON® PATCH

EVERY 24 HOURS, ALWAYS GENTLY REMOVE THE PREVIOUS DAY'S EXELON® PATCH BEFORE PUTTING ON A NEW ONE.

ONLY ONE PATCH SHOULD BE WORN AT A TIME.

Before you apply EXELON® PATCH, make sure that your skin is:

- clean, dry and hairless
- free of any powder, oil, moisturiser, or lotion (that could keep the patch from sticking to your skin properly)
- free of cuts, rashes and/or irritations.

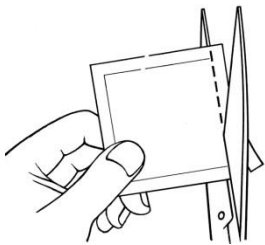
Apply **ONLY ONE** patch per day to **ONLY ONE** of the following locations: the upper **OR** lower back, **OR** upper arm **OR** chest. Applying the patch to other areas (e.g. abdomen and thighs) may decrease the amount of medication you receive from the patch and may also cause more skin irritation on the spot where the patch is applied. Avoid places where the patch can be rubbed off by tight clothing.

When changing your patch, you must remove the previous day's patch before you apply your new patch to a different area of skin (for example on the right side of your body one day, then on the left side the next day). Do not apply a new patch to that same spot for at least 14 days.

How to apply EXELON® PATCH

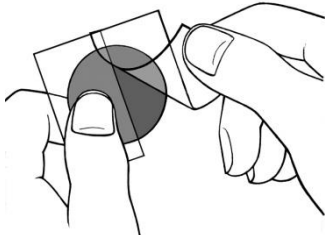
The patch is a thin, opaque, plastic patch that sticks to the skin. Each patch is sealed in a pouch that protects it until you are ready to put it on. Do not open the pouch or remove a patch from your skin until just before you apply a new one.

Cut the pouch along the dotted line or at the notch and remove the patch.



A protective liner covers the adhesive side of the patch.

Peel off one side of the protective liner and do not touch the sticky part of the patch with the fingers.



Put the sticky side of the patch on the upper **OR** lower back, **OR** upper arm **OR** chest and then peel off the second side of the protective liner.



Then press the patch firmly in place using the palm of the hand, applying pressure over the entire patch for at least 30 seconds, to make sure that the edges stick well.



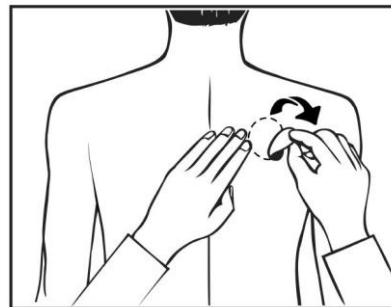
If it helps you, you may write (e.g. the day of the week) on the patch with a thin ball point pen.

EXELON® PATCH should be worn continuously until it is time to replace it with a new patch. You may wish to experiment with different locations when applying a new patch, to find ones that are most comfortable for you and where clothing will not rub on the patch.

Safety and Handling

How to remove EXELON® PATCH

Gently pull at one edge of the EXELON® PATCH to remove it completely from the skin. In case the adhesive residue is left over on your skin, gently use mild soap or baby oil to remove it. Alcohol or other dissolving liquids (nail polish remover or other solvents) should not be used.



How to dispose of the used EXELON® PATCH

After the patch has been removed, fold it in half with the adhesive sides on the inside and press them together. Return the used patch in the pouch from today's patch and discard safely out of the reach and sight of children and pets, as there is still drug in the patch after 24-hour usage. You can dispose of the patch in your waste container.

Do not touch your eyes with your fingers and wash your hands with soap and water after handling the patch. In case of contact with eyes, rinse immediately with plenty of water and seek medical advice if eyes become red and do not resolve.

Can you wear EXELON® PATCH when bathing, swimming, or in the sun?

Bathing, swimming, or showering should not affect the patch. To help ensure that the patch sticks well, do not place on wet or damp skin. When swimming, you can wear the patch under your bathing suit. Make sure the patch does not loosen during these activities by checking it regularly.

While wearing EXELON® PATCH you should not expose the patch area to external sources of heat as this may increase the amount of drug that may enter your body through the skin. Such external heat sources include intensive sunbathing, heat lamps, heating pads, saunas and hot tubs, etc. This may also occur if you develop a fever while wearing EXELON® PATCH.

What to do if EXELON® PATCH falls off

If the patch falls off, a new patch should be applied for the rest of the day, then replace the patch the next day at the same time as usual.

Accidental transfer of EXELON® PATCH to another person

If your patch dislodges and accidentally sticks to the skin of another person, take the patch off immediately and call a doctor. This is true for both fresh and used patches, as a considerable amount of drug remains in the patch after use.

When and for how long to apply EXELON® PATCH

To benefit from your medicine a new patch must be applied every day, after removal of the old patch. Taking EXELON® PATCH at the same time each day will help you remember when to take your medicine. Wear **ONLY ONE** EXELON® PATCH at a time and replace the patch by a new one after 24 hours.

If you are applying your own patch, tell your caregiver that you are applying EXELON® PATCH. Also tell your caregiver if you have not been applying EXELON® PATCH for more than 3 days.

The prescription of this medicine needs specialized advice before its initiation and a periodic assessment of therapeutic benefits. Your doctor will also monitor your weight while you are taking this medicine.

If you have questions about how long to take EXELON® PATCH talk to your doctor or your pharmacist

Overdose:

If you accidentally apply more than one EXELON® PATCH, remove all the patches from your skin, then contact a hospital emergency department, the regional Poison Control Center or your doctor immediately and tell them that you have accidentally applied more than one EXELON® PATCH. You may require medical attention even if there are no symptoms.

- Some people who have accidentally taken too much oral EXELON® have experienced nausea (feeling sick), vomiting (being sick), and diarrhea. You may become dehydrated (losing too much fluid) if vomiting or diarrhea are prolonged.
- Some people may also experience high blood pressure, hallucinations, slow heart beat and fainting.

Missed Dose:

If you find you have forgotten to apply your EXELON® PATCH, apply a new patch immediately. You may apply the next patch at the usual time the next day, after removing the previous day's patch. Do not apply two patches to make up for the one that you missed. **ONLY ONE patch should be worn at a time.**

Do not stop taking EXELON® PATCH or change your dose without talking with your doctor. If you have not been applying EXELON® PATCH for more than 3 days do not apply the next patch before you have talked to your doctor.

SIDE EFFECTS AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

As with all medicines, patients using EXELON® PATCH may experience side effects, although not everybody gets them. Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

You may see side effects more frequently when you start your medication or increase to a higher dose. In most cases side effects will gradually disappear as your body gets used to the medicine.

Nausea and vomiting are the most common side effects (affect between 1 and 10 in every 100 patients). If you experience persistent or severe nausea and/or vomiting, contact your doctor about temporarily stopping your treatment with EXELON® PATCH. Your doctor will decide how you should restart your treatment when you are feeling better.

Other common side effects:

- loss of appetite, weight loss,
- anxiety,
- difficulty in sleeping,
- dizziness,
- trembling,
- accidental falls,
- headache,
- diarrhea, stomach discomfort after meals, stomach pain,
- dehydration,
- inability to adequately retain urine (urinary incontinence),
- redness, itching, irritation, swelling at the application site (skins reactions at the application site),
- tiredness,
- weakness,
- worsening of extrapyramidal symptoms (e.g. stiff limbs and trembling hands) if you take other medications, such as antipsychotics, that cause these symptoms.

Uncommon side effects (affect between 1 and 10 in every 1,000 patients):

- agitation,
- drowsiness (common in Chinese patients),

- unusual high level of activity, restlessness (hyperactivity),
- sweating,
- general feeling of being unwell.

Rare side effects (affect between 1 and 10 in every 10,000 patients):

- high blood pressure,
- rash and itching or skin reddening on contact with the patch (very common in Japanese patients),
- itching,
- rash
- skin reddening,
- blister (at the patch site and/or on other parts of the body),
- skin inflammation with rash.
- fall.

Very rare side effects (affect less than 1 in 10,000 patients):

- muscle stiffness, difficulty in carrying out movements (worsening of Parkinson’s disease symptoms).

Additional side effects reported with EXELON® PATCH at an unknown frequency:

- changes in blood test results related to liver function,
- restlessness,
- trembling,
- nightmares,
- heart disorders (alternating heart rhythms),
- skin inflammation, blisters or swelling of the skin that are increasing and spreading.

If you feel unwell in this or any other way or have any symptoms that you do not understand, or find distressing, you should contact your doctor immediately. Tell your doctor if any side effects become severe or troublesome to you. If you experience severe adverse events and cannot contact your doctor, stop taking the drug until you can discuss your symptoms with your doctor.

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist right away		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency medical assistance
		Only if severe	In all cases	
	Anemia: fatigue, loss of energy, weakness, shortness of breath		√	
Uncommon	Severe confusion			√
	Hallucinations: seeing, feeling or hearing things that are not there			√
	Chest pain		√	
	Stroke: loss of coordination, difficulty in speaking and signs of brain disorder			√
	Heart attack: crushing chest pain			√
	Fainting			√
	Problems with heart rhythm (irregular or fast or slow heart beat)			√
	Allergic Reaction: rash		√	
Very rare	Stomach ulcer and gastrointestinal hemorrhage: blood in stools or when vomiting			√
	Inflammation of the pancreas: severe upper stomach pain, often with nausea and vomiting			√
	Seizures: fits or convulsions			√

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM				
Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist right away		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency medical assistance
		Only if severe	In all cases	
Common	Depression		√	
	Urinary tract infection: infection involving the part of the body producing urine		√	
	Dehydration: losing too much fluid			√

SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS, HOW OFTEN THEY HAPPEN AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM

Symptom / effect		Talk with your doctor or pharmacist right away		Stop taking drug and seek immediate emergency medical assistance
		Only if severe	In all cases	
	Liver disorders: yellowing of skin and the whites of eyes, darkening of the urine, unexplained nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, itching, upper stomach pain, tiredness			√
	Stevens-Johnson Syndrome: Blistering of the skin, mouth, eyes and genitals			√
Not known	Stiff limbs, trembling hands, body spasms, upward eye rolling, exaggeration of reflexes, drooling, difficulty moving how and when you want (extrapyramidal symptoms)			√

† If you experience any of these, remove the EXELON® PATCH and **tell your doctor right away**.

Additional side effects which have been reported with EXELON® capsules or oral solution that are not listed above for EXELON® PATCH include:

Common: confusion.

Rare: ulcer in the intestines.

Very rare: severe vomiting that can lead to a rupture of the oesophagus.

If you have any of these effects, if you feel unwell in any other way, or have symptoms that you do not understand or find distressing during treatment with EXELON® PATCH, **tell your doctor**.

This is not a complete list of side effects. For any unexpected effects while taking EXELON® PATCH, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

HOW TO STORE IT

- Do not use EXELON® PATCH after the expiry date shown on the carton and pouch.
- Store EXELON® PATCH between 15°C and 25°C.
- Do not use any EXELON® PATCH that is damaged or shows signs of tampering.
- Keep EXELON® PATCH out of the reach and sight of children and pets.
- Keep EXELON® PATCH in the individual sealed pouch until just prior to use.

REPORTING SUSPECTED SIDE EFFECTS

You can report any suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of health products to the Canada Vigilance Program by one of the following 3 ways:

- Report online at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect
- Call toll-free at 1-866-234-2345
- Complete a Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and:
 - Fax toll-free to 1-866-678-6789, or
 - Mail to: Canada Vigilance Program
Health Canada
Postal Locator 0701E
Ottawa, ON K1A 0K9

Postage paid labels, Canada Vigilance Reporting Form and the adverse reaction reporting guidelines are available on the MedEffect™ Canada Web site at www.healthcanada.gc.ca/medeffect.

NOTE: Should you require information related to the management of side effects, contact your health professional. The Canada Vigilance Program does not provide medical advice.

MORE INFORMATION

Please consult your doctor or pharmacist with any questions or concerns you may have regarding your individual condition.

This document plus the full product monograph, prepared for health professionals can be found at:

<http://www.novartis.ca>

or by contacting the sponsor, Novartis Pharmaceuticals Canada Inc., at:

1-800-363-8883

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