

Voltarol[®]

Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

Diclofenac diethylammonium 2.32% w/w corresponding to diclofenac sodium 2% w/w (20mg/g)



Read all of this leaflet carefully because it contains important information for you.

This medicine is available without prescription. However, you still need to use **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** carefully to get the best results from it. Always use this medicine exactly as described in this leaflet.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- Ask your pharmacist if you need more information or advice.
- You must contact a doctor if your signs of illness worsen or do not improve after 7 days.
- If you get any side effects which worry you (even side effects not listed in this leaflet), talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

What is in this leaflet

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1. What Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel is and what it is used for

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel contains the active substance diclofenac which belongs to a group of medicines called non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs). It is specially formulated for rubbing into the skin and has enhanced skin permeation. The active substance targets deep inflamed tissues.

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel is used to relieve pain and reduce inflammation and swelling in a number of painful conditions affecting the joints and muscles, e.g. sprains, strains and bruises, relieving pain quickly, including moderate to strong pain, and helping recovery to normal function.

2. What you need to know before you use Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

Do not use Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

- if you are allergic (hypersensitive) to diclofenac or other medicines used to treat pain, fever or inflammation, such as ibuprofen or aspirin (a substance also used to prevent blood clotting), or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (see Section 6 and end of Section 2). If you are not sure, ask your doctor or pharmacist. Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include: wheezing or shortness of breath (asthma); skin rash with blisters or hives; swelling of the face or tongue; runny nose.
- if you are taking diclofenac tablets or other NSAID pain/inflammation tablets.
- if you are in the last 3 months of pregnancy.
- if you are below 14 years of age.

If any of these apply to you, do not use Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

Take special care with Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

- Do NOT apply to skin with conditions such as cuts, open wounds, or on skin that has a rash or eczema. Discontinue the treatment if a skin rash develops after applying the product.
- A brace or wrap commonly used for injuries like sprains can be used but do not use under airtight (plastic) bandages.

- Avoid applying on large areas of skin and over a prolonged period of time, unless under medical advice.
- Use of the gel over extensive areas of skin for a prolonged time or using more than the recommended dose may give some side effects. Symptoms include: gastrointestinal disturbances and bleeding, irritability, fluid retention, rash, liver inflammation, kidney problems, allergic reactions, difficulty in breathing and skin lesions.
- **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** is for external use only. Do not use it in the mouth. Do not swallow it. Wash your hands after use. Be careful not to get **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** in your eyes. If this happens, rinse your eyes well with clean water. See your doctor or pharmacist if any discomfort persists.
- Your skin may be more sensitive to sunlight. Be careful when sunbathing or using sun lamps.
- If you have, or have had, peptic ulcers, gastrointestinal bleeding, liver or kidney problems, certain blood disorders, or intestinal inflammation, tell your doctor or pharmacist.

If you have any questions, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel.

Other medicines and Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, or have recently taken, or want to start taking any other medicines, including those obtained without a medical prescription.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel must not be used during the last 3 months of pregnancy, as it could harm your unborn child or cause problems at delivery.

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel should only be used under medical advice during the first 6 months of pregnancy and the dose should be kept as low and duration of treatment as short as possible.

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel should only be used under medical advice during breast-feeding as diclofenac passes into breast milk in small amounts. However, **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** should not be applied on the breasts of nursing mothers nor elsewhere on large areas of skin or for a prolonged period of time.

Consult your doctor or pharmacist for further information if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

Driving and Using Machines

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel, when used as directed, is not expected to have any effect on your ability to drive or use machines. However, if you experience dizziness or visual disturbances, while taking NSAIDs you should not drive or operate machinery.

Effects of other ingredients (excipients)

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel contains:

- propylene glycol, which may cause skin irritation.
- butylhydroxytoluene, which may cause local skin reactions (e.g. contact dermatitis) or irritation to the eyes and mucous membranes.

3. How to use Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

Always use this medicine exactly as described in this leaflet. You should check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

How much Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel to use

For adults and adolescents over 14 years of age.

Apply the gel 2 times a day (preferably morning and evening) on the painful area.

How to apply Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

1. To remove the seal before first use, unscrew and remove the cap. Use the reverse side of the cap to insert, twist and remove the seal from the tube.
2. Gently squeeze out a small amount of gel from the tube and apply to the painful or swollen area, slowly rubbing into the skin. The amount needed will vary depending upon the size of the painful or swollen area; an amount ranging in size from a cherry to a walnut will usually be sufficient. You may notice a slight cooling effect when you rub the gel in.
3. Unless the hands are the site being treated, wash your hands after rubbing in the gel, to avoid accidental contact with the mouth and eyes (see Section 2).

Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel is for external use only.

How long to use Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel for

You should not use this gel for more than 7 days. If the pain and swelling do not improve within 7 days, or if they get worse, tell your doctor.

For adolescents aged 14 years and over if the symptoms worsen or do not improve within 7 days the patient/parents of the adolescent should consult a doctor.

If you use more Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel than you should

- If you use more gel than you should, wipe off the surplus gel with a tissue.
- If you or a child accidentally swallows the gel, contact your doctor immediately.

If you forget to use Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

If you miss your application of **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** at the correct time, apply it when you remember and then carry on as normal. Do not apply a double quantity to make up for the forgotten application. If you have any further questions on the use of this product, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Some rare and very rare side effects might be serious

If you experience any of the following signs of allergy, STOP using **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** and tell a doctor or pharmacist immediately:

- Skin rash with blisters; hives. (These side effects are likely to affect 1 to 10 people in every 10,000).
- Wheezing, shortness of breath or feeling of tightness in the chest (asthma). (These side effects are likely to affect less than 1 person in every 10,000).
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat. (These side effects are likely to affect less than 1 person in every 10,000).

Other side effects which may occur are usually mild, passing and harmless (*if you are concerned, tell a doctor or pharmacist*).

Common side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Skin rash, itching, reddening or smarting of the skin

Very rare side effects (may affect up to 1 in 10,000)

- the skin may be more sensitive to the sun. Possible signs are sunburn with itching, swelling and blistering.

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 HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL – Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517.

Website: www.hpra.ie; E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel

- **Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.**
- Do not use **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and tube after "EXP." The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.
- This medicinal product does not require any special storage conditions.
- Do not dispose of medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel contains

The active substance is diclofenac diethylammonium. The gel contains diclofenac diethylammonium 2.32% w/w corresponding to diclofenac sodium 2% w/w (20mg/g). The other ingredients (excipients) are butylhydroxytoluene [E 321], carbomer, cocoyl caprylocaprate, diethylamine, isopropyl alcohol, liquid paraffin, macrogol cetostearyl ether, oleyl alcohol, propylene glycol [E 1520], perfume eucalyptus sting, and purified water (see end of Section 2 for further information).

What Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel looks like and contents of the pack **Voltarol Emulgel Extra Strength 2% w/w Gel** is a white, pleasantly perfumed, non-greasy, cream-like gel.

The product comes in packs of 20g, 30g and 50g. Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

Marketing Authorisation Holder

GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (Ireland) Limited, 12 Riverwalk, City West Business Campus, Dublin 24, Ireland.

Manufacturer

GlaxoSmithKline Consumer Healthcare (UK) Trading Limited, Brentford, TW8 9GS, U.K.

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