

Prescription Allegra

People who suffer from allergies are all too familiar with a medication known as Allegra. Prescribed by your doctor, Allegra is a powerful, antihistamine that relieves seasonal allergy symptoms like runny nose, sneezing and itchy, watery eyes.

You cannot buy Allegra over the counter. In order to take Allegra, you must be assessed by a doctor and given a prescription. If your doctor feels that you will benefit from the powerful non-sedating drug, he or she will prescribe a recommended dosage. There are several different types of Allegra that vary in strength and formulation, so the recommended dosage will also vary. Patients aged 12 and over will typically receive a dosage of 60 mg twice daily (or one dosage of 180 mg "once daily"), while children from 6 to 11 may be prescribed one 30 mg dosage twice daily.

Allegra prescriptions are required for patients with other serious conditions such as heart, liver or kidney disease, or other chronic illnesses. These people must be monitored very closely, and should not take over-the-counter allergy medications. The doctor will prescribe the right dosage and assess the patient on an ongoing basis. Patients who are allergic to regular antihistamines can speak to their doctors about Allegra, as can women who are pregnant. Studies have not proven whether Allegra can be passed on to an infant through breast milk, but a woman who is breastfeeding may speak with her doctor about the product. For these reasons, a prescription must be obtained from a doctor in order to purchase Allegra.

When your doctor prescribes Allegra, he or she will warn you about taking the drug along with antacids, particularly those containing magnesium or aluminum like Maalox, Milk of Magnesia and Mylanta. Erythromycin and ketoconazole can increase the side effects of Allegra when combined with the drug, and should be avoided. Further, if you are currently taking Lanoxin and a monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitor, the use of prescription Allegra is strongly prohibited. It's important to take your prescription Allegra correctly and carefully. If your prescription calls for two doses per day, try to take them at the proper intervals. If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember. However, if it's nearing the time for your second dose, take just one. Do not double-up on doses. Try to remember to take one dose when you wake up in the morning, and the other in the evening.

As with many medications, both by prescription and over the counter, there are side effects to taking Allegra. Your doctor will discuss these side effects with you. Some of the possible side effects that you experience may include headache, nausea, colds or flu, vomiting and menstrual irregularities. Fortunately, the side effects are rare and usually mild, so further medical attention should not be required.

You cannot purchase Allegra over the counter, and it's not available without a prescription. This is a powerful allergy medication, so it's important to follow your doctor's orders to prevent possible side effects or even overdose. Talking to your doctor about taking Allegra isn't just the best choice; it may well be your only choice.