BISMUTH

bis-muth

What does it do?

Bismuth is used with other medicines to treat and prevent stomach and gut ulcers. It treats Helicobacter pylori infection that can cause these ulcers.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

Take *bismuth* regularly as directed with a glass of water. Take it on an empty stomach, at least 30 minutes before or two hours after food.
Keep taking it until the course is finished, even if you start to feel better.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *bismuth* including:

- products containing aluminium, calcium, iron, magnesium or zinc, such as antacids (e.g. Mylanta®) or multivitamins

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Black bowel motions	This is harmless

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- *Bismuth* is not registered for use in New Zealand. Discuss with your doctor.