

What is NorLevo®?

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NorLevo® is an oral emergency contraceptive that is indicated to prevent the start of a pregnancy. It can be used as an emergency solution in case condom use or other contraception has failed or when no contraception has been used during intercourse.

NorLevo® contains 1.5 mg of the sex hormone levonorgestrel, a synthetic progestin, which is also a component of some contraceptive pills. The sooner the tablet is taken after unprotected intercourse, the better effect it has.

If pregnancy has already started or starts in spite of emergency contraception, NorLevo® does not harm the fetus. NorLevo® is not an abortion pill.

- **How is NorLevo® used?**

The treatment is **one tablet** that is taken **as soon as possible after unprotected intercourse, preferably within 12 hours and at the latest within 72 hours (3 days)** of the intercourse.

If vomiting occurs within three hours after taking the tablet, another tablet should be taken immediately.

NorLevo® can be taken at any time of the menstrual cycle.

After using NorLevo®, use of a local contraceptive method (condom, diaphragm, spermicide) is recommended until the start of the next menstruation.

If NorLevo® is taken simultaneously with use of contraceptive tablets, the contraceptive tablets are taken normally until the end of the cycle. If your period does not start during the next break of contraceptive tablet use, you should do a pregnancy test to exclude pregnancy.

- **When can NorLevo® be used?**

- If no contraceptive method has been used during intercourse
- If you have forgotten to take the contraceptive tablet within the recommended time; if this is the case, read the patient information leaflet of the contraceptive tablets.
- If a condom has broken, it has slipped off or it has been removed incorrectly or it has not been used at all
- If you suspect that your intrauterine device has come loose
- If your diaphragm has moved or it has been removed too early
- If interruption of the intercourse has failed
- If intercourse has taken place at a time presumed fertile when rhythm method has been used as a contraceptive method
- If you have been raped.

- **Who can use NorLevo®?**

The product can be used by women from 15 years of age up to menopause, with certain limitations. Women under 15 years of age can get the product only by prescription.

- **Who can not use NorLevo[®]?**

You must not use NorLevo[®] if you are allergic to it.

Use of NorLevo[®] is not recommended in case you have had a previous ectopic pregnancy or salpingitis (because ectopic pregnancy may continue in spite of bleeding). Use is also not recommended in connection with severe hepatic insufficiency. Severe malabsorptions, such as Crohn's disease, may weaken the effect of NorLevo[®].

- **How do I know that treatment with NorLevo[®] has worked?**

After taking NorLevo[®], your period usually starts at expected time and the amount of bleeding is normal. Your period may sometimes come a few days earlier or later, too.

If your period is more than 5 days late or if abnormal bleeding occurs at the time the period should start, you should do a pregnancy test.

Those using contraceptive tablets should take a pregnancy test if their period does not start during the next break of contraceptive tablet use.

- **How often can NorLevo[®] be used?**

Treatment with NorLevo[®] should only be used temporarily and it is not meant to replace other contraceptive methods.

NorLevo[®] should not be used repeatedly during the same menstrual cycle, it may disturb the cycle.

- **Does NorLevo[®] cause adverse effects?**

Like all medicines, NorLevo[®] can cause side effects.

The following adverse effects have been observed:

- *nausea and vomiting*
- *dizziness, tiredness, headache*
- *abdominal pain*
- *breast tenderness*
- *bleeding disorders or delayed menstruation (pregnancy test to be taken, if necessary).*

Menstruation-like bleeding may occur after taking the preparation.

- **Can NorLevo[®] be used simultaneously with other medicines?**

*Simultaneous use of other medicines may weaken or prevent the effect of this emergency contraceptive. Such drugs are certain anticonvulsants, such as phenobarbital, phenytoin, primidone and carbamazepine, and rifabutine, rifampicin, ritonavir, griseofulvin and St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*).*

If you use any other medicines regularly, discuss the use of NorLevo[®] with a doctor or a pharmacist.

- **Important**

- *Emergency contraception is a temporary method that must not replace regular contraception.*
- *NorLevo[®] does not protect from sexually transmitted diseases.*
- *NorLevo[®] should not be used repeatedly during the same menstrual cycle.*
- *You should use a long-term contraceptive method instead of repeated emergency contraception.*
- *NorLevo[®] is not an abortion pill and it does not terminate a pregnancy that has already started.*
- *Taking more than one tablet does not improve the effect of NorLevo[®].*