

# Ketalar(R)

*Ketamine Hydrochloride Injection*

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## Consumer Medicine Information

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Ketalar.

It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Ketalar against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet, you may need to read it again.**

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### What Ketalar is used for

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Ketalar is an anaesthetic used to make the body insensitive to surgical procedures.

Ketalar works by stopping the brain from interpreting messages of pain.

Your doctor may have prescribed Ketalar for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Ketalar has been prescribed for you.

Ketalar may be used in combination with other medicines to induce anaesthesia.

Individuals with a history of drug abuse or dependence may develop ketamine dependence and tolerance, however, addiction is unlikely to

occur when ketamine is used as prescribed for anaesthesia.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

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### Before you are given Ketalar

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#### ***When you must not be given it***

**You must not be given Ketalar if you have an allergy to Ketalar or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

**You must not be given Ketalar if you have any of the following medical conditions:**

- \* poorly controlled blood pressure
- \* severe heart disease
- \* heart failure
- \* a recent history of stroke or heart attack
- \* brain haemorrhage
- \* brain trauma.

**Ketalar must not be given after the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.**

#### ***Before you are given Ketalar***

**You must tell your doctor if you have experienced an unwanted reaction or side effect to any anaesthetic used previously.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:**

- \* any other medicines
- \* any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

Ketalar should not be used during pregnancy.

**Tell your doctor if you are breast feeding.**

Ketalar should not be used during breast feeding.

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- \* heart problems, including a heart attack
- \* dehydration
- \* high blood pressure
- \* breathing problems, including chest infections and asthma
- \* alcohol intoxication or history of alcohol abuse
- \* drug abuse or drug dependence
- \* cerebral or head problems including injury, lesions or elevated cerebrospinal fluid pressure
- \* psychiatric disorders (eg. schizophrenia, acute psychosis)
- \* overactive thyroid
- \* glaucoma
- \* kidney or liver disease (eg. porphyria)
- \* seizures.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start having Ketalar.**

#### ***Taking other medicines***

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking/using/having any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription**

from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and Ketalar may interfere with each other. These include:

- \* general anaesthetics (medicines used to put you to sleep during an operation) and hypnotics (eg. thiopental)
- \* barbiturates or narcotic analgesics
- \* sedatives or anxiolytic medicines, eg. benzodiazepines.
- \* alcohol
- \* ergotamine
- \* thyroxine
- \* theophylline
- \* medicines to lower blood pressure
- \* thyroid hormones
- \* muscle relaxants used in anaesthesia (atracurium and tubocurarine).

These medicines may be affected by Ketalar, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take/use/have different medicines. Your doctor or pharmacist will advise you.

Your doctor and pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while having Ketalar.

**If you are not sure whether you should be given Ketalar, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.**

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## How Ketalar is given

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### *How much is given*

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your age, the route of administration and other medicines you are being given.

### *How it is given*

#### **For injections:**

Ketalar is given as a slow injection into a vein or as an injection into a muscle. Ketalar should be used only under the direction of physicians experienced in administering general anaesthetics and in maintenance of an airway and in the control of respiration.

#### **Overdose**

**As Ketalar is given to you under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive too much. You will be closely monitored in hospital during the early post-operative period so that any unwanted effects can be treated. If you experience side effects tell your doctor immediately.**

Symptoms of a Ketalar overdose include the side effects listed in the section 'Side Effects' but are usually of a more severe nature.

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## After Ketalar is given

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### *Things you must do*

**Be sure to keep all your doctor's appointments so your progress can be checked.**

### *Things to be careful of*

**Do not drive or operate machinery or engage in hazardous activities for at least 24 hours (or longer if necessary) after anaesthesia.**

**When Ketalar is used on an out-patient basis, you should not be released from medical care until recovery from anaesthesia is complete and then should be accompanied by a responsible adult.**

**Alcohol or other medicines acting on your central nervous system should not be administered within 24 hours following anaesthesia.**

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## Side effects

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**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are given Ketalar or after having received Ketalar.**

Ketalar may have unwanted side effects. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**If any of the following happen, tell your doctor or nurse immediately, or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:**

- \* Sudden signs of allergy such as rash or hives, swelling of the face, lips or tongue, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- \* confusion, excitation, irrational behaviour
- \* hallucinations, vivid imagery, dream-like states, nightmares
- \* movements resembling seizures
- \* breathing difficulties
- \* elevated blood pressure, rapid pulse rate, heart palpitations.

These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

**Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:**

- \* rash
- \* double vision/abnormal eye movements
- \* These may be serious side effects. You may need medical attention.

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- \* nausea, vomiting
- \* increased saliva
- \* local pain at injection site.

These are the more common side effects of Ketalar.

**Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

**Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

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## After using Ketalar

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### **Storage**

Ketalar will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injection is kept in a cool dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 30 degrees C.

Ketalar injection should not be used if the solution is coloured and/or contains particulate matter.

### **Disposal**

Ketalar is used for one dose in one patient only. Any remaining contents will be discarded.

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## Product description

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### **What it looks like**

Each 2 mL vial of Ketalar contains 200 mg of ketamine (as hydrochloride) per 2 mLs.

### **Ingredients**

#### **Active ingredients**

- \* Ketamine hydrochloride 200 mg per 2 mLs.

#### **Other ingredients**

- \* Benzethonium chloride
- \* Water for Injections.

### **Supplier**

Ketalar is supplied in Australia by:

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd

ABN 5000 8422 348

38-42 Wharf Road

West Ryde NSW 2114

Australia

Toll Free Number: 1800 675 229

Ketalar is supplied in New Zealand by:

Pfizer New Zealand Ltd

PO Box 3998

Auckland New Zealand

Toll Free Number: 0800 736 363

### **Australian Registration Number:**

Ketalar 200 mg (base)/2 mLs,  
5 x 2mL vials: AUST R 70073

This leaflet was prepared on  
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(R) Reg T.M. Warner-Lambert  
Company, USA.