What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about CERVIDIL. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or midwife.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given CERVIDIL against the benefits he/she expects it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor or midwife.
Keep this leaflet in a safe place.
You may need to read it again.

What CERVIDIL is used for

CERVIDIL is for women who have a normal pregnancy and are near their due date for delivery. It is used to prepare for induction of labour.

CERVIDIL is a pessary (vaginal insert) containing dinoprostone, also known as Prostaglandin E2 or PGE2. Prostaglandin E2 also occurs naturally in the body. Prostaglandin E2 is important for the changes that take place before labour begins.

CERVIDIL is used to prepare the cervix (the neck of the womb, at the top of the birth canal) to allow the baby to pass through. This process is called “cervical ripening”.

This medicine is available only with a doctor’s prescription.
Your doctor may have prescribed CERVIDIL for another purpose.

Ask your doctor or midwife if you have any questions about why CERVIDIL has been prescribed for you.

How it works

CERVIDIL works by:
• softening and opening the cervix (neck of the womb)
• setting off contractions (in the body of the womb)
• releasing dinoprostone continuously to the cervix at the appropriate rate.

This allows softening and opening of the cervix to progress.

When the doctor decides no further dinoprostone is required, the pessary (vaginal insert) is removed by pulling on the withdrawal tape.

Before you are given CERVIDIL

Your doctor will decide if CERVIDIL is suitable for you.

CERVIDIL should be administered only by trained personnel, in hospital, with appropriate obstetrical care and facilities for the required monitoring.

When you must not be given it

You must not be given CERVIDIL if you have an allergy to dinoprostone or any of the ingredients (e.g. urethane) listed at the end of this leaflet.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:
• shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
• swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
• rash, itching or hives on the skin.

You must not be given CERVIDIL if:
• you are carrying more than one baby
• your labour has already started
• your waters have broken
• there is any reason why you should not have a vaginal delivery, for example, genital herpes
• the baby's head is not well down in the pelvis
• the baby is not in the normal position for birth, or
• if it is suspected, or tests show, your baby is unwell or not growing, or
• the head of the baby is too big or the size of your pelvis is too small for normal delivery, or
• you have contractions that are unusually strong and/or long (known as “hypertonic contractions” or “hyperstimulation of the uterus”).

You must not be given CERVIDIL if you have had any of the following:
• previous surgical operation on the womb, for example, a caesarean section, or
• surgery to the neck of the womb (cervix), or
• previous rupture of the cervix
• any vaginal discharge or unexplained vaginal bleeding during the current pregnancy.

• any other medicines
• any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

Before you are given CERVIDIL tell your doctor or midwife if you are over 35 years of age or if you have had any medical conditions, especially the following:
• lung, liver or kidney problems
• asthma
• epilepsy (convulsions or fits)
• unexplained genital bleeding during current pregnancy
• glaucoma (raised pressure in the eye)
• abnormally strong contractions of your womb during previous labour, or
• previous excessively short labour and delivery time
• heart or blood pressure problems
• previous complications during pregnancy
• you have had more than three full term deliveries.
• gestational diabetes
• your pregnancy is past 40 weeks gestation.

When CERVIDIL must be removed

The pessary (vaginal insert) should be removed immediately:
• if contractions are considered too sustained or excessive, or
• if labour commences.

It should also be removed
• prior to amniotomy
• after the waters break (spontaneous rupture of the membranes)
• if there is any suggestion of maternal or fetal complications, or
• if unwanted side-effects occur
• if, after 24 hours the cervix has not changed adequately for delivery.

How CERVIDIL is given

How much is given

CERVIDIL is given as one pessary (vaginal insert) inserted once only. Each CERVIDIL insert contains 10 mg dinoprostone.

Over the maximum recommended usage period of 24 hours, the insert gradually releases dinoprostone.

Over the maximum recommended usage period of 24 hours, the insert gradually releases about 0.3 mg of dinoprostone per hour.

How it is given

CERVIDIL must only be given under the supervision of a doctor.

CERVIDIL is inserted into the vagina. The pouch containing the active ingredient is positioned up at the top of the vagina behind the cervix. This is called the "posterior fornix" (See Figure 1). The tape for withdrawal hangs from the entrance to the vagina.
For example, they may remove it because:
- your labour has started
- your doctor wants to use a different medicine to help your womb (uterus) contract e.g. oxytocin
- your waters have broken
- your uterus is contracting too strongly
- your baby is starting to get distressed.

OVERDOSAGE
Your medical attendants will be alert for any signs of overdose. Your doctor, midwife or pharmacist have information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Initial treatment of overdose is removal of the pessary (vaginal insert). Other treatment is also available. Contact the Poisons Information Centre on 131 126 for further advice on overdose management.

Side effects
Tell your doctor or midwife as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given CERVIDIL.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. In most people, CERVIDIL helps prepare the cervix (neck of womb) for birth. It may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

Tell your doctor or midwife immediately if you notice any of the following:
- headache
- dizziness
- itching
- bleeding, possibly from multiple sites of your body
- fever
- nausea or vomiting
- very strong or very frequent contractions of the womb
- bluish coloration of the fingers
- sudden bruising.

The above list includes serious side effects. Your doctor may decide to remove the CERVIDIL pessary (vaginal insert) if these side effects occur.

Tell your doctor or midwife if you notice any other side effects.

Rarely, rupture of the womb has been reported in association with the use of CERVIDIL. However, most of these patients should not have been given CERVIDIL. See the section beginning "When you must not be given it" above.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.
You may not experience any of them. Ask your doctor or midwife to answer any questions you may have.

Product description
What it looks like
The CERVIDIL pessary (vaginal insert) is:
- a thin, flat rectangle, with rounded corners
- slightly thicker than a large postage stamp
- blue in colour
- contained within a pouch
- made so that, when the pouch becomes moist, the active ingredient (dinoprostone) comes out very slowly. The pouch forms one end of a long tape
- pouch and tape are made of knitted polyester (off-white in colour)