

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PREPARING AND GIVING AN INJECTION OF SOMAVERT

Read these instructions before you start using SOMAVERT and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet does not take the place of talking to your doctor about your medical condition or your treatment. Your doctor or nurse should show you or a caregiver how to inject SOMAVERT the right way before you inject it for the first time.

SOMAVERT comes in a vial as a white block of powder. You must mix SOMAVERT with a liquid (diluent) before you can use it. The liquid comes in a single-dose pre-filled syringe labeled 'Sterile Water for Injection'. Do not use any other liquid to mix with SOMAVERT.

You must use the mixed SOMAVERT within 6 hours after you mix it. If you have not used the mixed SOMAVERT within 6 hours, throw it away.

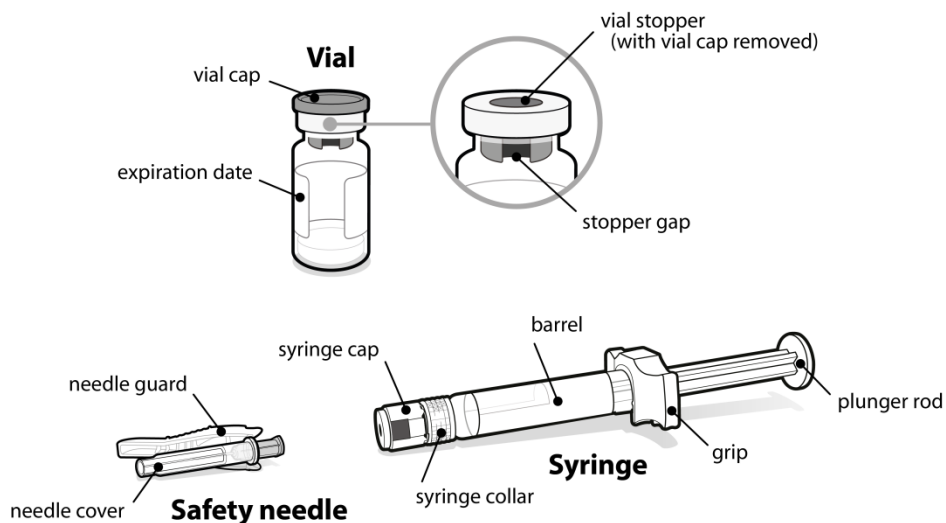
1 Things you need

A single SOMAVERT pack containing:

- A vial of SOMAVERT powder.
- A pre-filled syringe with diluent.
- A safety needle.

You will also need:

- A cotton ball.
- An alcohol swab.
- A sharps disposal container.

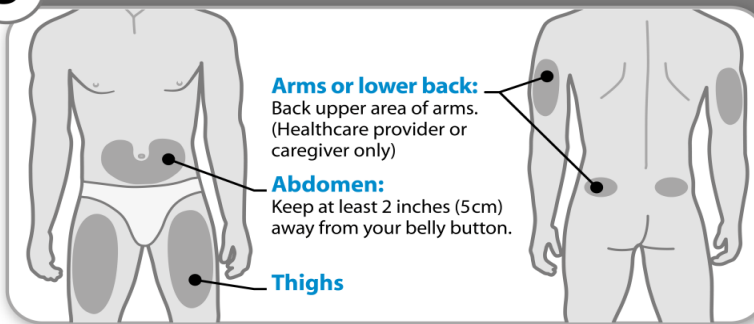


2 Getting ready

Before you start:

- Only mix SOMAVERT and the diluent when you are ready to inject your dose.
- Remove a single SOMAVERT pack from the refrigerator and allow it to come to room temperature in a safe place.
- Do not heat the SOMAVERT pack by using a heat source such as hot water or microwave. Let it warm up on its own.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, and dry them thoroughly.
- Peel open the packaging of the syringe and safety needle to make it easier to pick up each item as you prepare for your injection.
- Do not use the syringe or vial if:
 - they are damaged or faulty
 - the expiration date has passed
 - the syringe has been frozen, even if it has now thawed.

3 Choose injection area

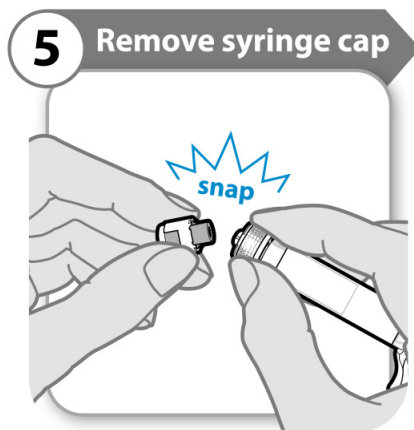


- Choose a different location within an area for each injection.
- Avoid bony areas or areas that are bruised, red, sore or hard, or areas that have scars or skin conditions.
- Clean the injection area with the alcohol swab as instructed by your doctor or nurse.
- Allow the injection area to dry.



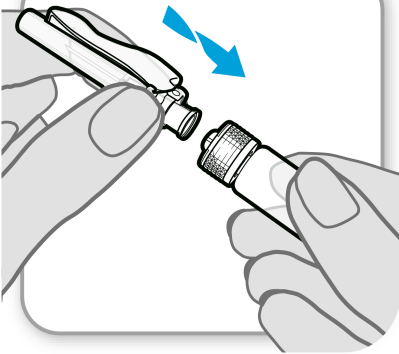
- Remove the cap from the vial.
- Throw the cap away. It is not needed again.

Caution: Do not let anything touch the vial stopper.

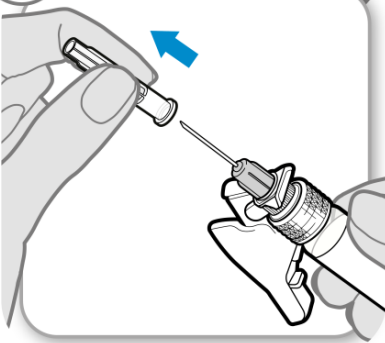


- Snap off the syringe cap. It may take more effort to snap off than you might expect.
- Throw the syringe cap away. It is not needed again.
- Keep the syringe upright to avoid leakage.

Caution: Do not let the end of the syringe touch anything when the syringe cap is off.

6**Attach safety needle**

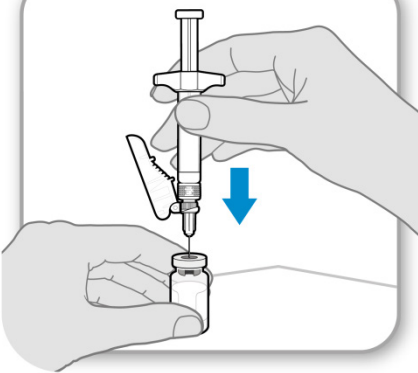
- Twist the safety needle firmly onto the syringe as far as it will go.

7**Remove needle cover**

- Fold the needle guard out of the way of the needle cover.
- Carefully pull the needle cover straight off.
- Throw the needle cover away. It is not needed again.

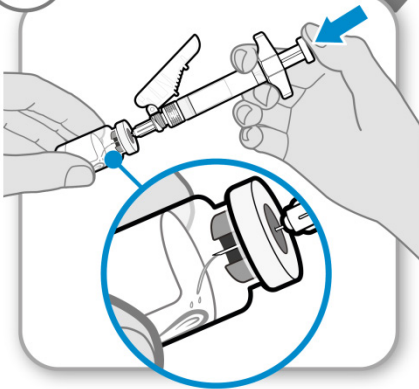
Caution: Do not let the needle touch anything.

8 Insert needle



- Push the needle through the center of the vial stopper, as shown.
- Support the syringe while the needle is in the vial stopper to prevent bending the needle.

9 Add liquid

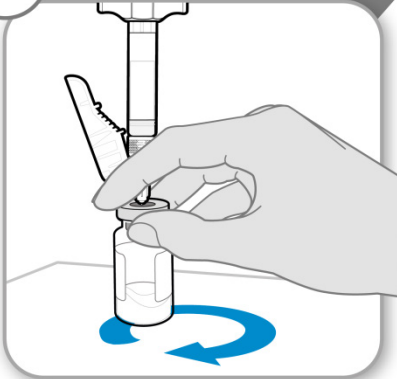


- Tilt both the vial and syringe at an angle, as shown.
- Push the plunger rod down **slowly** until all the liquid has emptied into the vial.

Caution: Do not squirt the liquid directly onto the powder as this creates foam. Foam makes the medicine unusable.

Do not withdraw the needle yet.

10 Swirl vial



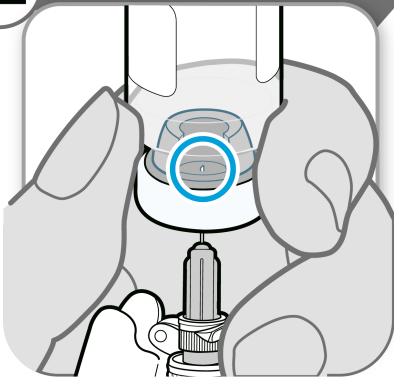
- Support both the syringe and vial in one hand, as shown.
- Gently swirl the liquid, sliding the vial in a circular motion on a flat surface.
- Continue swirling the liquid until all the powder has fully dissolved. This may take up to 5 minutes. **Do not shake the vial.**

11 Check medicine



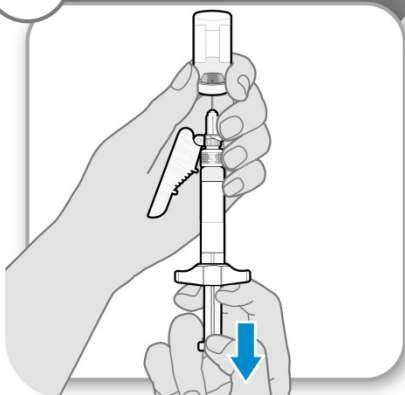
- Keeping the needle in the vial, look carefully at the medicine. It must be clear and free of particles.
- Do not use the medicine if:
 - it is cloudy or hazy
 - it has any color at all
 - there are any particles or there is a layer of foam in the vial.

12 Reposition needle



- Turn the vial so that you can see the stopper gap, as shown.
- Pull the needle down so that the needle tip is at the lowest point in the liquid. This will help you to draw off as much liquid as possible.
- Check that the plunger rod has not moved. If it has, then push it back all the way into the syringe before you draw off the dose.

13 Draw off dose

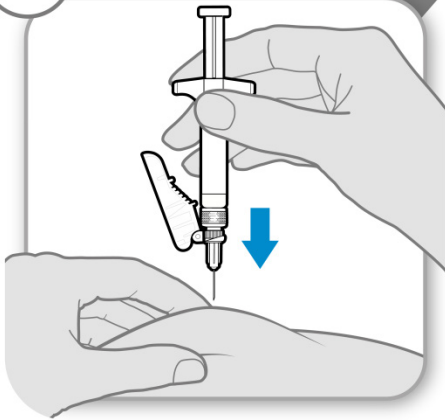


- Slowly pull back the plunger rod to withdraw as much medicine as possible from the vial.

Note: If you see air in the syringe, tap the barrel to float the bubbles to the top, and then gently push the bubbles out **into the vial**.

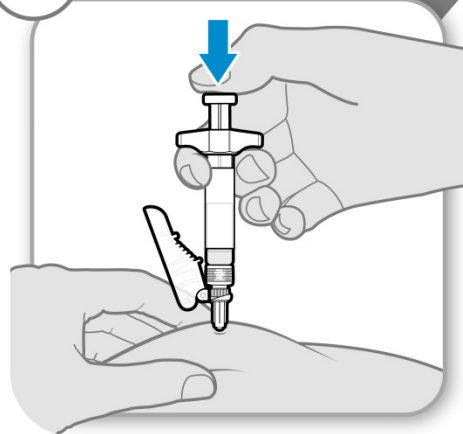
- Pull the needle out of the vial.

14 Insert needle



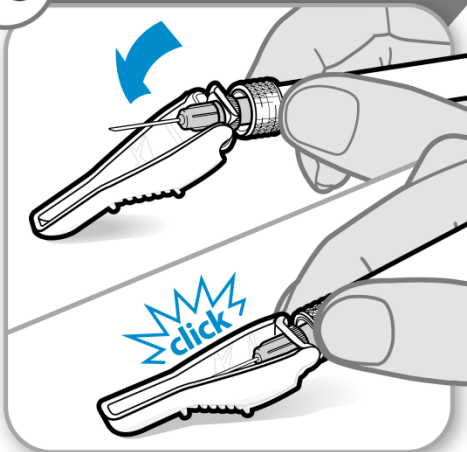
- Gently pinch the skin at the site of injection.
- Insert the needle to its full depth into the pinched skin.

15 Inject medicine



- Push the plunger rod down slowly until the barrel is empty.
- Note:** Make sure you keep the needle in at full depth.
- Release the pinched skin and pull the needle straight out.

16 Make needle safe



- Fold the needle guard over the needle.
 - **Gently** apply pressure using a hard surface to lock the needle guard in place.
- Note:** You will hear a click when the needle guard has been locked.

17 Dispose



- The syringe and needle should **NEVER** be reused.
- Dispose of all unused solution, empty vials and syringes, and other used medical supplies in a Sharps container or similar puncture proof container composed of hard plastic or glass.
- Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist where you can dispose of the container once it is full.
- Medicines must not be disposed of down the toilet or via household waste.

18 After injection



- If necessary, use a clean cotton ball and press lightly on the injection area. **Do not rub the area.**

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What should I do if anything has accidentally touched the vial stopper?

Clean the vial stopper with a fresh alcohol wipe, and leave it to dry completely. If you are unable to clean the stopper, do not use the vial.

What should I do with the syringe if it has been dropped?

Do not use it even if it looks undamaged. Dispose of the syringe in the same way as a used syringe. You will need a replacement syringe.

How many times can I safely insert the needle into the vial stopper?

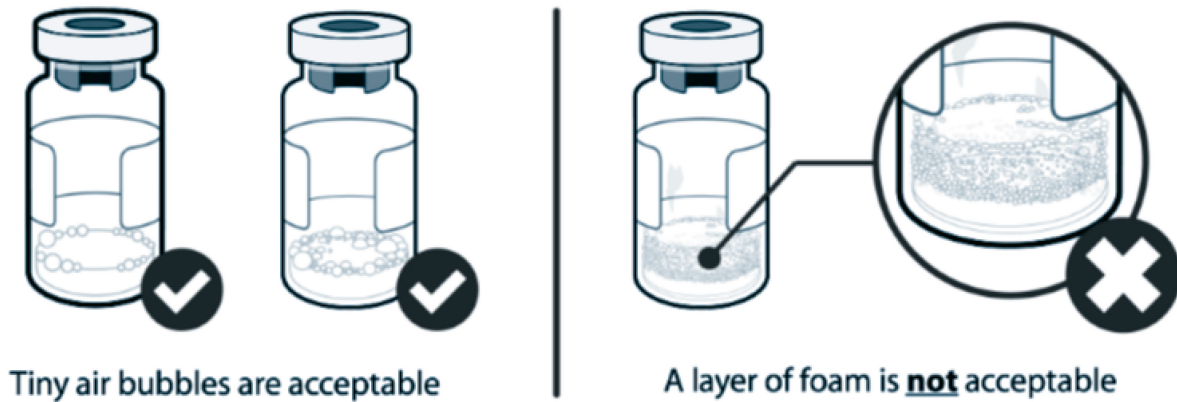
Once only. Withdrawing and reinserting greatly increases the risk of needle damage, and will blunt the needle. This can cause discomfort and increases the risk of skin damage and infection. There is also a risk you may lose some of the medicine.

Is it okay to shake the vial if the powder is not dissolving?

No, never shake the vial. Shaking can destroy the medicine and create foam. The powder may take a few minutes to dissolve fully, so continue swirling the vial gently until the liquid is completely clear.

How can I tell if there is any foam in the vial?

Foam looks like a mass of small bubbles that float as a layer to the top of the liquid. Do not inject SOMAVERT if it has foamed.



How can I prevent the medicine from foaming?

Press the plunger very slowly so that the liquid gently runs down the inside of the vial. Do not spray the liquid directly onto the powder, as this creates foam. This technique will also reduce the swirling time and allow more of the medicine to be drawn off.

I can see some air in the syringe. Is this okay?

Tiny air bubbles in the liquid are normal and are safe to inject. However, it is possible to accidentally draw air into the syringe, which should be removed before injecting. Bubbles or air gaps that float to the top of the liquid should be pushed back out into the vial.

Why can I not get all of the medicine out of the vial?

The shape of the vial means that a very small amount of the medicine will be left behind in the vial. This is normal. To ensure that only a trace of medicine remains, make sure the needle tip is as low as it can be in the vial when drawing off your dose.

What should I do if I have any doubts about my medicine?

Contact your doctor or pharmacist, or call 1800 675 229.