This medicine is used to treat threadworm infections of the gut.

This medicine is for use by adults and children aged over 2 years.

Do not use this medicine:
- If you are allergic to mebendazole (a drug used to treat bacterial and protozoan infections) as a serious skin reaction can rarely occur.
- If you are allergic to any of the ingredients. To view the list of ingredients see section 5.
- If you have ever had a bad reaction to any of the ingredients.

Speak to your doctor:
- If you are taking any other medicine. See section 2.
- Follow the dosage instructions carefully. These are shown in the dosage table. See section 3.
- Now read this whole leaflet carefully before you use this medicine. Keep the leaflet, you might need it again.

1 What the medicine is for
Ovex Family Pack is a medicine which is used to treat threadworm (sometimes known as pinworm) infections of the gut. The tablets contain mebendazole, which is one of a group of medicines called ‘anthelmintics’.

This medicine is for use in adults and children aged over 2 years.

2 Before taking this medicine
This medicine is suitable for most adults and children, but few people should not use it. If you are in any doubt, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Do not use this medicine:
- If you have ever had a bad reaction to any of the ingredients.
- If it is for a child under 2 years.
- If you are pregnant or think you are pregnant.

If any of these apply to you, get advice from a doctor or pharmacist without using Ovex Family Pack.

If anyone takes too much
If anyone takes too much Ovex Family Pack tablets, contact a doctor or your nearest Accident & Emergency department (Casually) taking this leaflet and pack with you.

4 Possible side-effects
Ovex Family Pack tablets can have side-effects, like all medicines, although these don’t affect everyone and are usually mild.

If you experience any of the following, stop using the medicine and seek immediate medical help:
- Very rarely: (less than 1 in 10,000 people are affected)
  - Convulsions (seizure) in infants.
  - Allergic reactions including unexplained wheezing, shortness of breath, including gasping out.
  - Skin rashes (which may be severe and include blistering or peeling of the skin) and itching.
  - Reactions including passing out.

Other effects which may occur include:
- Inflammation of the kidneys or liver or abnormal liver function.
- Reduction in white blood cells (which reduces the body’s defences against infections).
- Allergic reactions including unexplained wheezing, shortness of breath, including gasping out.
- Skin rashes (which may be severe and include blistering or peeling of the skin) and itching, and may be accompanied by a high temperature.

If you experience any of the following, stop using the medicine and talk to your doctor:
- Very rarely: (less than 1 in 10,000 people are affected)
  - Blininess, lines or swelling.
  - Stomach pain or diarrhoea.

5 Storing this medicine
Keep the product out of the reach and sight of children.

Do not take your medicine after the date shown as an expiry date on the packaging. There are no special storage conditions.

6 Further information
What’s in this medicine?
The active ingredient in Ovex Family Pack tablets is Mebendazole 100 mg per tablet.

Other ingredients are: Microcrystalline cellulose, sodium starch glycolate, talc, maize starch, sodium saccharin, magnesium stearate, cottonseed oil – hydrogenated, orange flavour, colloidal anhydrous silica, sodium laurel sulphate and orange yellow 5 (E 110).

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What the medicine looks like
Ovex Family Pack are pale orange tablets available in packs of 4 tablets.

Product Licence holder:
McNeil Products Ltd, Maidenhead, Berkshire, SL6 3UG, UK.

Manufacturer:

This leaflet was revised August 2008.

Ovex is a registered trade mark.

7 Further advice regarding threadworms

What are threadworms?
Threadworms (Enterobius vermicularis) are tiny white parasitic worms that live in the bowel. They are approximately half an inch long and resemble threads of white cotton – hence the name threadworms.

How common are threadworms?
Threadworms are extremely common, especially in children. It is estimated that up to 40% of children under ten years in the UK may be affected at any one time. Once a child has threadworms, it is very easy for the rest of the family to get them.

How do they spread?
Threadworms spread by producing large numbers of tiny eggs. These eggs are so small that they cannot be seen with the naked eye. When swallowed, the eggs pass into the bowel where they hatch into worms. When mature, the female threadworm lays her eggs at night around the anal area, which causes an “itchy bottom”. The resulting irritation can cause intense scratching, which may lead to further infections if the skin becomes sore or broken. Scratching also allows transfer of the eggs to the fingers and nails. Eggs can then be easily transferred to the mouth by finger sucking or nail biting, causing re-infection, and spread to other members of the family by direct contact or via food, bed linen etc.

Threadworm eggs are present in house dust; they stick to clothing, carpets, towels and bed linen; they can also be picked up in garden soil, or on unwashed vegetables and salads. Because the eggs are so small and so widespread, it is very easy for them to be swallowed.

Lifestyle of threadworms
2 - 6 weeks.
1. Scratching the bottom transfers eggs to fingers and from there back to the mouth or to others either by direct contact or via food, bed linen etc.
2. Eggs swallowed.
3. Female worms migrate to the anal area to lay eggs at night.

Are they harmful?
Threadworms do not cause serious damage but they are an irritating problem. Besides the intense itching, which can be distressing and embarrassing for the sufferer, they can also lead to disturbed sleep, tummy ache, irritable crying, loss of appetite or an unusually large appetite. Sometimes, threadworms can be transferred to the vagina and urinary passage. This can result in vaginal irritation and discharge, symptoms of cystitis or bed wetting.

Who gets threadworms?
Anyone, although they are more common in children. It does not mean that your family or your home are not clean. Because threadworms are passed on very easily it is a wise precaution to treat everyone in the family at the same time.

How can you tell if someone has threadworms?
The most obvious sign of threadworms is intense itching in the anal area, especially at night, although this does not affect everyone. If your children frequently scratch their bottoms, suffer from disturbed sleep or become irritable, it is worth checking the anal area for tiny white threads. If one member of the family has threadworms, the rest of the family may already have picked up the infection, even if they do not have obvious symptoms. Important note: Threadworms only affect humans, they do not affect pets.

General advice
To ensure that you and your family do not infect others or re-infect yourselves, you should also follow the hygiene measures listed below for at least six weeks:
■ Keep nails short.
■ Discourage nail biting or finger sucking.
■ Wear pyjamas or underclothes in bed.
■ In the mornings, wash thoroughly around the bottom.
■ Provide a towel for the exclusive use of each member of the household.
■ Change clothes regularly.
■ Regularly wash and iron bed linen.
■ Thoroughly wash hands and nails after using the toilet and before each meal.

Do you need to keep your children off school?
No. As long as the children are treated and the general hygiene measures outlined above are followed, there is no reason to keep them off school.

How can you stop the problem coming back?
Threadworms are easily treated but unless the following precautions are taken the problem may recur.
• Follow the general advice above.
• Make sure everyone in the family is treated at the same time.