

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Funnel Web Spider Antivenom.

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 having Funnel Web Spider Antivenom against the benefits they expect it will have.

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

Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is used for

What it is used for

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is given to those people who become ill after being bitten by a funnel web spider.

Not everyone who is bitten needs the antivenom as some people have only very mild effects from the bite or none at all.

However some people can become very ill after being bitten and in these people it is essential to use an appropriate amount of antivenom to counteract the effects of the poison.

How it works

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is an injection designed to help neutralise the effect of the poison (venom) of the funnel web spider.

It is made by immunising rabbits against the venom and then collecting that part of the rabbit's blood which neutralises this poison.

The antivenom is then purified and made into an injection for people who may need it after being bitten by a funnel web spider.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been given to you.

Before you are given Funnel Web Spider Antivenom

When you must not be given it

As there are sometimes unpleasant and dangerous reactions to the antivenom (see Side Effects), it should not be given to people who have no effects from the bite.

However as Funnel Web Spider Antivenom can be an emergency life-saving product, it should not be withheld from anyone who needs it.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if:

1. you have allergies to:

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

2. you have, or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:

- asthma
- hayfever.

3. you have ever received an injection containing rabbit serum.

4. you have ever had an injection of Funnel Web Spider Antivenom.

5. you are pregnant or you are breast feeding.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you are given Funnel Web Spider Antivenom.

How Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is given

How much is given

The dose for both adults and children is the contents of two vials (125 units X 2 vials= 250 units). This dose can be repeated as necessary.

Your doctor will take precautions to counteract any allergic reactions if they should happen.

How it is given

This medicine is injected slowly into a vein. As the vials contain a dry powder, it is first necessary to dissolve the powder in sterile water and then inject the solution. The vial can be gently swirled to help the powder dissolve.

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom does not contain any antimicrobial preservative. It should be used once and any residue discarded.

After having Funnel Web Spider Antivenom

When medicines are produced in animals and injected into you, it is always possible that viruses or other substances could be present in the medicine and cause an illness. These could be viruses or other infectious agents which may not yet have been discovered. In the past, there have been no reports of this ever having happened with this product.

If you have any queries about any aspect of this medicine, or questions regarding information in this leaflet, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well after having Funnel Web Spider Antivenom.

It may have unwanted side effects in some people. 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.

As the antivenom is made from rabbit serum, side effects occur more commonly in those who have allergies, particularly if they have ever had injections before which were also prepared from rabbits. Allergic reactions can be treated by your doctor.

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

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing

- rapid, shallow breathing, cold, clammy skin, a rapid, weak pulse, dizziness, weakness and fainting
- pinkish, itchy swellings on the skin, also called hives or nettle rash
- fever, swelling, skin rash, joint pains and swelling of the glands in the neck armpit or groin, anytime up to two weeks after the injection.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

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

You may not experience any of them.

Storing Funnel Web Spider Antivenom

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is usually stored in a doctor's surgery, hospital or ambulance. However, if you need to store it:

- **Keep it where children cannot reach it.**
- **Keep it in the original pack until it is needed. After it has been mixed with water it must be used straight away.**
- **Keep it in the refrigerator, below 8°C and protect it from light.**

Do not use Funnel Web Spider Antivenom after the expiry date printed on the pack.

Do not use Funnel Web Spider Antivenom if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Product description

What it looks like

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is a freeze dried powder contained in a vial. The contents of the vial are dissolved in water before use. After adding water the solution is colourless. The solution's clarity (clearness) can range from clear to slightly milky

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

- 125 units of Funnel Web Spider Antivenom.

Other ingredients:

- glycine
- substances in rabbit blood
- sodium chloride
- sodium phosphate – dibasic
- sodium phosphate – monobasic.

Name and Address of Sponsor

Funnel Web Spider Antivenom is sponsored by:

Seqirus Pty Ltd
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Australia

The Australian Registration Number is AUST R 31847.

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