

## LEVOPHED™

Noradrenaline Acid Tartrate

### Consumer Medicine Information

#### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about LEVOPHED™ (Noradrenaline).

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 being given LEVOPHED™ against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet in a safe place. You may need to read it again.

#### What LEVOPHED™ is used for

LEVOPHED™ is only given by a doctor or nurse in an emergency situation, usually in hospital as a result of serious conditions which cause a dramatic drop in blood pressure.

Such conditions could be:

- a heart attack
- infection in the blood
- severe reaction to a drug
- severe reaction to a blood transfusion
- allergic reactions

LEVOPHED™ is used to restore blood pressure back to normal.

This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called sympathomimetic amines.

It works by making the heart beat more forcefully and constricting blood vessels.

This results in a higher blood pressure and greater blood flow to the heart and other organs of the body.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

There is no evidence that LEVOPHED™ is addictive.

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

#### Before you are given LEVOPHED™

*When you must not be given it*

**You should not be given LEVOPHED™ if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing noradrenaline
- any other similar medicines such as adrenaline, phenylephrine, pseudoephedrine.
- Sodium metabisulfite or sulfites
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the 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 should not be given LEVOPHED™ if:**

- you have low blood pressure due to low blood volume
- you have blood clots in certain vessels

If given in these cases, it can further reduce blood supply to important organs.

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

*Before you are given it*

**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 have asthma.**

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

Your doctor or pharmacist will discuss the possible risks and benefits of you being given LEVOPHED™ during pregnancy.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.**

Your doctor or pharmacist will discuss the possible risks and benefits of using LEVOPHED™ during breast-feeding. It is not known whether LEVOPHED™ passes into breast milk.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start receiving LEVOPHED™.**

**Tell your doctor if you have any medical conditions before being given LEVOPHED™.**

*Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

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

- antidepressants including moclobemide, imipramine and amitriptyline.

These medicines may increase the effects of LEVOPHED™. You may need different amounts of this medicine, or you may need to take 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 being given LEVOPHED™.

#### How LEVOPHED™ is given

*How much is given*

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your condition and how you respond to LEVOPHED™. Often, the dose is adjusted according to how the medicine is affecting your blood pressure.

*How it is given*

LEVOPHED™ is diluted and given slowly as an infusion (a drip) into a large vein. It will usually be given to you by a doctor.

*How long it is given for*

This medicine is given until blood pressure and blood circulation to all organs is back to normal and remains normal even when the medicine is no longer given.

*If you take too much (overdose)*

As LEVOPHED™ is given to you in hospital under the supervision of your doctor; it is very unlikely that you will receive an overdose. Symptoms would include:

- headache
- dizziness
- sensitivity to light
- chest pain
- sweating and pale skin
- vomiting
- trouble breathing

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much LEVOPHED™. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.** You may need urgent medical attention.

#### Side effects

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects.**

You may not experience any of them.

**Tell your doctor if you do not feel well, or if you experience any of the following while you are being given Levophed™**

- skin and tissue damage close to the site of injection
- anxiety
- headache
- dizziness
- difficulty breathing
- high blood pressure
- low or irregular heart-beat
- tingling or numbness in the feet
- coldness, numbness or discolouration of your limbs

#### After using LEVOPHED™

*Storage*

LEVOPHED™ injection will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injection is kept in a cool dry place, protected from light. Store below 25° C. Do not freeze.

#### Product description

*What it looks like*

LEVOPHED™ is a clear liquid in a glass ampoule.

- Each 2ml ampoule contains 2mg of noradrenaline. It is available in packs of 5.
- Each 4mL vial contains 4mg of noradrenaline. It is available in packs of 10.

Not all presentations are available in Australia

*Ingredients*

Active ingredients:

- Noradrenaline

It also contains:

- Water for injection
- Sodium chloride
- Sodium metabisulfite

This medicine does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes

*Sponsor*

LEVOPHED™ is supplied in Australia by:

**Hospira Pty Ltd**

ABN 13 107 058 328

Level 3, 500 Collins Street

Melbourne, Victoria 3000

Australia

LEVOPHED™ 1:1000 2mg/2mL ampoule -

AUST R 12584

LEVOPHED™ 1:1000 4mg/4mL vial -

AUST R 183622

This leaflet was prepared in January 2013.