

# OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION

*synthetic oxytocin*

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

The information in this leaflet was last updated on the date listed on the final page. Some more recent information on the medicine may be available.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has more information about this medicine than is contained in this leaflet. Also, your doctor has had the benefit of taking a full and detailed history from you and is in the best position to make an expert judgement to meet your individual needs.

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

**Keep this leaflet with this medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

### What OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is used for

OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION can be used to bring on (induce) labour. It can also be used during and immediately after delivery to help the birth and to prevent or treat excessive bleeding.

OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is a man-made chemical that is identical to a natural hormone called oxytocin. It works by stimulating the muscles of the uterus (womb) to produce rhythmic contractions.

OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is not suitable in all situations - for example, if the baby or placenta are in the wrong position or if you have had a previous Caesarian section or other surgery involving the uterus. Your doctor can give you more information on the suitability of this medicine in your particular case.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription. It is not addictive.

### Before you are given it

**Tell your doctor if you have any of the following conditions or if you have ever experienced any of these conditions.**

It is very important that your doctor is aware of these matters when determining whether or not to prescribe OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION.

*When you must not be given it*

**You should not be given Oxytocin Aspen Injection:**

- **if you have an allergy to oxytocin.**  
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; skin rash, itchiness or hives.
- **if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

- **if the expiry date on the pack has passed.**

If you are given this medicine after the expiry date has passed it may not work as well.

*Before you are given it*

You must tell your doctor:

- **if you have high blood pressure or any heart problems.**  
Your doctor may want to take extra precautions. For example the amount of fluid you are given may be reduced if you have a heart problem.
- **if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.**

*Taking other medicines*

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

Some medicines may affect the way other medicines work. Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while you are receiving OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION.

**Tell your doctor about these things before you are given OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION.**

### How Oxytocin Aspen Injection is given

To bring on (induce) or maintain labour, OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is given by intravenous infusion (drip). The speed of the infusion is set to maintain a pattern of contractions similar to normal labour. During the infusion, both you and your baby will be closely monitored to prevent complications.

If OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is needed at delivery or to prevent excessive bleeding, it can also be given intramuscularly (into a muscle) or by slow intravenous injection directly into a vein.

*How much will be given*

Your doctor will decide what dose of OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION you will receive, depending on your pattern of contractions.

### Side effects

**Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are having OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION.**

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.

- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing
- headache
- nausea (feeling sick) or vomiting
- feeling drowsy and lethargic
- pain in the abdomen that is different from labour pains
- dizziness, light headedness or faintness
- flushing of the face
- fast, slow or irregular heart beat.

The above symptoms may be signs of allergy or signs of too much fluid associated with high doses or long infusions.

**Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may happen in some people.

**Ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

*After you have received it*

**Tell your doctor if you notice anything unusual or if you are concerned about any aspect of your health, even if you think the problems are not connected with this medicine and are not referred to in this leaflet.**

### Storage

OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward at 2-8°C in the refrigerator.

### Product Description

*What it looks like*

OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is a clear colourless solution contained in a colourless glass ampoule.

*Ingredients*

Each ampoule contains either 5 or 10

- International Units of oxytocin.

It also contains:

- sodium acetate
- glacial acetic acid
- water for injections.

### Sponsor

OXYTOCIN ASPEN INJECTION is a product of:

**Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd**  
34-36 Chandos St  
St Leonards NSW 2065

**Australian Registration Numbers:**

AUST R 164131: OXYTOCIN ASPEN oxytocin 10IU per 1mL injection ampoule  
AUST R 164608: OXYTOCIN ASPEN oxytocin 5IU per 1mL injection ampoule

This leaflet was revised in February 2011.