Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% Injection

Contains 84 mg in 1 mL Sodium Bicarbonate

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Sodium Bicarbonate Injection.

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

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet
You may need to read it again.

What Sodium Bicarbonate Injection is used for

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection reduces the amount of acid in the blood.

Signs of high acid levels include headaches, weakness, tiredness, fast breathing and abnormal heart rate.

High levels of acid in the blood can be caused by diabetes, hepatitis, heart and kidney problems, shock, severe dehydration or diarrhoea, Addison's disease and malnutrition.

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection also reduces the amount of acid in the urine. It is used to speed up the removal of certain substances from the body in the case of some types of poisoning.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Sodium Bicarbonate Injection has been prescribed for you.
Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

Before you are given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection

When you must not be given it

You should not be given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing sodium bicarbonate
- 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.

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection should not be given if you have any of the following medical conditions:

- kidney disease or kidney stones
- excess sodium in the blood
- high blood pressure and high blood pressure due to pregnancy
- swelling due to excess fluid
- heart disease
- low levels of potassium in the blood
- low levels of chloride in the blood.

You should not be given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection if the solution is discoloured, cloudy, turbid, or a precipitate or particles are present.
The solution is normally a clear, colourless liquid.

You should not be given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection if it causes a precipitate, discolouration or cloudiness to form when added to an intravenous (IV) solution.

The doctor or nurse will check to ensure the medicine is not past its expiry date and has not been tampered with.

If you are not sure whether you should be given this medicine talk to your doctor.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- Liver disease

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.
Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you are given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines may interfere with Sodium Bicarbonate Injection. These include:

- diuretics or fluid tablets
- corticosteroids such as prednisone
- potassium supplements
- the heart drugs quinidine and flecainide
- amphetamines
- ephedrine and pseudoephedrine found in cold medicines
- aspirin
- barbiturates, medicines used to treat epilepsy.

These medicines may be affected by Sodium Bicarbonate Injection, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while being given this medicine.

How Sodium Bicarbonate Injection is given

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

How it is given

It is given by an injection into a vein or it is added to an intravenous (IV) solution.

How much is given

Your doctor will decide what dose of Sodium Bicarbonate Injection you will receive and for how long you will receive it. This depends on your medical condition and other factors, such as your weight.

If you are given too much (overdose)

As Sodium Bicarbonate Injection is always given to you in a hospital under the supervision of a doctor, it is unlikely that you will receive an overdose.

Symptoms of an overdose may include:

- spasms in the muscles, hands or feet
- muscle cramps
- extreme irritability
- breathing difficulties.

If you notice any symptoms of an overdose immediately contact your doctor or go to the Accident and Emergency department at the nearest hospital.

Contact the Poisons Information Centre on 13 11 26 for further advice on overdose management.

While you are being given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection

Things you must do

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you have been given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection.

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you have been given this medicine.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you have been given this medicine.
It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.
Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection.

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection may have unwanted side effects in a few 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.

Do not be alarmed by the following list of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have. If any of the following happen tell your doctor immediately:

- pain, burning or swelling at the site of injection
- extreme irritability
- muscle spasms or cramps
- breathing difficulties
- symptoms caused by low levels of potassium in the blood:
  - drowsiness
  - loss of appetite
  - muscle twitching or trembling
  - nausea or vomiting
  - unusual tiredness or weakness.

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.

Some side effects can only be found when your doctor does tests from time to time to check your progress.

After being given Sodium Bicarbonate Injection

Storage

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection will be stored in the surgery, pharmacy or ward of a hospital. The injection is kept in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 30°C.

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection will only be opened when it is time for you to have the injection.

Product description

What it looks like

Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% Injection is a clear, colourless solution in a clear glass vial sealed with a grey rubber stopper and aluminium seal with a plastic flip off cap.

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection is available in 10 mL and 100 mL vials.

Ingredients

Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% Injection contains 84 mg/mL of sodium bicarbonate in water for injections.

It also contains disodium edetate as an excipient.

This medicine does not contain gluten, lactose, sucrose, tartrazine, alcohol or any dyes or preservatives.

Manufacturer

Sodium Bicarbonate Injection is made in Australia by:

Phebra Pty Ltd
19 Orion Road,
Lane Cove West, NSW 2066,
Australia

Sodium Bicarbonate 8.4% Injection

100 mL vial, AUST R 48376
Phebra product code INJ127

10 mL vial, AUST R 131067
Phebra product code INJ099

This leaflet was last updated in November 2017.

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