

BENZATROPINE INJECTION

BENZ-troe-peen

Contains benztropine mesilate 2 mg in 2 mL

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Benztropine 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 Benztropine 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 in a safe place.

You may need to read it again.

What Benztropine Injection is used for

Benztropine Injection is used to treat some of the symptoms of parkinsonism.

The symptoms of parkinsonism include slow and unsteady movement, muscle stiffness and shaking (tremors). If untreated, parkinsonism can cause difficulty in performing normal daily activities.

Symptoms of parkinsonism can be caused by certain diseases of the brain affecting movement, such as Parkinson's disease. They can also be caused by some medicines that are used to treat certain mental conditions.

Benztropine Injection is most helpful in improving muscle stiffness and shaking.

Benztropine Injection belongs to a group of medicines called anticholinergics. It comes as an injection.

Benztropine Injection works by blocking the effects of acetylcholine, a naturally occurring chemical produced by brain cells that can interfere with the regions of the brain that control muscle movement. In many patients, this reduces the symptoms of shaking and muscle stiffness.

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.

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

Before you are given Benztropine Injection

When you must not be given it

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

- any medicine containing benztropine mesilate
- 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.

Do not give this medicine to a child under three years old.

Also, it should be used with caution in older children.

You should not be given Benztropine Injection if the solution is discoloured, cloudy, turbid, or a precipitate is present.

The solution is normally a clear, particle free 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, preservative or dyes.

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

- heart problems, such as fast heart beat
- enlarged prostate
- mental illness
- glaucoma
- uncontrolled movements of hands, mouth or tongue.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding. Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

Tell your doctor if you consume large quantities of alcohol.

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

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, health food shop, naturopath or herbalist.

Some medicines and Benztropine Injection may interfere with each other. These include:

- some medicines used to treat mental illness or psychotic disorders
- a group of medicines called tricyclic antidepressants used to treat depression
- other anticholinergic medicines, such as benzhexol, biperiden, procyclidine, orphenadrine.

These medicines may be affected by Benztropine Injection or may affect how well it works. Being given Benztropine Injection with these medicines may cause fever, heat intolerance, and stomach or bowel problems. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

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

How Benztropine Injection is given

Benztropine Injection must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

How it is given

The dose is given as an injection into a vein or a muscle.

How much is given

Your doctor will decide what dose of Benztropine Injection you will receive and how long you will receive it for. This depends on your medical condition and other factors, such as your weight, age and whether you are taking other medicines.

If you are given too much (overdose)

Symptoms of an overdose are the same as side effects but may be more severe. The symptoms of a side effect are listed under **Side effects** below. You may also have other effects, including decreased or increased reaction time, dizziness, poor coordination, muscle weakness, inability to perspire, hot and dry flushed skin, headache, breathing difficulties, fits and unconsciousness.

Also, symptoms of existing mental illness may worsen after taking an overdose.

If you notice any symptoms of an overdose immediately contact your doctor or go to the 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 Benztropine 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 Benztropine Injection.

If you become pregnant while being given this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

If you experience problems with sweating while using Benztropine Injection tell your doctor immediately.

Under certain conditions Benztropine Injection may make you perspire or sweat less, which may cause heat stroke. This may happen during hot weather, especially if you:

- drink large quantities of alcohol
- are being treated with other anticholinergic medicines for a chronic illness
- have a nervous (neurological) disorder
- will be working in a hot environment
- have an existing problem with sweating.

Your doctor may need to reduce your dose of Benztropine Injection.

Try to avoid becoming overheated during exercise or hot weather while you are using this medicine.

Benztropine Injection may make you sweat less, causing your body temperature to increase. If you overheat during exercise or hot weather you may get heat stroke.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Benztropine Injection affects you.

This medicine may cause some people to have blurred vision or to become less alert than normal. If you have any of these

symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given Benztropine Injection

This medicine helps most people with certain symptoms of parkinsonism, but it 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 attention if you get some of the side effects.

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.

Ask your doctor to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor or nurse if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- constipation
- dry mouth, or difficulty swallowing or speaking due to dry mouth
- feeling sick, also called nausea, vomiting
- loss of appetite, weight loss
- blurred vision, dilated pupils
- increased heart rate.

These are possible side effects of Benztropine Injection. These are usually mild.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- difficult or painful urination
- an allergic reaction, for example skin rash
- mood or mental changes such as depression, nervousness, unusual laziness or sleepiness, confusion, disorientation, memory loss
- numb fingers
- seeing things that are not there, also called visual hallucinations
- worsening symptoms of existing mental illness.

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are generally rare.

If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital:

- heat stroke, fever, raised body temperature
- it becomes impossible to empty your bladder (urinary retention).

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

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

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

After being given Benztropine Injection

Storage

Benztropine Injection will be stored in the surgery, pharmacy or ward of a hospital. The

injection is kept in a cool dry place protected from light where the temperature stays below 30°C.

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

Product description

What it looks like

Benztropine Injection is a clear, particle free solution in a clear glass vial sealed with a grey rubber stopper and aluminium seal with a blue plastic flip off cap.

Benztropine Injection is available in a 2mL vial.

Ingredients

Benztropine Injection contains 2 mg of benztropine mesilate in water for injection.

It also contains sodium chloride.

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

Manufacturer

Benztropine Injection is made in Australia by:

Phebra Pty Ltd
19 Orion Road, Lane Cove West,
NSW 2066, Australia.
Telephone: 1800 720 020

Benztropine Injection 2 mg/2 mL.

AUST R 276242

Phebra product code- INJ187, INJ197

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