

90X160MM

Suxamethonium Chloride Injection BP



Composition

Each ml contains:
Suxamethonium Chloride BP50mg
Benzyl Alcohol BP1.5%w/v
(as preservative)
Water for Injection BP.....q.s.

What Suxamethonium is and what it is used for

Suxamethonium belongs to a group of medicines called muscle relaxants. Their effect is to block the connection between the nerves and certain muscles, which relaxes these muscles by temporarily paralysing them. This effect helps surgeons when performing operations.

This medicine can also be used when a patient is put on a ventilator to control breathing. During this procedure, it is necessary for the muscles used for breathing to be paralysed. Suxamethonium can also reduce the intensity of muscle contractions associated with drug-induced convulsions or with electroconvulsive therapy (ECT).

What you need to know before you are given Suxamethonium

You should not be given Suxamethonium Chloride

if you are allergic to Suxamethonium chloride, any other muscle relaxants or any of the other ingredients of this medicine

if you have severe liver or kidney problems

if you have a deficiency of an enzyme, pseudocholinesterase which breaks down Suxamethonium in the body

if you have had a major accident, operation or severe burns within the last three months

if you have high levels of potassium in your blood (hyperkalaemia)

if you have recently had an eye injury

if you suffer from a problem caused by too much pressure in your eye called 'glaucoma'

if you or any of your family have a disease of the muscles or nerves, such as a muscle wasting disease, paralysis, motor neurone disease, muscular dystrophy or cerebral palsy

If any of the above apply to you or if you are not sure, talk to your doctor, nurse or member of the operating theatre staff before you are given Suxamethonium.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or nurse before you are given Suxamethonium. Suxamethonium Chloride should only be given to you by a person who is qualified to do so. It will not be used on its own to put you asleep before an operation

Talk to your doctor, nurse or member of the operating theatre staff before you are given Suxamethonium Chloride:

if you are pregnant or have given birth in the last six weeks

if you have tetanus, an infection which occurs through wound contamination

if you have tuberculosis or other severe or long standing infection

if you suffer from cancer

if you have ever had an allergic reaction to any muscle relaxant which was given as part of an operation.

if you are suffering from an imbalance in your body's blood chemistry

if you have a bone injury or muscle tightness in the area of the injury

If you are elderly (over 65 years) check with your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before having this medicine as it may be linked to a temporary problem with the rate or rhythm of the heartbeat, especially if you are also taking medicines similar to digitalis

Make sure your doctor is aware of these situations before you are given this injection.

Children

Care should be taken before administering Suxamethonium Chloride to children.

Pregnancy and Lactation:

Pregnancy

Suxamethonium Chloride should only be used during pregnancy when your doctor decides the benefits to you are greater than any possible risk to the unborn baby.

Lactation:

There is insufficient information to say whether this medicine passes in to breast milk. It is recommended not to breast feed for at least 24 hours following administration of Suxamethonium Chloride. Ask your doctor for advice before taking any medicine.

Driving and using machines:

It can be dangerous to drive or operate machinery too soon after having had an operation. Your doctor will tell you how long to wait before you can drive or use machinery.

How Suxamethonium chloride will be given to you

You will never be expected to give yourself this medicine. It will always be given to you by a person who is qualified to do so.

Suxamethonium Chloride can be given:

as a single injection into your vein (intravenous bolus injection) as a continuous infusion into your vein. This is where the drug is slowly given to you over a long period of time.

Your doctor will decide the way you are given the drug and the dose you will receive. It will depend on:

your age

your body weight

the amount of muscle relaxation you require

your expected response to the medicine.

It may be administered as an injection. The anaesthetist will make sure that you are asleep before this muscle relaxant is administered.

If you take more Suxamethonium than you should

As the injection will be administered by an anaesthetist, it is unlikely that you will be given more than is necessary. In case of an overdose, the muscle will stay relaxed for longer than required.

If you have any further questions on the use of this product ask your doctor or nurse.

Other medicines and Suxamethonium Chloride

Tell your doctor, nurse if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines. This includes any herbal products or medicines bought without a prescription. This is because these medicines can affect how well Suxamethonium Chloride works or can cause side effects.

In particular tell your doctor, nurse or member of the operating theatre staff if you are taking any of the following:

anaesthetics such as propofol, ketamine, propomid, lignocaine and procaine or other medicines used during surgery such as pain killers (morphine, pethidine and pancuronium) or drugs to reverse their effects (called morphine antagonists)

medicines for raised pressure in the eye (glaucoma) such as ecothiophate eye drops

medicines for coughs, cold, sleeping or tablets for allergies.

oral contraceptives

medicines for treating asthma and other breathing conditions e.g. terbutaline, Bambuterol.

medicines containing metoclopramide (used to treat and prevent feeling or being sick)

medicines for mental problems including phenelzine, lithium, chlorpromazine or promazine

medicines containing magnesium (such as some laxatives or antacids)

medicines containing oestrogens

medicines containing steroids (used for inflammatory conditions e.g. rheumatism etc),

oxytocin (to contract the womb).

These are not the complete list of medicines mentioned above. Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before taking any other medicines

Possible side effects

Like all medicines this medicine can cause side-effects although not everybody gets them

Inform your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience:

heart problems including changes in the way in which your heart beats or your heart stops beating

difficulty in breathing or temporary loss of breath

The following side effects have also been reported:

Very common (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

abdominal cramps or pain and a feeling of nausea or "fullness"

visible twitching of muscle under the skin

excessive production of saliva

muscle pain after the operation - your doctor will monitor you for this.

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

raised pressure of fluid in the eye which may cause headache or blurred vision

speeding up or slowing down of your heart rate

skin flushing

skin rash

laboratory tests revealing high level of potassium in your blood

high/low blood pressure.

When you wake up after the anaesthetic, if you notice any of the side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. If you notice any other effects, check with your doctor or nurse.

How to store Suxamethonium

Storage: Store at a temperature between 2°C and 8°C. Do not freeze.

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