

## Product Information

### PHENERGAN INJECTION<sup>®</sup>

#### Name of the Medicine

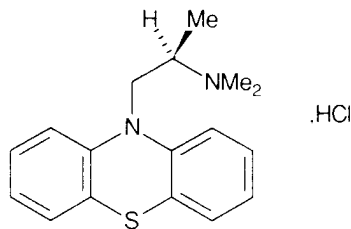
Phenergan Injections

#### Non-proprietary Name

Promethazine hydrochloride

#### Chemical Structure

Promethazine hydrochloride has the following structural formula:



#### CAS Number

Chemical Abstracts Number: [58-33-3]

#### Description

Promethazine hydrochloride is a white or faintly yellow, practically odourless, crystalline powder. It is very soluble in water, freely soluble in alcohol and in chloroform, and practically insoluble in ether.

Phenergan Injections contain 25mg of promethazine hydrochloride. The aqueous solution also contains sodium sulphite and sodium metabisulphite.

#### Pharmacology

Promethazine is a long acting antihistamine with mild atropine-like anticholinergic effects and because of its marked effect on the central nervous system (CNS), it acts as an antiemetic, hypnotic, tranquilliser, and a potentiator of anaesthetics, hypnotics, sedatives and analgesics.

#### Pharmacokinetics

Promethazine crosses the blood-brain barrier and the placenta, and is distributed into breast milk. It is highly bound to plasma proteins (76-93%). Promethazine undergoes extensive metabolism, predominantly to promethazine sulfoxide, and also to *N*-desmethylpromethazine. It is excreted slowly via the urine and bile, mainly as metabolites.

Elimination half-lives of 5 to 14 hours have been reported. The antihistamine action has been reported to be between 4 and 12 hours.

## Indications

Allergies: Treatment of allergic conditions including allergic reactions to drugs, urticaria, atopic dermatitis and contact dermatitis, and insect bites.

Upper respiratory tract: Relief of excessive secretion in the upper respiratory tract as a result of hayfever allergic rhinitis and the common cold.

Nausea and vomiting: Antiemetic for vomiting from various causes, including postoperative vomiting, irradiation sickness, drug induced nausea and motion sickness. Promethazine can be used for preanaesthetic medication.

## Contraindications

Promethazine is contraindicated for use in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to the drug substance, substances of similar chemical structure or hypersensitivity to the other ingredients.

Promethazine is contraindicated for use in:

- newborns or premature infants
- children under 2 years of age (see Precautions)
- lactating women
- patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) (see Interactions with Other Drugs)
- jaundice induced by other phenothiazine derivatives
- patients who have received high doses of other CNS depressants and/or are comatose.

Refer to 'Interactions with Other Drugs' for additional information.

## Precautions

Promethazine may cause drowsiness and may increase the effects of alcohol. Drowsiness may continue the following day. Those affected should not drive or operate machinery; alcohol should be avoided.

Caution is advised in patients with:

- cardiovascular disease
- impaired hepatic function
- acute or chronic respiratory impairment
- renal impairment
- epilepsy
- hypertensive crisis
- narrow-angle glaucoma
- stenosing peptic ulcer
- symptomatic prostatic hypertrophy
- bladder neck obstruction
- pyloroduodenal obstruction.

Refer to 'Interactions with Other Drugs' for additional information.

QT interval prolongation has been reported with phenothiazines.

### **Use in Pregnancy (Category C)**

Promethazine, owing to its pharmacological effects, has caused or may be suspected of causing, harmful effects on the human foetus or neonate without causing malformations. These effects may be reversible.

When promethazine has been given in high doses during late pregnancy, promethazine has caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the infant.

Promethazine should be used in pregnancy only if the potential benefits to the patient are weighed against the possible risk to the foetus.

### **Use in Lactation**

Promethazine is excreted in breast milk. Therefore it should not be used for breastfeeding women.

### **Paediatric Use**

Children may experience paradoxical excitation with promethazine.

The use of promethazine should be avoided in children and adolescents with signs and symptoms suggestive of Reye's Syndrome.

This product should not be used in children under 2 years of age, due to the potential for fatal respiratory depression.

Caution should be exercised when administering promethazine to children, as there is potential for central and obstructive apnoea and reduced arousal. Excessive dosages of antihistamines in children may cause hallucinations, convulsions and sudden death.

### **Use in the Elderly**

The elderly may experience paradoxical excitation with promethazine. The elderly are more likely to have CNS depressive side effects, including confusion and are more susceptible to the antimuscarinic effects antihistamines, including hypotension (see Contraindications).

### **Interactions with Other Drugs**

Promethazine may cause drowsiness and may enhance the sedative effects of CNS depressants (including alcohol, barbiturates, hypnotics, opioid analgesics, anxiolytic sedatives and neuroleptics), and have additive antimuscarinic actions with other antimuscarinic drugs (atropine, tricyclic antidepressants). Interactions between promethazine and monoamine oxidase inhibitors and tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) may prolong and intensify the anticholinergic and CNS depressive effects.

### **Warnings**

Parenteral administration: The drug should not be administered by the subcutaneous route. When used intravenously, extreme care should be exercised to avoid extravasation or inadvertent intra-arterial injection.

Hypertensive crisis: Promethazine should be used with caution, if at all, in these patients.

Epilepsy: Epileptic patients may experience increased severity of convulsions.

## Adverse Effects

### CNS Effects

CNS depressive effects of promethazine include sedation and impaired performance (impaired driving performance, poor work performance, incoordination, reduced motor skills, and impaired information processing). Performance may be impaired in the absence of sedation and may persist the morning after a night-time dose.

The CNS stimulatory effects of promethazine may include anxiety, hallucinations, appetite stimulation, muscle dyskinesias and activation of epileptogenic foci.

High doses of promethazine may cause nervousness, tremor, insomnia, agitation, and irritability.

### Anticholinergic Effects

Side effects of promethazine associated with cholinergic blockage include dryness of the eyes, mouth and nose, blurred vision, urinary hesitancy and retention, constipation and tachycardia.

### More common reactions

<u>Gastrointestinal</u> :	Dry mouth, epigastric distress, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, constipation
<u>Nervous system</u> :	Sedation, restlessness, dizziness, lassitude, incoordination, fatigue
<u>Ocular</u> :	Blurred vision

### Less common reactions

<u>Cardiovascular</u> :	Tachycardia, bradycardia, faintness
<u>Dermatological</u> :	Contact dermatitis (topical), pruritus, photosensitisation, urticaria, angioneurotic oedema
<u>Haematological</u> :	Leucopenia, agranulocytosis, aplastic anaemia, thrombocytopenic purpura
<u>Hepatic</u> :	Jaundice
<u>Musculoskeletal</u> :	Extrapyramidal symptoms
<u>Nervous system</u> :	Tinnitus, euphoria, nervousness, insomnia, convulsive seizures, oculogyric crises, excitation, catatonic-like states, hysteria, extrapyramidal symptoms, tardive dyskinesia
<u>Respiratory</u> :	Marked irregular respiration

### Severe or life-threatening reactions

Agranulocytosis, anaphylaxis: Care is needed in the intramuscular administration of promethazine to children. A severe neurological reaction resulting in coma is possible.

## Dosage and Administration

Parenteral administration: The drug should not be administered by the subcutaneous route. When used intravenously, extreme care should be exercised to avoid extravasation or inadvertent intra-arterial injection.

### Use in Children

This product should not be used in children under 2 years of age (see Precautions). Dosage varies according to the condition being treated and the individual's response.

### Intramuscular Dosage

*Allergic disorders*      Adults:                    25 to 50 mg

*Premedication*            Adults:                    25 to 50 mg one to two hours before surgery.  
Children: 12 to 16 years: 12.5 to 25 mg as above.

### Obstetric Sedation

12.5 to 15 mg:              Repeat every four to six hours if required when labour well established.  
Maximum daily dose is 100 mg / 24 hours.

### Travel Sickness

Adults:                      25 to 50 mg.  
Children:                    6 to 12 years: 12.5 mg.

## Overdosage

In case of overdose, immediately contact the Poisons Information Centre (in Australia, call 13 11 26) for advice.

The chief sign of an overdose of Phenergan is unconsciousness, which is commonly delayed. In addition, convulsions, hallucinations, delirium, acute anxiety, psychotic reactions, extreme hyperaesthesia and hyperalgesia with extensor plantar responses may occur. Anticholinergic action may cause tachycardia, flushed skin, dry mouth and sometimes mydriasis.

In adults, CNS depression is more common with drowsiness, coma, convulsions, progressing to respiratory failure or cardiovascular collapse.

In infants and children, CNS stimulation predominates over CNS depression causing ataxia, excitement, tremors, psychoses, hallucinations, convulsions and possibly hyperpyrexia, which may be followed by deepening coma and cardiorespiratory collapse.

## Treatment

Similar to that of other phenothiazines.

Symptomatic supportive therapy is indicated and maintenance of adequate ventilation should be instituted if necessary.

**Presentation**

Injection, 25mg/mL  
1mL ampoules  
Available in packs of 10.

**Name and Address of the Sponsor**

Aventis Pharma Pty Ltd  
27 Sirius Road  
Lane Cove NSW 2066  
Australia

**Poison Schedule of the Medicine**

Injection: S4.

**Date of Approval**

[This Product Information was Grandfathered  
and has not been evaluated by the Therapeutic Goods Administration]

[Date of most recent amendment: 17 September 1999]

[Date of safety-related notification: 27 April 2006]