

Consumer Medicine Information

HYDROXOCOBALAMIN ABM

Hydroxocobalamin acetate (vitamin B₁₂) injection 1 mg/mL

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Hydroxocobalamin ABM Injection.

It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Hydroxocobalamin ABM against the benefits expected for you.

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

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What Hydroxocobalamin ABM is used for

Hydroxocobalamin ABM contains the active ingredient hydroxocobalamin (vitamin B₁₂).

Vitamin B₁₂ is important for the function of several key body enzymes. It is needed for physical growth and development and for the formation of red blood cells in the bone marrow. This vitamin is also needed for the body to absorb folic acid and carbohydrates in the diet and for keeping the nervous system healthy.

Only small daily amounts of vitamin B₁₂ are required. Deficiency of vitamin B₁₂ may take months or years to develop, but eventually leads to anaemia, a condition in which the amount of oxygen-carrying pigment (haemoglobin) in the blood is reduced. Symptoms of vitamin B₁₂ deficiency anaemia include sore mouth and tongue, numbness and tingling in the arms and legs, memory loss and depression. The most common type of vitamin B₁₂ deficiency anaemia is Addisonian pernicious anaemia, in which absorption of vitamin B₁₂ from the stomach does not take place properly.

Hydroxocobalamin ABM is used to replace the body's low vitamin B₁₂ levels caused by:

- Addisonian pernicious anaemia
- Other vitamin B deficiency anaemias
- Stomach surgery
- Strict vegetarianism

Hydroxocobalamin ABM is also used to treat tobacco amblyopia (smoker's blindness) and another eye condition called Leber's optic atrophy.

Your doctor, however, may have prescribed Hydroxocobalamin ABM for another purpose.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Hydroxocobalamin ABM has been prescribed for you.

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Before you are given Hydroxocobalamin ABM

When you must not be given it

Do not take Hydroxocobalamin ABM if:

1. **you have had an allergic reaction to hydroxocobalamin or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**
2. **the packaging or ampoule containing Hydroxocobalamin ABM is torn or shows signs of tampering, or if the solution is discoloured or cloudy.**
3. **the expiry date printed 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 start receiving Hydroxocobalamin ABM

Tell your doctor if:

1. **you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant**
Hydroxocobalamin ABM can be used to treat vitamin B₁₂ deficiency anaemia occurring during pregnancy (except for a conditions called megaloblastic anaemia).
2. **you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed**
It is not known whether hydroxocobalamin passes into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using hydroxocobalamin if you are breast-feeding.
3. **you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives**

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, please do so before being given Hydroxocobalamin ABM.

Taking other medicines

Some medicines may affect the way others work. Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you have bought from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

If you are taking any of the following types of medicines, please tell your doctor before having Hydroxocobalamin ABM:

- Chloramphenicol
- Antibiotics (antibacterials) for any type of infection
- Antimetabolites (medicines used to treat cancer)

Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to tell you more about what to do when you are given Hydroxocobalamin ABM while taking other medicines.

How Hydroxocobalamin ABM is given

How much you will be given

Your doctor will tell you how many Hydroxocobalamin ABM injections you need and how often.

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For Addisonian pernicious anaemia and most other types of vitamin B₁₂ deficiency anaemia, providing your nervous system is not affected, the usual dose is 250 micrograms to 1000 micrograms every second day for up to two weeks, then 250 micrograms once a week until your vitamin B₁₂ levels are normal. A 1000 microgram injection is often given every two to three months to keep your vitamin B₁₂ levels in the normal range. If your nervous system has been affected, the starting dose is 1000 micrograms every second day, then 1000 micrograms every two months, providing your condition is improving.

For vitamin B₁₂ deficiency anaemia caused by stomach surgery, stomach disorders in which vitamin B₁₂ is not absorbed normally and strict vegetarianism, the usual dose is 1000 micrograms every two to three months.

If you have smoker's blindness or Leber's optic atrophy, the usual starting dose is at least 1000 micrograms given every day for two weeks, then twice weekly, providing you are responding well. Your doctor may then give you a 1000 microgram injection once a month.

Depending on the disorder you are being given Hydroxocobalamin ABM for, you may need regular injections long term.

Your doctor may do regular blood tests to make sure Hydroxocobalamin ABM is working effectively for you.

How it is given

Hydroxocobalamin ABM is given as an injection into a muscle, vein or under the skin by a doctor or nurse.

In case of an overdose

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Hydroxocobalamin ABM. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

If you are not sure what to do, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

While you are receiving Hydroxocobalamin ABM

Things you must do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given Hydroxocobalamin ABM.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while receiving Hydroxocobalamin ABM.

Tell your doctor if you feel that Hydroxocobalamin ABM is not helping your condition.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

Things you must not do

Do not take any other medicines whether they require a prescription or not without first telling your doctor or consulting a pharmacist.

Things to be careful of

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Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Hydroxocobalamin ABM affects you.

Side effects

All medicines can have unwanted side effects. Sometimes they are serious, but often they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

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

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are receiving Hydroxocobalamin ABM.

If you think Hydroxocobalamin ABM is causing you to have an allergic (hypersensitivity) reaction, TELL YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY. Symptoms include:

- Severe skin rash, itching or hives
- Swelling of the face, lips mouth or throat
- Difficulty breathing or swallowing
- Nausea
- Dizziness
- Fever, chills
- Hot flushes
- Low blood pressure (feeling faint or dizzy)

Very occasionally, Hydroxocobalamin ABM can cause a sudden severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) soon after the injection. You should not leave your doctor's surgery after a Hydroxocobalamin ABM injection until your doctor tells you to.

Tell your doctor if you notice any unusual acne-like eruptions on your skin.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not mentioned in this leaflet.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything about the possible side effects of Hydroxocobalamin ABM.

After being given Hydroxocobalamin ABM

Storage

Hydroxocobalamin ABM is usually stored at a doctor's surgery, hospital or pharmacy. It should be stored at or below 25°C and protected from light.

Product description

What Hydroxocobalamin ABM looks like

Hydroxocobalamin ABM is a clear, red solution supplied in a single-dose ampoule.

Ingredients

Hydroxocobalamin acetate, sodium chloride, sodium acetate, acetic acid, Water for Injection

Further information

Consumer Medicine Information

Your doctor is the best person to give you advice on the treatment of your condition. You may also be able to find general information about its treatment from other sources, for example, books in public libraries and on the Internet.

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