

DEPO TESTOSTERONE

Testosterone cypionate injection, USP, 100mg per ml.

Presentation

DEPO TESTOSTERONE is a slightly yellow viscous solution available in vials containing 100 mg/ml testosterone cypionate injection, USP.

Uses

Actions

Endogenous androgens are responsible for normal growth and development of the male sex organs and the maintenance of secondary sex characteristics. These effects include growth and maturation of the prostate, seminal vesicles, penis, and scrotum; development of male hair distribution, such as beard, pubic, chest, and axillary hair; laryngeal enlargement, vocal cord thickening, and alterations in body musculature and fat distribution. Drugs in this class also cause retention of nitrogen, sodium, potassium, and phosphorus, and decreased urinary excretion of calcium. Androgens have been reported to increase protein anabolism and decrease protein catabolism. Nitrogen balance is improved only when there is sufficient intake of calories and protein.

Androgens are responsible for the growth spurt of adolescence and the eventual termination on linear growth, brought about by fusion of the epiphyseal growth centres. In children, exogenous androgens accelerate linear growth rates, but may cause disproportionate advancement in bone maturation. Use over long periods may result in fusion of the epiphyseal growth centres and termination of the growth process. Androgens have been reported to stimulate production of red blood cells by enhancing production of erythropoietic stimulation factor.

During exogenous administration of androgens, endogenous testosterone release is inhibited through feedback inhibition of pituitary luteinizing hormone (LH). At large doses of exogenous androgens, spermatogenesis may also be suppressed through feedback inhibition of pituitary follicle stimulating hormone (FSH).

There is a lack of substantial evidence that androgens are effective in fractures, surgery, convalescence, and functional uterine bleeding.

Pharmacokinetics

Testosterone esters are less polar than free testosterone. Testosterone esters in oil injected intramuscularly are absorbed slowly from the lipid phase; thus, testosterone cypionate can be given at intervals of two to four weeks.

Testosterone in plasma is 98 percent bound to a specific testosterone-estradiol binding globulin, and about 2 percent is free. Generally, the amount of this sex-hormone binding globulin in the plasma will determine the distribution of the testosterone between free and bound forms, and the free testosterone concentration will determine its half-life.

About 90 percent of a dose of testosterone is excreted in the urine as glucuronic and sulphuric acid conjugates of testosterone and its metabolites; about 6 percent of a dose is excreted in the

faeces, mostly in the unconjugated form. Inactivation of testosterone occurs primarily in the liver. Testosterone is metabolised to various 17-keto steroids through two different pathways. The half-life of testosterone cypionate when injected intra-muscularly is approximately eight days.

In the many tissues the activity of testosterone appears to depend on reduction to dihydrotestosterone, which binds to cytosol receptor proteins. The steroid-receptor complex is transported to the nucleus where it initiates transcription events and cellular changes related to androgen action.

Indications

DEPO-TESTOSTERONE Sterile Solution is indicated for replacement therapy in the male in conditions associated with symptoms of deficiency or absence of endogenous testosterone.

1. Primary hypogonadism (congenital or acquired)-testicular failure due to cryptorchidism, bilateral torsion, orchitis, vanishing testis syndrome; or orchidectomy.
2. Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism (congenital or acquired)-idiopathic gonadotropin or LHRH deficiency, or pituitary-hypothalamic injury from tumours, trauma, or radiation.

Dosage and Administration

DEPO-TESTOSTERONE Sterile Solution is for intramuscular use only. It should not be given intravenously. Intramuscular injections should be given deep in the gluteal muscle.

The suggested dosage for DEPO-TESTOSTERONE Sterile Solution varies depending on the age, sex, and diagnosis of the individual patient. Dosage is adjusted according to the patient's response and the appearance of adverse reactions.

Various dosage regimens have been used to induce pubertal changes in hypogonadal males; some experts have advocated lower dosages initially, gradually increasing the dose as puberty progresses, with or without a decrease to maintenance levels. Other experts emphasise that higher dosages are needed to induce pubertal changes and lower dosages can be used for maintenance after puberty. The chronological and skeletal ages must be taken into consideration, both in determining the initial dose and in adjusting the dose.

For replacement in the hypogonadal male, 50-400 mg should be administered every two to four weeks.

Parenteral drug product should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. Warming and shaking the vial should redissolve any crystals that may have formed during storage at temperatures lower than recommended.

Contraindications

Known hypersensitivity to the drug.

Males with carcinoma of the breast.

Males with known or suspected carcinoma of the prostate gland.

Women who are or who may become pregnant.

Patients with serious cardiac, hepatic or renal disease.

Warnings and Precautions

Hypercalcaemia may occur in immobilised patients. If this occurs, the drug should be discontinued.

Prolonged use of high doses of androgens (principally the 17- α alkyl-androgens) has been associated with development of hepatic adenomas, hepatocellular carcinoma, and peliosis hepatis - all potentially life-threatening complications.

Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk of developing prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma although conclusive evidence to support this concept is lacking.

Oedema with or without congestive heart failure, may be a serious complication in patients with pre-existing cardiac, renal or hepatic disease.

Gynaecomastia may develop and occasionally persists in patients being treated for hypogonadism.

This product contains benzyl alcohol. Benzyl alcohol has been reported to be associated with a fatal "Gasping Syndrome" in premature infants.

Androgen therapy should be used cautiously in healthy males with delayed puberty. The effect on bone maturation should be monitored by assessing bone age of the wrist and hand every 6 months. In children, androgen treatment may accelerate bone maturation without producing compensatory gain in linear growth. This adverse effect may result in compromised adult stature. The younger the child the greater the risk of compromising final mature height.

This drug has not been shown to be safe and effective for the enhancement of athletic performance. Because of the potential risk of serious adverse health effects, this drug should not be used for such purpose.

General: Patients with benign prostatic hypertrophy may develop acute urethral obstruction.

Priapism or excessive sexual stimulation may develop. Oligospermia may occur after prolonged administration or excessive dosage. If any of these effects appear, the androgen should be stopped and if restarted, a lower dosage should be utilised.

Testosterone cypionate should not be used interchangeably with testosterone propionate because of differences in duration of action.

Testosterone cypionate is not for intravenous use.

Information For Patients: Patients should be instructed to report any of the following: nausea, vomiting, changes in skin colour, ankle swelling, too frequent or persistent erections of the penis.

Laboratory Tests: Haemoglobin and haematocrit levels (to detect polycythaemia) should be checked periodically in patients receiving long-term androgen administration.

Serum cholesterol may increase during androgen therapy.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interferences: Androgens may decrease levels of thyroxine-binding globulin, resulting in decreased total T4 serum levels and increased resin uptake of T3 and T4. Free thyroid hormone levels remain unchanged, however, and there is no clinical evidence of thyroid dysfunction.

Carcinogenesis

Animal Data: Testosterone has been tested by subcutaneous injection and implantation in mice and rats. The implant induced cervical-uterine tumours in mice, which metastasised in some cases. There is suggestive evidence that injection of testosterone into some strains of female mice increases their susceptibility to hepatoma. Testosterone is also known to increase the numbers of tumours and decrease the degree of differentiation of chemically-induced carcinomas of the liver in rats.

Human Data: There are rare reports of hepatocellular carcinoma in patients receiving long-term therapy with androgens in high doses. Withdrawal of the drugs did not lead to regression of the tumours in all cases.

Geriatric patients treated with androgens may be at an increased risk of developing prostatic hypertrophy and prostatic carcinoma although conclusive evidence to support this concept is lacking.

Pregnancy: DEPO-TESTOSTERONE is contraindicated in women who are or who may become pregnant.

Nursing Mothers: DEPO-TESTOSTERONE is not recommended for use in nursing mothers.

Paediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in paediatric patients below the age of 12 years have not been established.

Adverse Effects

The following adverse reactions in the male have occurred with some androgens:

Endocrine and urogenital: Gynaecomastia and excessive frequency and duration of penile erections. Oligospermia may occur at high dosages.

Skin and appendages: Hirsutism, male pattern of baldness, seborrhoea, and acne.

Fluid and electrolyte disturbances: Retention of sodium, chloride, water, potassium, calcium and inorganic phosphates.

Gastrointestinal: Nausea, cholestatic jaundice, alterations in liver function tests, rarely hepatocellular neoplasms and peliosis hepatis (See Warnings).

Haematologic: Suppression of clotting factors II, V, VII and X, bleeding in patients on concomitant anticoagulant therapy, and polycythaemia.

Nervous system: Increased or decreased libido, headache, anxiety, depression, and generalised paraesthesia.

Allergic: Hypersensitivity, including skin manifestations and anaphylactoid reactions.

Miscellaneous: Inflammation and pain at the site of intra-muscular injection.

Interactions

Androgens may increase sensitivity of oral anticoagulants. Dosage of the anticoagulant may require reduction in order to maintain satisfactory therapeutic hypoprothrombinaemia.

Concurrent administration of oxyphenbutazone and androgens may result in elevated serum levels of oxyphenbutazone.

In diabetic patients, the metabolic effects of androgens may decrease blood glucose and, therefore, insulin requirements.

Overdosage

There have been no reports of acute overdosage with the androgens.

Pharmaceutical Precautions

Store at controlled room temperature (20-25°C) and protect from light.

Medicine Classification

Prescription medicine.

Package Quantities

DEPO-TESTOSTERONE is available in 10 ml multi-dose vials.

Further Information

DEPO-TESTOSTERONE contains testosterone cypionate, benzyl benzoate, cottonseed oil, and benzyl alcohol.

Name and Address

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Toll free number: 0800 736 363

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