

# **Nauzene**

Cyclizine hydrochloride tablets 50 mg

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## **Presentation**

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White, circular, biconvex, uncoated tablets with a score line on one side and plain on the other.

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## **Uses**

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### **Actions**

The active ingredient-cyclizine is a piperazine derivative with the general properties of H<sub>1</sub>-blocking drugs but is used as an anti-emetic in a variety of clinical situations including drug-induced and motion sickness, vertigo, post-operative vomiting and radiation sickness. The mechanism of the anti-emetic effect is unclear. Cyclizine also possesses anticholinergic activity but does not have marked sedative effects.

### **Pharmacokinetics**

H1-blockers are well absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract. Following oral administration effects develop within 30 minutes, are maximal within 1-2 hours and last, for cyclizine, for 4-6 hours. Cyclizine is extensively N-demethylated to norcyclizine which is widely distributed throughout the tissues and has a plasma half-life of less than 1 day.

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## **Indications**

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Nauzene is indicated for the prevention and treatment of nausea and vomiting including:

- motion sickness
- nausea and vomiting caused by narcotic analgesics and by general anaesthetics in the post-operative period
- radiotherapy, especially for breast cancer since cyclizine does not elevate prolactin levels.

Nauzene may be of value in relieving vomiting and attacks of vertigo associated with Meniere's disease and other forms of vestibular disturbance.

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## **Dosage and Administration**

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Adults and children over 12 Years: One tablet up to three times daily.

Children 6 – 12 Years: Half a tablet up to three times daily.

Children under 6 years: Not recommended.

Use in the Elderly: There have been no specific studies of cyclizine in the elderly. Experience has indicated that normal adult dosage is appropriate.

To prevent travel sickness, Nauzene should be taken 30 minutes before departure.

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## **Contraindications**

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Nauzene should not be given to individuals with known hypersensitivity to cyclizine.

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## **Warnings and Precautions**

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As with other anticholinergic agents, cyclizine should be used with caution and appropriate monitoring in patients with glaucoma, obstructive disease of the gastrointestinal tract and in males with possible prostatic hypertrophy.

Cyclizine should be used with caution in patients with severe heart failure. In such patients, cyclizine may cause a fall in cardiac output associated with increases in heart rate, mean arterial pressure and pulmonary wedge pressure.

There have been no specific studies in hepatic and/or renal dysfunction.

Cyclizine was not mutagenic in a full Ames test, including use of S9-microsomes.

No long-term studies have been conducted in animals to determine whether cyclizine has a potential for carcinogenesis.

### ***Pregnancy and Lactation [Category A]***

Some animal studies are interpreted as indicating that cyclizine may be teratogenic.

In a study involving prolonged administration of cyclizine to male and female rats there was no evidence of impaired fertility after continuous treatment for 90 to 100 days. There is no experience of the effect of cyclizine on human fertility.

In the absence of any definitive human data, the use of cyclizine in pregnancy is not advised.

It is not known whether cyclizine or its metabolites are excreted in human milk.

### ***Effects on Ability to Drive and Use Machines***

Studies designed to detect drowsiness did not reveal sedation in healthy adults who took a single oral therapeutic dose (50 mg) of cyclizine.

Patients should not drive or operate machinery until they have determined their own response.

Although there are no data available, patients should be cautioned that cyclizine may have additive effects with alcohol and other central nervous system depressants, e.g. hypnotics and tranquillisers.

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## Interactions

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Cyclizine may have additive effects with alcohol and other central nervous system depressants e.g. hypnotics, tranquillisers. Cyclizine enhances the soporific effect of pethidine. Because of its anticholinergic activity cyclizine may enhance the side-effects of other anticholinergic drugs.

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## Adverse Effects

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**Eye disorders:** oculogyric crisis

**Hepatobiliary disorders:** hepatic dysfunction, hypersensitivity hepatitis, cholestatic jaundice and cholestatic hepatitis.

**Musculoskeletal and connective tissue disorders:** twitching, muscle spasms

**Nervous System Disorders:** somnolence, headache, dystonia, dyskinesia, extrapyramidal motor disturbances, tremor, convulsions, dizziness, decreased consciousness, transient speech disorders, paraesthesia

**Psychiatric disorders:** disorientation, agitation

**Respiratory, thoracic and mediastinal disorders:** bronchospasm, apnoea

**Skin and subcutaneous tissue disorders:** urticaria, drug rash, angioedema

**Vascular Disorders:** hypertension, hypotension

Urticaria, drug rash, drowsiness, dryness of the mouth, nose and throat, blurred vision, tachycardia, urinary retention, constipation, restlessness, nervousness, insomnia and auditory and visual hallucinations have been reported, particularly when dosage recommendations have been exceeded. Other Central Nervous System effects which have been recorded rarely include dystonia, dyskinesia, extrapyramidal motor disturbances, tremor, twitching, muscle spasms, convulsions, disorientation, dizziness, decreased consciousness and transient speech disorders. Cholestatic jaundice has occurred in association with cyclizine. Single case reports have been documented of fixed drug eruption, generalised chorea, hypersensitivity hepatitis and agranulocytosis.

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## Overdosage

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**Symptoms:** Symptoms of acute toxicity from cyclizine arise from peripheral anticholinergic effects and effects on the central nervous system.

Peripheral anticholinergic symptoms include, dry mouth, nose and throat, blurred vision, tachycardia and urinary retention. Central nervous system effects include drowsiness, dizziness, inco-ordination, ataxia, weakness, hyperexcitability, disorientation, impaired judgement, hallucinations, hyperkinesia, extrapyramidal motor disturbances, convulsions, hyperpyrexia and respiratory depression.

An oral dose of 5 mg/kg is likely to be associated with at least one of the clinical symptoms stated above. Younger children are more susceptible to convulsions. The incidence of convulsions, in children less than 5 years, is about 60% when the oral dose ingested exceeds 40 mg/kg.

**Treatment:** In the management of acute overdosage with cyclizine, gastric lavage and supportive measures for respiration and circulation should be performed if necessary. Convulsions should be controlled in the usual way with parenteral anticonvulsant therapy.

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## Storage

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Store below 25°C.

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## Medicines Classification

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Pharmacist Only Medicine

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## Package Quantities

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Blister packs of 20 tablets.

Bottles of 100 tablets.

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## Name and Address of Sponsor

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Arrow Pharmaceuticals (NZ) Limited  
Mount Eden Central Business Park  
33a Normanby Road, Mt Eden  
Auckland, New Zealand

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## Date of preparation:

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5 August 2011