

PENICILLIN G SODIUM[®]

benzylpenicillin (as benzylpenicillin sodium)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Penicillin G Sodium. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your pharmacist or doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Penicillin G Sodium against the benefits this medicine expected to have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

What Penicillin G Sodium is used for

Penicillin G Sodium is an antibiotic used to treat some infections in different parts of the body caused by bacteria.

Penicillin G Sodium may also be used to prevent infections before, during and after surgery.

Penicillin G Sodium will not work against infections caused by viruses, such as colds or the flu.

Penicillin G Sodium is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called penicillins. These antibiotics work by killing the bacteria that are causing your infection.

Your doctor may have prescribed Penicillin G Sodium for another reason.

Ask your doctor why Penicillin G Sodium has been prescribed for you.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

There is no evidence that Penicillin G Sodium is addictive.

Before you are given Penicillin G Sodium

When you must not be given it

Do not take Penicillin G Sodium if:

- **you have allergy to Penicillin G Sodium or other penicillins.**
Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching and difficult breathing.
- **you have had an allergic reaction to cephalosporins.**
- **the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**
- **the expiry date printed on the pack or vial, has passed. If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work.**

If you are not sure whether you should be given Penicillin G Sodium, talk to your doctor.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if:

1. **you have allergy to Penicillin G Sodium or any other penicillin.**
2. **you have had any type of allergic reaction to cephalosporin medicines**
You may have an increased chance of being allergic to Penicillin G Sodium if you are allergic to cephalosporins.
3. **you have any allergies to any other medicines or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.**
This may include medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.
4. **you have or have ever had any other health problems/medical conditions, including asthma, kidney or liver disease.**
5. **you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.**
Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Penicillin G Sodium during pregnancy.
6. **you are breastfeeding or plan to breast-feed.**
Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Penicillin G Sodium when breast-feeding.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking Penicillin G Sodium.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a

prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with Penicillin G Sodium. These include probenecid (Benemid) and some antibiotics e.g. tetracyclines, erythromycin and chloramphenicol.

These medicines may be affect Penicillin G Sodium and how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Some antibiotics may decrease the effectiveness of some birth control pills. Talk to your doctor about the need for an additional method of contraception while taking Penicillin G Sodium.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Penicillin G Sodium.

How Penicillin G Sodium is given

Penicillin G Sodium may be given in two ways:

- as a slow injection into a vein
- as a deep injection into a large muscle

Penicillin G Sodium must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

Your doctor will decide what dose and for how long you will receive Penicillin G Sodium. This depends on your infection and other factors, such as your weight. For most infections, Penicillin G Sodium is usually given in divided doses throughout the day. Sometimes only a single dose of Penicillin G Sodium is required for the treatment and prevention of certain infections.

Each Penicillin G Sodium vial is used for one dose in one patient only.

Any remaining contents must be discarded after each dose to reduce microbiological contamination.

If you take too much (overdose)

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

You may need urgent medical attention.

This rarely happens as Penicillin G Sodium is administered under the care of a highly trained doctor. However, if you are given too much Penicillin G Sodium, you may experience some of the effects listed under 'Side Effects' below.

Your doctor has information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor if you have any concerns.

While you are using Penicillin G Sodium

Things you must do

If the symptoms of your infection do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

If you develop itching with swelling or skin rash or difficulty breathing after you have been given Penicillin G Sodium, contact your doctor immediately as these are symptoms of an allergic reaction.

If you get severe diarrhoea, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after Penicillin G Sodium has been stopped.

Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

If you get a sore white mouth or tongue after you have been given Penicillin G Sodium, tell your doctor.

Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge. This may mean you have a fungal infection called thrush.

Sometimes the use of Penicillin G Sodium allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms to occur. Penicillin G Sodium does not work against fungi.

If you become pregnant while you are taking Penicillin G Sodium tell your doctor.

If you are about to start taking any new medicine, tell your doctor and pharmacist that you have been given Penicillin G Sodium.

If you have to have any tests tell your doctor you have been given Penicillin G Sodium. Penicillin G Sodium may affect the results of some tests.

Tell any doctor, dentist or pharmacist who is treating you that you have been given Penicillin G Sodium.

Things to be careful of

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Penicillin G Sodium affects you.

Penicillin G Sodium generally does not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, as with many other medicines, Penicillin G Sodium may cause dizziness, drowsiness, and tiredness in some people.

Side effects

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you have any problems while taking Penicillin G Sodium, even if you do not think the problems are connected with the medicine or are not listed in this leaflet.

Like other medicines, Penicillin G Sodium can cause some side effects.

If they occur, most are likely to be minor and temporary.

However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

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

While being given Penicillin G Sodium

Tell your doctor IMMEDIATELY or go to casualty at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- a severe rash
- wheezing
- palpitations
- feeling faint

These are very serious side effects. If you have any of these side effects, you may be having a serious allergic reaction to Penicillin G Sodium.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything of the following:

- oral thrush - white, furry, sore
- tongue and mouth
- vaginal thrush - sore and itchy
- vagina and/or discharge
- a mild rash.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.

These include very rare case of brain, blood and kidney disease.

After finishing Penicillin G Sodium

An illness consisting of a rash, swollen glands, joint pains and fever may occur about a week after the treatment.

Tell your doctor IMMEDIATELY if you notice any of the following side effects, particularly if they occur several weeks after finishing treatment with Penicillin G Sodium:

- severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps
- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody

- fever, in combination with one or both of the above

These are rare but serious side effects. Penicillin G Sodium can change bacteria (which are normally present in the bowel and normally harmless) to multiply and therefore cause the above symptoms. You may need urgent medical attention.

However, this side effect is rare.

Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

Tell your doctor if you notice any other side effects.

After using Penicillin G Sodium

Storage

Penicillin G Sodium will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The powder for injection is kept protected from light in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Do not use Penicillin G Sodium after the expiry date on the label.

Product description

What it looks like

Penicillin G Sodium is a white to off-white powder that has to be dissolved in water before it is injected.

Ingredients

Benzylpenicillin (as benzylpenicillin sodium), 1 million IU (0.6 g), 5 million IU (3 g) or 10 million IU (6 g)

Penicillin G Sodium does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Supplier

Penicillin G Sodium is supplied in New Zealand by:

Novartis New Zealand Ltd

PO Box 99102

Newmarket, Auckland 1149

NEW ZEALAND

Tel: 0800 354 335

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