

Nursing Mothers

It is not known whether promethazine hydrochloride injection is excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, and because of the potential for serious adverse reactions in nursing infants from promethazine hydrochloride injection, a decision should be made whether to discontinue nursing or to discontinue the drug, taking into account the importance of the drug to the mother.

Pediatric Use

Promethazine hydrochloride injection is contraindicated for use in pediatric patients less than 2 years of age because of the potential for fatal respiratory depression. **Promethazine hydrochloride injection should be used with caution in pediatric patients 2 years of age and older** (see **WARNINGS-Respiratory Depression**).

Antiemetics are not recommended for treatment of uncomplicated vomiting in pediatric patients, and their use should be limited to prolonged vomiting of known etiology, the extrapvrnaridal symptoms which can occur secondary to promethazine hydrochloride injection administration may be confused with the CNS signs of undiagnosed primary, disease, e.g. encephalopathy or reve's syndrome. The use of promethazine hydrochloride injection should be avoided in pediatric patients whose signs and symptoms may suggest Reye's syndrome or other hepatic diseases.

Excessively large dosage of antihistamines, including promethazine hydrochloride injection, in pediatric patients may cause sudden death (see **OVERDOSAGE**). Hallucinations and convulsions have occurred with therapeutic doses and overdoses of promethazine hydrochloride injection in pediatric patients. In pediatric patients who are acutely ill associated with dehydration, there is an increased susceptibility to dystonias with the use of promethazine hydrochloride injection.

Geriatric Use (patients approximately 60 years or older)

Since therapeutic requirements for sedative drugs tend to be less in geriatric patients, the dosage should be reduced for these patients.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Respiratory Depression

Promethazine hydrochloride injection is contraindicated in pediatric patients less than 2 years of age, because of the potential for fatal respiratory depression. Promethazine hydrochloride injection should be used with caution in pediatric patients 2 years of age and older (see **WARNINGS-Respiratory Depression**).

Severe Tissue Injury, including Gangrene

Promethazine hydrochloride injection can cause severe chemical irritation and damage to tissues regardless of the route of administration. Irritation and damage can result from perivascular extravasation, unintentional intra-arterial injection and intraneuronal or perineuronal infiltration. Adverse reactions include burning, pain, erythema, swelling, sensory loss, palsies, paralysis, severe spasm of distal vessels, thrombophlebitis, venous thrombosis, phlebitis, abscesses, tissue necrosis, and gangrene. In some cases, surgical intervention, including fasciotomy, skin graft, and/ or amputation have been required (see **WARNINGS-Severe Tissue Injury, Including Gangrene**; and **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**).

Central Nervous System

Drowsiness is the most prominent CNS effect of this drug. Sedation, somnolence, blurred vision, dizziness, confusion, disorientation, and extrapyramidal symptoms such as oculogyric crisis, torticollis, and tongue protrusion; lassitude, tinnitus, incoordination, fatigue, euphoria, nervousness, diplopia, insomnia, tremors, convulsive seizures, excitation, catatonic-like states, hysteria. Hallucinations have also been reported.

Cardiovascular

Increased or decreased blood pressure, tachycardia, bradycardia, faintness.

Dermatologic

Dermatitis, photosensitivity, urticaria.

Hematologic

Leukopenia, thrombocytopenia, thrombocytopenic purpura, agranulocytosis.

Gastrointestinal

Dry mouth, nausea, vomiting, jaundice.

Respiratory

Asthma, nasal stuffiness, respiratory depression (potentially fatal) and apnea (potentially fatal). (See **WARNINGS—Respiratory Depression**.)

Other

Angioneurotic edema. Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome (potentially fatal) has also been reported. (See **WARNINGS—Neuroleptic Malignant Syndrome**.)

Paradoxical Reactions

Hyperexcitability and abnormal movements have been reported in patients following a single administration of promethazine hydrochloride injection. Consideration should be given to the discontinuation of promethazine hydrochloride injection and to the use of other drugs if these reactions occur. Respiratory depression, nightmares, delirium, and agitated behavior have also been reported in some of these patients.

OVERDOSAGE

Signs and symptoms of overdosage range from mild depression of the central nervous system and cardiovascular system to profound hypotension, respiratory depression, unconsciousness and sudden death. Other reported reactions include hyperreflexia, hypertonia, ataxia, athetosis, and extensor-plantar reflexes (Babinski reflex).

Stimulation may be evident, especially in pediatric patients and geriatric patients. Convulsions may rarely occur. A paradoxical-type reaction has been reported in pediatric patients receiving single doses of 75 mg to 125 mg orally, characterized by hyperexcitability and nightmares.

Atropine-like signs and symptoms—dry mouth; fixed, dilated pupils; flushing; etc, as well as gastrointestinal symptoms, may occur.

Treatment

Treatment of overdosage is essentially symptomatic and supportive. Only in cases of extreme overdosage or individual sensitivity do vital signs, including respiration, pulse, blood pressure, temperature, and EKG, need to be monitored. Attention should be given to the reestablishment of adequate respiratory exchange through provision of a patent airway and institution of assisted or controlled ventilation. Diazepam may be used to control convulsions. Acidosis and electrolyte losses should be corrected. Note that any depressant effects of promethazine hydrochloride injection are not reversed by naloxone.

Avoid analeptics, which may cause convulsions. The treatment of choice for resulting hypotension is administration of intravenous fluids, accompanied by repositioning if indicated. In the event that vasopressors are considered for the management of severe hypotension which does not respond to intravenous fluids and repositioning, the administration of norepinephrine or phenylephrine should be considered. EPINEPHRINE SHOULD NOT BE USED, since its use in a patient with partial adrenergic blockade may further lower the blood pressure. Extrapyrarnidal reactions may be treated with anticholinergic antiparkinson agents, diphenhydramine, or barbiturates. Oxygen may also be administered. Limited experience with dialysis indicates that it is not helpful.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

Important Notes on Administration

Promethazine hydrochloride injection can cause severe chemical irritation and **damage to tissues regardless of the route of administration**. Irritation and damage can result from perivascular extravasation, unintentional intra-arterial injection, and intraneuronal or perineuronal infiltration (see **WARNINGS-Severe Tissue Injury, Including Gangrene**).

- The preferred parenteral route of administration for promethazine hydrochloride injection is by deep intramuscular injection.**
- Under no circumstances should promethazine hydrochloride injection be given by intra-arterial injection due to likelihood of severe arteriospasm and the possibility of resultant gangrene (see **WARNINGS-Severe Tissue Injury, Including Gangrene**).
- Subcutaneous injection is contraindicated as it may result in tissue necrosis.
- When administered intravenously, promethazine hydrochloride injection should be given in a concentration no greater than 25 mg per mL and at a rate not to exceed 25 mg per minute.** It is preferable to inject through the tubing of an intravenous infusion set that is known to be functioning satisfactorily.

- In the event that a patient complains of pain during intravenous injection of promethazine hydrochloride injection, the injection should be stopped immediately to evaluate for possible arterial injection or perivascular extravasation.

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit.

Do not use promethazine hydrochloride injection if solution has developed color or contains precipitate.

To avoid the possibility of physical and/or chemical incompatibility, consult specialized literature before diluting with any injectable solution or combining with any other medication. Do not use if there is a precipitate or any sign of incompatibility.

Allergic Conditions

The average adult dose is 25 mg. This dose may be repeated within two hours if necessary, but continued therapy, if indicated, should be via the oral route as soon as existing circumstances permit. After initiation of treatment, dosage should be adjusted to the smallest amount adequate to relieve symptoms. The average adult dose for amelioration of allergic reactions to blood or plasma is 25 mg.

Sedation

In hospitalized adult patients, nighttime sedation may be achieved by a dose of 25 to 50 mg of promethazine hydrochloride injection.

Nausea and Vomiting

For control of nausea and vomiting, the usual adult dose is 12.5 to 25 mg, not to be repeated more frequently than every four hours. When used for control of postoperative nausea and vomiting, the medication may be administered either intramuscularly or intravenously and dosage of analgesics and barbiturates should be reduced accordingly. (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions**).

Antiemetics should not be used in vomiting of unknown etiology in children and adolescents (see **PRECAUTIONS-Pediatric Use**).

Preoperative and Postoperative Use

As an adjunct to preoperative or postoperative medication, 25 to 50 mg of promethazine hydrochloride injection in adults may be combined with appropriately reduced doses of analgesics and atropine-like drugs as desired. Dosage of concomitant analgesic or hypnotic medication should be reduced accordingly.(see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions**.)

Promethazine hydrochloride is contraindicated for use in pediatric patients less than two years of age.

Obstetrics

Promethazine hydrochloride injection in doses of 50 mg will provide sedation and relieve apprehension in the early stages of labor. When labor is definitely established, 25 to 75 mg (average dose, 50 mg) promethazine hydrochloride injection may be given intramuscularly or intravenously with an appropriately reduced dose of any desired narcotic. (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions**.) If necessary, promethazine hydrochloride injection with a reduced dose of analgesic may be repeated once or twice at four-hour intervals in the course of a normal labor. A maximum total dose of 100 mg of promethazine hydrochloride injection may be administered during a 24-hour period to patients in labor.

Pediatric Patients

Promethazine hydrochloride injection is contraindicated for use in pediatric patients less than 2 years of age (see WARNINGS-Respiratory Depression). Caution should be exercised when administering promethazine hydrochloride injection to pediatric patients 2 years of age or older. It is recommended that the lowest effective dose of promethazine hydrochloride be used in pediatric patients 2 years of age and older and concomitant administration of other drugs with respiratory depressant effects be avoided (see WARNINGS-Respiratory Depression).

In pediatric patients 2 years of age and older, the dosage should not exceed half that of the suggested adult dose. As an adjunct to premedication, the suggested dose is 1.1 mg per kg of body weight in combination with an appropriately reduced dose of narcotic or barbiturate and the appropriate dose of an atropine-like drug. (see **PRECAUTIONS-Drug Interactions**.) Antiemetics should not be used in vomiting of unknown etiology in pediatric patients.

HOW SUPPLIED

Promethazine hydrochloride injection, USP is available as follows:

NDC Number	Strength	Package
0703-2191-04	25 mg/mL	1 mL fill in a 2 mL vial 25 vial per shelf tray
0703-2201-04	50 mg/mL	1 mL fill in a 2 mL vial 25 vial per shelf tray

Store at room temperature 20°–25°C (68°–77°F) [See USP Controlled Room Temperature].

Protect from light. Keep covered in carton until time of use.

Do not use if solution has developed color or contains a precipitate.

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Teva Parenteral Medicines, Inc.
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