

Dramamine®

2 Presentation

Scored tablets engraved "SEARLE 72" on one side. Each tablet contains Dimenhydrinate B.P. 50mg.

Uses

3 Action

Dimenhydrinate is an antihistamine.

4 Indications

Motion Sickness

Vertigo, nausea and vomiting associated with Meniere's disease and other labyrinthine disorders.

19 Dosage and administration

For prevention of motion sickness the first dose should be taken 30 minutes before the journey.

Adults and children over 12 years

1-2 tablets two or three times daily.

Elderly

Dosage as for adults. The elderly may be more susceptible to anticholinergic side effects.

Children

1-6 years $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ tablet two or three times daily

7-12 years $\frac{1}{2}$ -1 tablet two or three times daily

Contraindications, Warnings, etc

Contraindication

Dramamine is contraindicated in patients with hypersensitivity to dimenhydrinate, diphenhydramine and other antihistamines of similar chemical structure.

Warnings

In common with other antihistamines Dramamine may cause drowsiness. Patients affected in this way should be advised not to drive or operate machinery.

Precautions

Dimenhydrinate should be used with caution in patients having conditions which might be aggravated by anticholinergic therapy i.e. with raised intraocular pressure, stenosing peptic ulcer, pyloro-duodenal obstruction, prostatic hypertrophy, asthma, hypertension, hyperthyroidism or severe coronary artery disease.

Dimenhydrinate should be used with caution in patients with hepatic or renal failure as the pharmacokinetics may be affected in such patients.

Drug Interactions

In common with other antihistamines, Dramamine may potentiate the sedative effects of CNS depressants including alcohol, barbiturates, narcotic analgesics, tranquillisers, monoamine oxidase inhibitors and may enhance the effects of anticholinergics such as atropine and tricyclic antidepressants. Dramamine may enhance the effect of ephedrine.

Dramamine may mask ototoxic symptoms associated with certain antibiotics. Patients should be advised to avoid alcoholic drinks.

Antihistamines may mask the response of the skin to allergenic skin tests.

Pregnancy

Reproduction studies in rats and rabbits at doses up to 20 and 25 times the human dose respectively (on a mg/kg basis) have shown no evidence of hazard.

There is inadequate evidence of safety of the use of Dramamine in human pregnancy although it has been in wide use for many years without apparent ill consequences. In view of this Dramamine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Diphenhydramine, a metabolite of dimenhydrinate, has been detected in breast milk. If a nursing mother is taking Dramamine the infant may exhibit some effects of the drug. In view of this Dramamine should not be administered during breast feeding unless considered essential.

Adverse Effects

Sedation is the most commonly reported effect. Incoordination and confusion may also occur. Atropine-like effects such as blurred vision, dry mouth, tachycardia, constipation, urinary hesitancy, tightness of the chest and thickening of secretions may be associated with antihistamines. Other adverse effects include: tremors, paradoxical excitability (especially in children) skin rash, photosensitivity, allergy and anaphylaxis.

Overdosage

Symptoms of overdosage may comprise drowsiness, dizziness and ataxia together with anticholinergic effects such as dry mouth, flushing of the face, dilated pupils, tachycardia, pyrexia, headache and urinary retention. In massive overdose and in children the central effects of antihistamines may cause convulsions, hallucinations, excitement and respiratory depression. Such symptoms may be delayed. Treatment should consist of gastric aspiration and lavage, administration of activated charcoal and supportive measures. Diazepam may be required for the treatment of convulsions.

Pharmaceutical Precautions

Dramamine may be powdered and dissolved in any acceptable aqueous fluid medium, provided that a concentration of 3mg/ml is not exceeded. Above this concentration not all of the active constituent may dissolve.

Dramamine should be stored below 30°C (86°F).

Package Quantities

Strip packs of 6, 20 or 100 tablets.

Further Information

Nil.

SEARLE

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