Trental® 100mg/5ml
Trental® 300mg/15ml

Pentoxifylline

Solution for infusion
in ampoules

Aventis

This package insert is continually updated: please read carefully before using a new pack. In case of any question, please contact your physician or pharmacist.

Composition

Active substance: pentoxifylline
Each 5 ml ampoule of Trental contains 100 mg pentoxifylline.
Each 15 ml ampoule of Trental contains 300 mg pentoxifylline.
Excipients: Sodium chloride, water for injections.

Properties

Trental improves the blood flow properties by influencing pathologically altered red cell deformability, inhibiting platelet aggregation, and reducing increased blood viscosity. Consequently, Trental enhances the nutritive microcirculation in areas with impaired blood flow.
The success of treatment is shown by a regression of severe symptoms of peripheral arterial occlusive disease.
It has been demonstrated that Trental is beneficial in the treatment of circulatory disorders of the eye and internal ear, as well as for the symptoms of cerebrovascular disease.

When should this drug be used? (Therapeutic indications)

Peripheral arterial occlusive disease and arteriovenous disorders of an arteriosclerotic or diabetic nature (e.g. intermittent claudication or rest pain) and trophic disturbances (e.g. leg ulcers and gangrene).
Cerebral circulatory disorders (sequelae of cerebral arteriosclerosis such as difficulties in concentration, vertigo, impairment of memory), ischaemic and post-apoplectic states.
Circulatory disturbances of the eye or internal ear, associated with degenerative vascular processes and impaired sight or hearing.

How should this drug be used?

Strictly follow the recommended dosage unless directed otherwise by the physician.

Dosage

The dosage and mode of administration (infusion or oral) is based on the type and severity of the circulatory disorders, on the patient's body weight, and on how the individual patient tolerates the drug. Dosage for intravenous infusion is generally based on the following guidelines and is determined by the physician in accordance with individual requirements:
Once or twice daily, one infusion of 100–600 mg pentoxifylline in 100–500 ml of infusion fluid should be administered. This infusion may be supplemented by oral therapy with tablets containing 400 mg of pentoxifylline, up to the recommended total daily dose (infusion + oral) of 1200 mg pentoxifylline.
In advanced cases, in particular in patients with severe rest pain, gangrene or ulcers, either a continuous intravenous infusion of up to 1200 mg over 24 hours, or two infusions of up to 600 mg each over periods of at least six hours, may be indicated.
The precise dose should be calculated on the basis of 0.6 mg pentoxifylline/kg body weight per hour. A maximum intravenous dose of 1200 mg pentoxifylline per 24 hours should not be exceeded.
In patients with impairment of renal function (creatinine clearance below 30 ml/min), it may be necessary to reduce the dose by approximately 30% to 50%. The precise reduction will vary depending on how the patient tolerates the drug.
A dose reduction, guided by individual tolerance, is necessary in patients with severely impaired liver function.
Treatment must be started with low doses in hypotensive patients or patients whose circulation is unstable as well as in patients who would be at particular risk from a reduction in blood pressure (e.g. patients with severe coronary heart disease or relevant stenoses of blood vessels supplying the brain); in such cases, the dose must be increased only gradually.

Administration

Trental should be given by intravenous infusion after dilution in a suitable infusion fluid. The contents of the 5 ml ampoules containing 100 mg or the 15 ml ampoules containing 300 mg of pentoxifylline are diluted in the determined amount of 0.9% sodium chloride, 5% glucose, or, for example, Ringer's solution (see "How should this drug be used?"). The compatibility with other infusion fluids must be tested on an individual basis; only clear solutions must be infused.
The infusion time must be at least 60 minutes per 100 mg pentoxifylline.
Depending on the accompanying diseases (e.g. congestive heart failure), it may be necessary to keep the infusion volume small. In such cases, a controlled volume infusion pump may be particularly useful.
Adjunctive and follow-on treatment: The administration by infusion can be supplemented with oral treatment (see "How should this drug be used?"). Once the condition has improved, treatment may be continued with oral medication alone.

When should this drug not be used? (Contraindications)

Trental must not be used in patients with
– hypersensitivity to pentoxifylline, other methylxanthines or any of the excipients (see under "Composition"),
– massive bleeding (risk of increased bleeding),
– extensive retinal bleeding (risk of increased bleeding).

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Pregnancy and lactation
Insufficient experience has been gained concerning use in pregnancy. Therefore, Trental should not be used during pregnancy.
Pentoxifylline passes into breast milk in minute quantities. Because insufficient experience has been gained, the physician must carefully weigh the possible risks and benefits before administering Trental in breast-feeding women.

Warnings and precautions
Particularly careful monitoring is required in patients
- with severe cardiac arrhythmias (risk of deterioration of arrhythmias),
- with myocardial infarction (increase of pre-existing risk of cardiac arrhythmias and fall in blood pressure),
- with hypotension (risk of further blood pressure reduction; see also under "How should this drug be used?"),
- with impaired renal function (creatinine clearance below 30 ml/min) (risk of accumulation and increased risk of adverse reactions; see also under "How should this drug be used?"),
- with severely impaired liver function (risk of accumulation and increased risk of adverse reactions; see also under "How should this drug be used?"),
- with increased bleeding tendency due to e.g. anticoagulant medication or coagulation disorders (risk of more severe bleedings). Concerning bleeding see also under "When should this drug not be used? (Contraindications)",
- who would be at particular risk from a reduction in blood pressure (e.g., patients with severe coronary heart disease or relevant stenoses of blood vessels supplying the brain).

No experience is available on the use of Trental in children.

Overdose
Medical treatment may be required in the event of an overdose. Therefore, please inform your physician if you suspect an overdose.
Initial symptoms of acute overdose with pentoxifylline may be nausea, dizziness, tachycardia, or a fall in blood pressure. Furthermore, signs such as fever, agitation, flush, loss of consciousness, areflexia, tonic-clonic convulsions and – as a sign of gastrointestinal bleeding – coffee-ground vomiting may occur.
No specific antidote to pentoxifylline is known. The treatment of acute overdose and the prevention of complications may necessitate general and specific intensive medical monitoring and therapeutic measures.

Interactions
In order to avoid possible interactions with other medicines, inform your physician or pharmacist about any other current treatment.
The blood-pressure-lowering effect of antihypertensive agents (e.g. ACE inhibitors) and other drugs with blood-pressure-lowering potential (e.g. nitrates) may be increased by Trental.
The blood-sugar-lowering effect of insulin or oral antidiabetics may be potentiated (increased risk of hypoglycaemia). Therefore, patients under medication for diabetes mellitus should be carefully monitored.
In some patients, concomitant administration of pentoxifylline and theophylline may increase theophylline levels. This may lead to an increase in or intensification of adverse effects associated with theophylline.

Undesirable effects
Please tell your physician or pharmacist if you experience any adverse effect with the use of Trental.
Particularly when Trental is given in high doses or at high infusion rates, flushes (reddening of the skin with a sensation of heat), gastrointestinal complaints such as gastric pressure, fullness, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea may frequently occur as may, occasionally, cardiac arrhythmias (e.g. tachycardia). Pruritus, reddening of the skin and urticaria may occasionally develop, as may, in isolated cases, severe anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reactions accompanied by, e.g., angioneurotic oedema, bronchospasm, and sometimes even circulatory failure (shock). At the first signs of an anaphylactic/anaphylactoid reaction the infusion must be halted immediately, and a physician must be informed.
Dizziness, headache, agitation and sleep disturbances may occasionally occur, as may, in isolated cases, intrahepatic cholestasis, transaminase elevation and aseptic meningitis.
Rarely, angina pectoris, a fall in blood pressure, and – especially in patients with increased bleeding tendency – bleedings (e.g. on the skin and/or mucosae, in the stomach and/or intestine) may develop, as may – in isolated cases – thrombopenia.
Since some adverse effects (e.g., severe anaphylactic or anaphylactoid reactions) may under certain circumstances become life-threatening, it is essential that, if sudden or severe reactions occur, you inform a physician at once.

Storage
Do not store above 30 °C.
Keep out of the reach of children.

Expiry date
Do not use later than the date of expiry.

Presentation
Trental 100 mg/5 ml: box of 5 glass ampoules.
Trental 300 mg/15 ml: box of 2 x 5 glass ampoules.

Manufacturer / Marketing Authorisation Holder
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