

BENZETACIL

Benzathine benzylpenicillin

Benzathine benzylpenicillin 1,200,000 IU powder and solvent for suspension for injection

What is in this leaflet

Please read this leaflet carefully before you start using BENZETACIL.

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

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you using BENZETACIL against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

Keep this leaflet with the medicine. You may need to read it again.

What BENZETACIL is used for

BENZETACIL is used to treat infections caused by bacteria that are sensitive to benzathine benzylpenicillin. It is also used to prevent the recurrence of some bacterial infections.

It is used to treat:

- Throat infections (pharyngitis, tonsillitis)
- Skin infections (erysipelas)
- Syphilis (primary, secondary, and latent stages)
- Yaws (a tropical infection)

It is also used to prevent:

- Rheumatic fever
- Post-streptococcal glomerulonephritis
- Recurring erysipelas

BENZETACIL belongs to a group of medicines called penicillin antibiotics. It works by killing certain bacteria.

Your doctor may have prescribed BENZETACIL for another reason.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why BENZETACIL has been prescribed for you.

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

Before you use BENZETACIL

When you must not use it

Do not use BENZETACIL if you are allergic to:

- any medicine containing benzathine benzylpenicillin
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other similar medicines such as other penicillin antibiotics
- cephalosporins. You may have an increased chance of being allergic to BENZETACIL if you are allergic to cephalosporins.
- peanut or soya (this medicine contains lecithin from soya)

If you are not sure, check with your pharmacist.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue, throat, or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin
- chills and fever, joint pain, weakness or feeling faint.

Do not take BENZETACIL if the expiry date on the pack has passed or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If it is expired or damaged, BENZETACIL should be returned to the pharmacist for disposal

If you are not sure whether you should start using BENZETACIL, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if:

- Have asthma
- A history of allergies (e.g. hives)
- Have kidney or liver problems
- Are pregnant or intend to become pregnant
- Are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using BENZETACIL.

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. You should also tell any health professional who is prescribing a new medication for you that you are taking BENZETACIL.

Some medicines may interfere with BENZETACIL. These include:

- Allopurinol
- Methotrexate
- Aminoglycoside antibiotics
- Tetracyclines or chloramphenicol
- Probenecid
- Digoxin
- Anticoagulants (e.g. warfarin)
- Anti-inflammatory, antirheumatic and antipyretic medicines

These medicines may be affected by BENZETACIL, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines.

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

How to use BENZETACIL

How much to take

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.

The dose may differ depending on the infection being treated or prevented.

BENZETACIL is usually only given by a doctor, pharmacist or nurse. It is injected into a muscle. For adults this is usually the buttocks. With small children it may be the thigh. It must not be injected near an artery or nerve. It should not be injected in front and to the side of the thigh. If the injection is repeated, a new site must be chosen.

How much to be given

Your doctor will decide what dose and how many times you will receive BENZETACIL. This depends on your infection and other factors, such as your weight

How long to take it

Sometimes only a single dose of BENZETACIL is needed for the treatment or prevention of certain infections.

While you are using BENZETACIL

Things you must do

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

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

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you develop severe diarrhoea, even if it occurs several weeks after you have stopped receiving BENZETACIL.

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 BENZETACIL, 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 BENZETACIL allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms to occur. BENZETACIL does not work against fungi.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are being given BENZETACIL.

Tell any doctors, dentists or pharmacists who treat you that you have been given BENZETACIL.

If you are going to have surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are being given this medicine.

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

If you become pregnant while you are being given this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.

If you are about to have any blood or urine tests, tell your doctor that you are being given this medicine.

BENZETACIL may affect the results of some tests, including tests measuring glucose (sugar) in the urine.

Keep all of your doctor's appointments so that your progress can be checked.

Things to be careful of

Contact your doctor immediately if:

- you experience any symptoms of an allergy
- you have severe pain in the muscle where your BENZETACIL was given.

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how BENZETACIL affects you.

BENZETACIL generally does not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

However, as with many other medicines, BENZETACIL may cause dizziness, drowsiness, or tiredness in some people.

In case of overdose

If you take too much (overdose)

It is unlikely that you will receive an overdose as BENZETACIL as it is most likely to be given to you under the supervision of your doctor.

Immediately telephone your doctor or the National Poisons Centre (telephone 0800 POISON or 0800 764 766), or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much BENZETACIL.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Symptoms of an overdose may include seizures and/or unusual muscle movement, for example, waves of rippling along the muscle.

You may need urgent medical attention.

Side Effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using BENZETACIL.

This medicine helps most people with certain bacterial infections, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the adverse effects. Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following list of side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:

- Pain or swelling at the injection site
- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea
- Skin rash or itching

- Feeling anxious, nervous or experience tremors
- Sleepiness or tiredness
- Excessive or abnormal sweating
- Muscle or joint pain
- Oral thrush - white, furry, sore tongue and mouth
- Vaginal thrush - sore and itchy vagina and / or vaginal discharge.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:

- Allergic reactions (e.g. hives, swelling of the face or throat, breathing difficulty)
- Severe skin reactions (e.g. Stevens-Johnson syndrome)
- Liver problems (e.g. jaundice)
- Kidney problems (e.g. changes in urination)
- Seizures, confusion, or hallucinations (very rare)
- Stomach cramps
- Fast or irregular heartbeat
- Frequent infections (symptoms such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers)
- Swollen glands in the neck, armpit or groin
- Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- Blood in stool
- Weakness of muscles
- Numbness, tingling or weakness of the arms and legs
- Injection site reaction, which may include pain, irritation, swelling, redness, or bruising

Tell your doctor immediately or go to accident and emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- Severe blisters and bleeding in the lips, eyes, mouth, nose or genitals
- Itchy spots accompanied by fever and feeling unwell
- Allergic reaction e.g. shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, rash, itching or hives on the skin
- Severe agitation, confusion and hallucinations
- Heart attack, symptoms may include chest or shoulder pain, tightness of chest, shortness of breath
- Rapid, shallow breathing, cold, clammy skin, a rapid, weak pulse, dizziness, weakness and fainting
- Stroke (collapse, numbness or weakness of the arms or legs, headache, dizziness and confusion, visual disturbance, difficulty swallowing, slurred speech and loss of speech)
- Seizures, fits or convulsions
- Severe diarrhoea, usually with blood and mucus, stomach pain, fever. This may occur during treatment or several weeks after treatment with BENZETACIL
- Kidney disease, with blood in the urine or pass little or no urine.

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention.

You may not experience any of them.

Some people may get other side effects whilst receiving BENZETACIL.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you do not understand anything in this list.

After using BENZETACIL

Storage

Store BENZETACIL vials in a dry place at room temperature.

Use the reconstituted injection immediately after preparation.

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

Disposal

Return any unused medicine or expired medicine to your pharmacist.

Product description

What it looks like

BENZETACIL is supplied as a white or nearly white powder in a glass vial. It comes with a clear solvent in a glass ampoule.

The powder and solvent are mixed before injection.

Ingredients

Active ingredient(s):

- Benzathine benzylpenicillin 1,200,000 IU per vial

Inactive ingredients:

- Lecithin (from soya)

- Tween 80
- Sodium citrate
- Water for injections (in ampoule)

Sponsor Details

BENZETACIL is supplied in New Zealand by:

ORSPEC Pharma Management Limited

PO BOX 59013

Mangere Bridge

Auckland 2151

NEW ZEALAND

Date of Preparation

This leaflet was prepared on 29 May 2026.