

# SUXAMETHONIUM MEDSURGE

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

### 1. Why am I given Suxamethonium Medsurge?

Suxamethonium Medsurge contains the active ingredient Suxamethonium chloride dihydrate. Suxamethonium is used to stop your muscles moving during surgery or medical procedures.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I given Suxamethonium Medsurge?](#) in the full CMI.

### 2. What should I know before I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to Suxamethonium Medsurge or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

**Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?](#) in the full CMI.

### 3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Suxamethonium Medsurge and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

### 4. How is Suxamethonium Medsurge given?

- Suxamethonium Medsurge will be given to you by an anaesthetist.
- The dose you will be given will be carefully worked out depending on the length of the procedure, and your body weight. Children will be given reduced amounts of Suxamethonium Medsurge.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How is Suxamethonium Medsurge given?](#) in the full CMI.

### 5. What should I know while I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?

<b>Things you should do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Suxamethonium Medsurge.</li></ul>
<b>Things you should not do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• You must not be given Suxamethonium Medsurge if you have an allergy to Suxamethonium or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet or any related medicines.</li></ul>

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?](#) in the full CMI.

### 6. Are there any side effects?

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

Some unwanted effects may occur, these include increased saliva levels or mucous production, rash, muscle twitching or pain, flushing, itching, more bowel movements than normal, change in heart beat or palpitations, eye pain, muscle stiffness, fever, breathing difficulties or irritation, headache and feeling faint.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

# SUXAMETHONIUM MEDSURGE

*Suxamethonium chloride dihydrate*

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Suxamethonium Medsurge. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Suxamethonium Medsurge.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

1. [Why am I given Suxamethonium Medsurge?](#)
2. [What should I know before I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?](#)
3. [What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
4. [How is Suxamethonium Medsurge given?](#)
5. [What should I know while I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?](#)
6. [Are there any side effects?](#)
7. [Product details](#)

## 1. Why am I given Suxamethonium Medsurge?

Suxamethonium Medsurge contains the active ingredient Suxamethonium chloride dihydrate.

Suxamethonium is used to stop your muscles moving during surgery or medical procedures.

It belongs to a group of medicines called **neuromuscular blockers which work by stopping messages being sent from the nerves to the muscles.**

Your doctor will have explained why you will be given Suxamethonium Medsurge.

**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

Your doctor may prescribe this medicine for another use. Ask your doctor if you want more information.

Suxamethonium Medsurge is not addictive.

## 2. What should I know before I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?

### Warnings

**Do not use Suxamethonium Medsurge if:**

- you are sensitive to Suxamethonium
- have an allergy to any ingredient listed at the end of this leaflet or any other related medicines.

If you have an allergic reaction, you may get:

- Skin rash
  - Hayfever
  - Breathing difficulties or
  - Feel faint
- **You should not be given Suxamethonium Medsurge if you have or have had the following medical conditions:**
    - severe muscle stiffness and fever (malignant hyperthermia)
    - family history of malignant hyperthermia
    - muscle disease or weakness (e.g. myasthenia gravis or muscular dystrophy)
    - glaucoma (increased pressure in the eye)
    - eye injuries
    - recent paraplegia
    - kidney problems
    - severe burns
    - High blood levels of potassium
    - prolonged infections

### Check with your doctor if you:

- have any of these medical conditions:
  - heart or lung problems
  - malnutrition or severe dehydration
  - reduced red blood cells and iron stores (anaemia)
  - under-active thyroid gland
  - liver problems
  - fever
  - paraplegia
  - severe injuries
  - cancer
  - skin diseases
  - broken bones.

It may not be safe for you to be given Suxamethonium Medsurge if you have any of these conditions.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

### Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

**Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.**

Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits involved.

We do not know if it is safe for you to be given it while you are pregnant. It may affect your baby if you are given it early in pregnancy or in the last weeks before your baby is due.

Your baby may take in Suxamethonium Medsurge from breast milk if you are breastfeeding.

### 3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

**Some medicines may interfere with Suxamethonium Medsurge and affect how it works.** These include:

- quinine
- chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine
- contraceptive pill
- medicines for depression or mental illness
- medicine for epilepsy or seizures e.g. phenytoin
- some antibiotics
- diuretics
- corticosteroids
- medicine for reflux or stomach ulcers e.g. cimetidine
- asthma reliever medication e.g. terbutaline
- medicines for high blood pressure or heart problems
- quinidine or digoxin
- magnesium salts
- eye drops for glaucoma
- some anticancer medicines
- medicines to treat Alzheimer's disease
- medicines to treat myasthenia gravis.

**Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect Suxamethonium Medsurge.**

**Tell your doctor if you have recently been in contact with weed killers or insecticides.**

If you have not told your doctor or anaesthetist about any of these things, tell them before you are given any Suxamethonium Medsurge.

### 4. How is Suxamethonium Medsurge given?

**How much is given**

Suxamethonium Medsurge will be given to you by an anaesthetist. The dose you will be given will be carefully worked out depending on the length of the procedure, and your body weight. Children will be given reduced amounts of Suxamethonium Medsurge.

**When Suxamethonium Medsurge is given**

Suxamethonium Medsurge will not be given to you until you are asleep from an anaesthetic.

Since Suxamethonium Medsurge will stop your muscles moving, it may be necessary for the anaesthetist to help you breathe while you are being given it.

**How Suxamethonium Medsurge is given**

Suxamethonium Medsurge will be given by injection into your bloodstream or muscles.

**If you are given too much Suxamethonium Medsurge**

**The anaesthetist giving you Suxamethonium Medsurge will be experienced in its use, so it will be extremely unlikely that you will be given too much.**

Suxamethonium Medsurge doses should be carefully worked out, so problems with overdose are unlikely. There is another medicine called neostigmine which can be used if needed to reverse that effects of too much Suxamethonium Medsurge.

You may need urgent medical attention.

**You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

### 5. What should I know while I am given Suxamethonium Medsurge?

**Things you should do**

- You must tell your doctor if you have any of the medical conditions.
  - heart or lung problems
  - malnutrition or severe dehydration
  - reduced red blood cells and iron stores (anaemia)
  - under-active thyroid gland
  - liver problems
  - fever
  - paraplegia
  - severe injuries
  - cancer
  - skin diseases
  - broken bones.

It may not be safe for you to be given Suxamethonium Medsurge if you have any of these conditions.

- Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy at the chemist, supermarket or health food shop.
- Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

- Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed.
- Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Suxamethonium Medsurge.

### Looking after your medicine

- Store between 2° - 8°C. Refrigerate, do not freeze.

The hospital will store Suxamethonium Medsurge under the correct conditions.

**Keep it where young children cannot reach it.**

### When to discard your medicine

Any Suxamethonium Medsurge from a single dose which is not used will be disposed of in a safe manner by your doctor or nurse.

## 6. Are there any side effects?

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well after you have being given Suxamethonium Medsurge.**

**It may have unwanted side effects in a few people.**

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

#### Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased saliva levels or mucous production</li> <li>• rash</li> <li>• muscle twitching or pain</li> <li>• flushing</li> <li>• itching</li> <li>• more bowel movements than normal</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</b></p>

#### Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• change in heart beat or palpitations</li> <li>• eye pain</li> <li>• muscle stiffness</li> <li>• fever</li> <li>• breathing difficulties, rash or irritation</li> <li>• headache</li> <li>• feeling faint.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</b></p>

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.**

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

### Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at <https://pophealth.my.site.com/carmreportnz/s/>. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.**

## 7. Product details

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

### What Suxamethonium Medsurge contains

<b>Active ingredient (main ingredient)</b>	Suxamethonium chloride dihydrate
<b>Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sodium Hydroxide/ Hydrochloric acid</li> <li>• Water for Injections</li> </ul>

**Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.**

### What Suxamethonium Medsurge looks like

Clear colourless solution.

Available in 2 mL type 1 glass vials in packs of 10 and 50.

Suxamethonium Medsurge 100 mg/2 mL vial  
AUST R 438912

### Who distributes Suxamethonium Medsurge

Medsurge Pharma Limited  
PO Box 331054  
Takapuna  
Auckland 0622

Marketed and distributed by Medsurge Healthcare.  
Telephone: 0800 788 261  
Website: [www.medsurgehc.com](http://www.medsurgehc.com)

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