

CO-PHENYLCAINE FORTE

Topical Spray

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

What is in this medication and what it is used for

This spray contains two active ingredients

Lignocaine hydrochloride 50mg/mL - this is a local anaesthetic and Phenylephrine hydrochloride 5mg/mL - this causes the small blood vessels near the surface of the tissue to constrict.

It also contains the following inactive ingredients:

benzalkonium chloride solution (preservative), sodium metabisulfite, disodium edetate, sodium hydroxide or citric acid (to adjust the pH), sodium monobasic and purified water.

Co-Phenylcaine Forte Topical Spray is most commonly used to numb the inside of your nose or throat before the surgeon operates or passes a fine telescope to view the structures of the nose and throat.

It may also be used to numb the nose if a foreign body (such as a small seed or bead or any other small object that becomes wedged in the nose) needs to be removed.

It may also be used to stop the bleeding from the front portion of the nose before treatment is given to seal the bleeding blood vessels.

What are the possible side effects?

The most common side effect that is noticed after use of this medicine is a bitter taste in the mouth. It only lasts for one to two minutes and then disappears.

While other side effects are not commonly experienced with this medication because it is only administered as a single dose, it is possible for the following to occur:

A headache which might last for up to 20-30 minutes.

Drowsiness, light headedness, ringing in the ears, dizziness, confusion, blurred vision, vomiting, twitching, tremors,

convulsions, sensations of hot or cold, slow heart beat, fast heart rate with or without palpitations.

When you should not use this medicine.

■ If you are pregnant, or may become pregnant.

When should you advise your doctor that you have other health problems or are taking other medication?

- If you are breast-feeding.
- You have been given or used local anaesthetics before and had an allergic reaction, or have reacted to any of the ingredients listed above.
- You suffer from liver disease.
- Heart disease (i.e you have had a heart attack or have problems such as bradycardia which means a slower than normal heart beat rate. Lignocaine the anaesthetic agent may make the effect of any heart rhythm regulating drugs much greater and therefore may adversely affect your heart)
- You suffer from kidney problems (kidney disease may change the concentrations of certain chemicals such as potassium in your blood, and this may in turn affect the action of lignocaine on the heart muscle)
- You suffer from epilepsy and are taking phenytoin (a medicine used to treat epilepsy) as use of phenytoin with this medicine may adversely affect your heart.
- You suffer from high blood pressure or an overactive thyroid.
- You are taking antidepressant medication.
- You are taking anti ulcer drugs such as Cimetidine. Cimetidine is known as an enzyme inducing drug. These drugs can cause the blood level of Lignocaine (local



anaesthetic agent) to rise to levels which can cause side effects.

- You have had an adverse reaction to phenylephrine or other decongestants (blood vessel squeezing drugs). It is best to let your doctor or healthcare professional know if you are taking any other medicines, including ones you may have bought yourself without a prescription. If you are taking medicines for high blood pressure, heart problems or depression, tell your doctor or healthcare professional.

Co-Phenylcaine Forte Topical Spray should be used with caution on areas of the nose or throat which are cut because of the risk of increased absorption of the active ingredients leading to higher drug levels in the blood. Please let your doctor know if you have any cuts or sores in your nose.

What dose is to be used and how is it given?

This medicine is administered into the nose or throat by your doctor or doctor's assistant in the following doses:

Adults and children over 12 years of age:

Up to 5 squirts per nostril

8-12 years: 3 squirts per nostril

4-8 years: 2 squirts per nostril

2-4 years: 1 squirt per nostril

Each squirt measures 100 microlitres of fluid. The dose of lignocaine in each squirt is 5mg, and the dose of phenylephrine in each squirt is 0.5mg.

This medicine should not be used in children under 2 years of age.

These doses are given once only. Your doctor may decide to increase or decrease this dose depending on your condition. Only your doctor should alter the recommended dosage.

What effects will I notice after taking the medication?

You will notice a feeling of numbness in the mouth, nose or throat which is caused by the medicine.

You might also notice that the side of the nose to which the medication has been applied becomes congested and may prove difficult to breathe through. This sensation will pass within a few hours.

What care needs to be taken after taking this medicine?

Do not drink or eat anything until the numbness in the throat has worn off. If you do, then it is possible that you may inhale food or drink into the lungs. This will result in serious illness.

Take care not to bite or to burn your tongue or cheek with hot liquids whilst the numbness is still present

Storing this medicine

This medicine must be stored in a cool dry place under 30 degrees Celsius.

It should be out of the sight and reach of children

Keep it in the same pack in which it was supplied.

Do not transfer it to another container.

Do not use it after the expiry date shown on the label and carton.

If this medicine is out of date please return it to your pharmacist for correct disposal.

Further Information

This leaflet provides only a summary of the information known about Co-Phenylcaine Forte Topical Spray. If you have any questions or want to know more about this medicine, or are unsure about anything, please ask your doctor or your pharmacist.

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