

# Benztrop®

*Benztropine Mesylate*

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## Consumer Medicine Information

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### What is in this leaflet

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This leaflet answers some common questions about Benztrop. 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 taking Benztrop against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

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

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

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### What Benztrop is used for

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This medicine is used to treat:

- all forms of parkinsonism
- the side effects of certain drugs.

Symptoms of parkinsonism can be caused by certain diseases of the brain affecting movement. They can also be caused by some medicines that are used to treat some mental conditions.

This medicine belongs to a group of medicines called anticholinergic agents.

This medicine works by improving shaking and muscle stiffness.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

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### Before you take Benztrop

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#### *When you must not take it*

**Do not take Benztrop if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing benztropine mesylate
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other similar medicines.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- 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.

**Do not use this medicine if you have narrow angle glaucoma.**

**Do not use this medicine if you have a rare condition called tardive dyskinesia.**

This condition causes uncontrollable twitching or jerking movements of the arms and legs.

**Do not give this medicine to a child under the age of 3 years.**

Safety and effectiveness in children younger than 3 years has not been established.

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start taking this medicine, talk to your doctor.**

#### *Before you start to take it*

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

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- heart problems such as fast heart beat
- prostate problems
- mental illness
- any long term illness
- dehydration
- difficulty sweating
- glaucoma
- alcoholism
- difficulty with bowel movements.

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell him/her before you start taking Benztrop.**

#### *Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket, health food shop, naturopath or herbalist.**

Some medicines and Benztrop may interfere with each other. These include:

- some medicines used to treat mental illness or psychotic disorders

- a group of medicines called tricyclic antidepressants which are used to treat depression
- other anticholinergic medicines such as benzhexol, biperiden, procyclidine, orphenadrine, levodopa
- alcohol
- medicines to calm and help you sleep such as sedatives, tranquillisers and some pain killers
- metoclopramide medicines used to prevent nausea
- cisapride, a medicine used to treat reflux
- ketoconazole, a medicine used to treat fungal infections
- medicines used to treat glaucoma and oedema, build up of fluid in the body
- some medicines used to treat Alzheimer's disease and myasthenia gravis.

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

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking this medicine.

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## How to take Benztrop

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

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions on the bottle, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

### *How much to take*

Your doctor will tell you the dose of tablets you need to take each day. This will depend on your symptoms, age weight and whether you are taking other medicines. The dose can vary from patient to patient.

The dose can range from 0.5 mg to 6 mg but is usually 1 to 2 mg.

### *How to take it*

**Swallow the tablets whole with a full glass of water.**

### *When to take it*

**Take your medicine at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

### *How long to take it*

**Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.**

This medicine helps to control your condition, but does not cure it. It is important to keep taking your medicine even if you feel well.

### *If you forget to take it*

**If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.**

**Otherwise, take it as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.**

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.**

*If you take too much (overdose)*

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to the Emergency Department at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Benztrop. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include:

- confusion, seeing or hearing things that are not there
- nervousness, shock, listlessness
- dizziness, headache
- poor coordination, unsteadiness when walking
- muscle weakness, numbness in fingers
- dry mouth, difficulty swallowing
- dilated pupils, blurred vision, pressure in the eye
- fast or irregular heart beats
- nausea, vomiting
- pain when urinating
- fever, hot and dry flushed skin
- skin rash
- constipation
- breathing difficulties
- convulsions, fits or seizures
- difficulty sweating
- loss of consciousness.

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## While you are using Benztrop

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### *Things you must do*

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking Benztrop.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.**

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

It may affect other medicines used during surgery.

**If you become pregnant while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.**

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

Your doctor may do some tests from time to time to make sure the medicine is working and to prevent unwanted side effects.

### *Things you must not do*

**Do not take Benztrop to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

### *Things to be careful of*

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

This medicine may cause blurred vision or cause you to be less alert than normal. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything else that could be dangerous.

**Be careful when drinking alcohol while you are taking this medicine.**

If you drink alcohol, you may become more drowsy and sleepy.

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## Side effects

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Benztrop.**

This medicine helps most people with symptoms of Parkinsonism, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

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

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

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- constipation
- dry mouth causing difficulty swallowing
- nausea and/or vomiting
- loss of appetite, weight loss
- blurred vision, dilated pupils.

The above list includes the more common side effects of your medicine. They are usually mild.

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

- difficulty or pain passing urine
- skin rash
- swelling of the face lips tongue or throat
- changes in mood or mental ability such as depression, nervousness, tiredness or sleepiness, confusion disorientation or memory loss
- numb fingers
- hallucinations
- increased heart rate
- worsening symptoms of an existing mental illness
- severe pain in the stomach with bloating and gut cramps.

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

**If any of the following happen, tell your doctor immediately or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital:**

- raised body temperature or fever with lack of sweating
- unable to pass urine.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

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

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

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## After using Benztrop

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### *Storage*

**Keep your tablets in the bottle until it is time to take them.**

If you take the tablets out of the bottle they may not keep well.

**Keep your tablets in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.**

**Do not store Benztrop or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

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

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### *Disposal*

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

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## Product description

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### *What it looks like*

Benztrop 2 mg tablets are round flat faced, white quarter scored on one side and debossed "PMS-2" on the other.

Each bottle of Benztrop contains 60 tablets.

## *Ingredients*

Each tablet of Benztrop contains 2 mg of benzotropine mesylate as the active ingredient.

It also contains:

- starch- pregelatinised maize
- lactose anhydrous
- cellulose- microcrystalline
- magnesium stearate.

This medicine does not contain sucrose, gluten, tartrazine, alcohol, dyes or preservatives.

## *Supplier*

**Benztrop is supplied in Australia by:**

Phebra Pty Ltd  
19 Orion Road, Lane Cove West,  
NSW 2066, Australia.  
Telephone: 1800 720 020



**Benztrop is distributed in New Zealand by:**

AFT Pharmaceuticals Ltd  
PO Box 33-203 Auckland.  
Telephone: +64 9 4880232

Benztrop™  
2mg benzotropine mesylate per tablet  
60 tablets

AUST R 83130

Phebra product code-TAB005

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