

Acetylcysteine-Link

Acetylcysteine (AS-it-ile-SIS-teen)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Acetylcysteine-Link. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given Acetylcysteine-Link against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your doctor.

Keep this leaflet with medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Acetylcysteine-Link is used for

This medicine is used to treat paracetamol poisoning.

It works by reacting with a toxic metabolite of paracetamol to prevent it damaging the liver.

This medicine is most effective when started within 10 hours of exposure to paracetamol.

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.

This medicine is not addictive.

It is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you are given Acetylcysteine-Link

When you must not be given it

Do not use Acetylcysteine-Link if you have an allergy to:

- Any medicine containing acetylcysteine
- Any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

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

If you are not sure whether you should be given this medicine, talk to your doctor.

Before you are given 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;

- Asthma or difficulty breathing
- Stomach ulcers
- Kidney problems
- Liver problems

Tell your doctor if you weigh less than 40 kilograms.

Your doctor may have to adjust the amount of acetylcysteine you will receive.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you are given Acetylcysteine-Link.

Taking other medicines

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

Acetylcysteine-Link may interfere with the results of some urinary dipstick tests.

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to avoid while being treated with this medicine.

How Acetylcysteine-Link is given

How much is given

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your condition and other factors such as your weight.

How it is given

Acetylcysteine-Link is given as a slow infusion into a vein. The duration of treatment is approximately 20 hours. It must only be given by a doctor or nurse.

If you are given too much (overdose)

As Acetylcysteine-Link is given to you under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive too much. However if you experience severe side effects tell your doctor immediately.

In case of overdose immediately contact the Poisons Information Centre for advice on management. (In Australia, call 13 11 26; In New Zealand call 0800 764 744).

Symptoms an overdose may include the side effects listed below in the 'Side Effects' section but are usually of a more severe nature.

Ask your doctor if you have any concerns.

While you are being given Acetylcysteine-Link

Things you must do

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

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

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 treated with 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.

Side effects

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given Acetylcysteine-Link.

This medicine helps most people with paracetamol overdose, 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 treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

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

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

- Nausea or vomiting
- Generally feeling unwell
- Excessive shivering
- Fever or sweating
- Pain in your bones
- Pain and inflammation at the injection site
- Bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist immediately if you notice any of the following:

- Allergic reactions including flushing, rashes, itching, swelling of the face or difficulty breathing
- Chest pain
- Fast or irregular heart beat
- Dizziness or light headedness
- Seizure
- Jaundice
- Blurred vision or any eye pain
- Pain in your face

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

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

After using Acetylcysteine-Link

Storage

Acetylcysteine-Link will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injection is kept in a cool dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Product description

What it looks like

Acetylcysteine-Link is supplied as a clear, colourless solution. It is supplied in 10mL glass ampoules, in packs of 10. Each 10 mL ampoule contains 2g acetylcysteine.

Ingredients

Acetylcysteine-Link contains 200 mg/mL of acetylcysteine as the active ingredient.

It also contains:

- Disodium edetate
- Sodium hydroxide
- Water for injections

Acetylcysteine-Link does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

Sponsor

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