Vallergan® and Vallergan Forte
Alimemazine (trimeprazine) tartrate
Consumer Medicine Information

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What is in this leaflet
This leaflet answers some common questions about Vallergan. 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 or pharmacist has weighed the risks of you taking Vallergan 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.

What Vallergan is used for
Vallergan can be taken to treat hives or pinkish itchy swellings on the skin. This condition is called urticaria. Vallergan can also be taken to relieve itching due to sunburn, photosensitivity, measles and chicken pox.
Your doctor may have prescribed Vallergan for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Vallergan has been prescribed for you.
Vallergan should not be used in children under 2 years of age because safety of such use had not been established.

Before you take Vallergan
When you must not take it
Do not take Vallergan if you have an allergy to Vallergan or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet. Symptoms of an allergic reaction to Vallergan may include swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing.
Do not take Vallergan if you have, or have had, any of the following medical conditions:
- asthma
- severe liver or kidney disease
- epilepsy
- Parkinson’s disease
- hypothyroidism (underactive thyroid gland)
- myasthenia gravis (disease causing muscle weakness)
- pheochromocytoma (tumour of adrenal glands)
- agranulocytosis (lack of white blood cells)
- closed-angle glaucoma
- unusual heart beats
- prostate problems
- difficulty passing urine
- a narrowing or blockage between the stomach and small intestine which causes vomiting of undigested food
Do not give Vallergan to a child under 2 years.
The safety of Vallergan in children under 2 years has not been established.
Do not take Vallergan after the expiry date printed on the pack.

Do not take Vallergan 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 Vallergan, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Before you start to take it
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:
- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:
- epilepsy
- liver or kidney disease
- breathing problems, including asthma or bronchitis
- thyroid problems
- heart disease
- high blood pressure
- prostate problems
- chronic constipation
- raised pressure in the eye

Vallergan should be used with caution in the elderly, particularly during very hot or very cold weather, as there is a risk of hyper or hypothermia. The elderly are also particularly susceptible to postural hypotension.

Exposure to sunlight should be avoided during treatment with Vallergan. The sugar content of Vallergan Syrup and Vallergan Forte Syrup should be considered in patients with diabetes or on low sugar diets.
This medicine contains sulfites that may cause or worsen anaphylactic (allergic) reactions.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.
Like most antihistamine medicines, Vallergan is not recommended for use during pregnancy. If there is a need to consider Vallergan during your pregnancy, your doctor or pharmacist will discuss with you the benefits and risks of using it.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.
Vallergan passes into breast milk and therefore there is a possibility that the breast-fed baby may be affected.

Taking other medicines
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.
Some medicines should not be taken with Vallergan. These include:
- itraconazole, ketoconazole or miconazole, medicines used to treat fungal infections
- erythromycin or roxithromycin, medicines used to treat bacterial infections
- quinine, a medicine used to treat muscle cramps or prevent malaria
- medicines used to treat unusual heart beats
- monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) medicines, including moclobemide, phenelzine and tranylcypromine, which are used to treat depression
Some medicines and Vallergan may interfere with each other. These include:
- alcohol or medicines containing alcohol, such as some cough syrups
- tricyclic antidepressants, medicines used to treat depression
- lithium, a medicine used to treat mood and some types of depression
- anticholinergics, medicines used to relieve stomach cramps or spasms, prevent travel sickness or treatment of an overactive bladder
- amphetamines (stimulants)
- adrenaline
- levodopa (a drug used to treat Parkinson’s disease)
- clonidine (a medicine used to treat high blood pressure, attention deficit disorders, anxiety)
- strong / narcotic pain killers, such as codeine, morphine and dextropropoxyphene
- some medicines used for sedation or to help you sleep
- antacids (medicines used to treat heartburn and indigestion)
- some medicines used to treat anxiety
- some medicines used to stop blood clotting, such as warfarin
These medicines may be affected by Vallergan, 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 will advise you.
Your doctor and pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Vallergan.

How to take Vallergan
Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.
They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.
Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you how many tablets you will need to take each day. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.
If you do not understand the instructions on the bottle, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take
For urticaria:
- Adults should take 10mg, (approximately 6.5mL of Vallergan Syrup: approximately 1.6mL of Vallergan Forte Syrup) 3 or 4 times daily.
- Children above 2 years of age should take between 2.5 and 5mg three to four times daily.
For sedation in children:
Things to be careful of
Make sure you know how you react to Vallergan before you drive, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are tired, drowsy, dizzy or light-headed.
Vallergan is a known sedative. If you are drowsy, do not drive a car or operate machinery.

Side effects
Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Vallergan.
Vallergan helps most people with urticaria, 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.
If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.
Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:
• drowsiness
• nasal stuffiness
• dry mouth
• insomnia
• agitation
• headache
• constipation
These side effects are usually mild.
Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:
• wheezing or being short of breath
• fast, pounding or irregular heart beats
• slow heart beat
• frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
• yellowing of the skin and/or eyes
• problems passing urine
• hallucinations
• spinning sensation
• fainting
• unusual or uncontrolled muscle movements
• tingling or numbness in the hands or feet, also known as 'pins and needles'.
These may be serious side effects. You may need medical attention. (Serious side effects are rare.)
If any of the following happen, stop taking/using Vallergan and tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital:
• chest pain
• sudden signs of allergy such as rash, itching or hives on the skin, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing.
• convulsions, fits or seizures
• loss of consciousness
• high temperature
• muscle stiffness
• altered mental status
These are very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. (These side effects are very rare.)
Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.
Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.
You may not experience any of them.

After using Vallergan

Storage
Keep your medicine in the bottle and protected from light until it is time to take it.
Keep your medicine in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.
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 or pharmacist tells you to stop taking Vallergan or the tablets has passed their expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that are left over.

Product description

What it looks like
Vallergan Syrup (7.5mg/5mL) is clear bright straw coloured liquid with an apricot odour. It is available in a 100mL bottle. Vallergan Forte (30mg/5mL) is a clear to yellow liquid with an apricot odour. It is available in a 100mL bottle.

Ingredients
Active ingredient:
• Alimemazine (trimeprazine) tartrate
Other ingredients:
• sucrose, ethanol, citric acid, sodium citrate dihydrate, sodium benzoate, sodium sulphite, sodium metabisulfite, ascorbic acid, apricot flavour 91 and purified water. Vallergan syrup also contains caramel.

Sponsor
sanofi-aventis australia pty ltd 12-24 Talavera Rd Macquarie Park NSW 2113
Vallergan Forte Syrup is supplied in New Zealand by:
sanofi-aventis new zealand limited Level 8, 56 Cawley Street Ellerslie, Auckland

Australian Registration Numbers:
Vallergan Syrup AUST R 164306
Vallergan Forte AUST R 164298
* Not available in New Zealand
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