PRODUCT INFORMATION
PHENERGAN®

NAME OF THE MEDICINE
Phenergan Tablets
Phenergan Elixir

Non-proprietary Name
Promethazine hydrochloride

Chemical Structure
Promethazine hydrochloride has the following structural formula:
and bile, mainly as metabolites. Elimination half-lives of 5 to 14 hours have been reported. The antihistamine action has been reported to be between 4 and 12 hours.

**INDICATIONS**

**Allergies:** Treatment of allergic conditions including some allergic reactions to drugs, urticaria and allergic contact dermatitis, and allergic reactions to insect bites and stings.

**Upper respiratory tract:** Relief of excessive secretion in the upper respiratory tract as a result of hayfever and allergic rhinitis.

**Nausea and vomiting:** Antiemetic for vomiting from various causes, including postoperative vomiting, irradiation sickness, drug induced nausea and motion sickness.

**Sedation:** For short term use under the advice of a doctor or pharmacist. Do not use for more than 7 to 10 consecutive days.

**Other:** Promethazine has sedative effects and can be used in the symptomatic management of measles and chicken pox.

Promethazine can be used as a preanaesthetic medication for the prevention and control of post operative vomiting.

**CONTRAINDICATIONS**

Promethazine is contraindicated for use in patients with a history of hypersensitivity to the drug substance, substances of similar chemical structure or hypersensitivity to the other ingredients. Phenergan Sugar Free (orange flavour) Elixir should not be given to patients with allergies to sodium metabisulfite, sodium sulfite or sodium benzoate.

Promethazine is contraindicated for use in:

- newborns or premature infants
- children under 2 years of age (see Precautions)
- lactating women
- patients taking monoamine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) (see Interactions with Other Medicines)
- jaundice induced by other phenothiazine derivatives
- patients who have received high doses of other CNS depressants and/or are comatose.

Refer to 'Interactions with Other Medicines' for additional information.

**PRECAUTIONS**

Caution is advised in patients with:

- cardiovascular disease
- impaired hepatic function
- renal - failure or impairment
- acute or chronic respiratory impairment
- epilepsy
- hypertensive crisis
- narrow-angle glaucoma
- stenosing peptic ulcer
- symptomatic prostatic hypertrophy
- bladder neck obstruction
- pyloroduodenal obstruction

Promethazine may cause drowsiness and may increase the effects of alcohol. Drowsiness may continue the following day. Those affected should not drive or operate machinery; alcohol should be avoided.

QT interval prolongation has been reported with phenothiazines.

Refer to 'Interactions with Other Medicines' for additional information.
Use in Pregnancy (Category C)
Promethazine, owing to its pharmacological effects, has caused or may be suspected of causing, harmful effects on the human foetus or neonate without causing malformations. These effects may be reversible.
When promethazine has been given in high doses during late pregnancy, promethazine has caused prolonged neurological disturbances in the infant. Promethazine should be used in pregnancy only if the potential benefits to the patient are weighed against the possible risk to the foetus.

Use in Lactation
Promethazine is excreted in breast milk. Therefore it should not be used for breastfeeding women.

Paediatric Use
Children may experience paradoxical excitation with promethazine. The use of promethazine should be avoided in children and adolescents with signs and symptoms suggestive of Reye’s Syndrome.
This product should not be used in children under 2 years of age, due to the potential for fatal respiratory depression.
Caution should be exercised when administering promethazine to children as there is potential for central and obstructive apnoea and reduced arousal. Excessive dosages of antihistamines in children may cause hallucinations, convulsions and sudden death.

Use in the Elderly
The elderly may experience paradoxical excitation with promethazine. The elderly are more likely to have CNS depressive side effects, including confusion and are more susceptible to the antimuscarinic effects of antihistamines, including hypotension (see Contraindications).

Interactions with Other Medicines
Promethazine may cause drowsiness and may enhance the sedative effects of CNS depressants (including alcohol, barbiturates, hypnotics, opioid analgesics, anxiolytic sedatives and neuroleptics), and have additive antimuscarinic actions with other antimuscarinic drugs (atropine, tricyclic antidepressants). Interactions between promethazine and monoamine oxidase inhibitors and tricyclic antidepressants (TCAs) may prolong and intensify the anticholinergic and CNS depressive effects

Warnings
Hypertensive crisis: Promethazine should be used with caution, if at all, in these patients.
Solar dermatitis has been reported following oral doses of Phenergan in patients with eczema or a tendency to rheumatism.
Epilepsy: Epileptic patients may experience increased severity of convulsions.

ADVERSE EFFECTS

CNS Effects
CNS depressive effects of promethazine include sedation and impaired performance (impaired driving performance, poor work performance, incoordination, reduced motor skills, and impaired information processing). Performance may be impaired in the absence of sedation and may persist the morning after a night-time dose.
The CNS stimulatory effects of promethazine may include anxiety, hallucinations, appetite stimulation, muscle dyskinesias and activation of epileptogenic foci.
High doses of promethazine may cause nervousness, tremor, insomnia, agitation, and irritability.

Anticholinergic Effects
Side effects of promethazine associated with cholinergic blockage include dryness of the eyes, mouth and nose, blurred vision, urinary hesitancy and retention, constipation and tachycardia.
More common reactions

**Gastrointestinal:** Dry mouth, epigastric distress, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, constipation, diarrhoea

**Nervous system:** Sedation, restlessness, dizziness, lassitude, incoordination, fatigue

**Ocular:** Blurred vision

Less common reactions

**Cardiovascular:** Tachycardia, bradycardia, faintness

**Dermatological:** Contact dermatitis (topical), photosensitization, urticaria, angioneurotic oedema, pruritus

**Haematological:** Leucopenia, agranulocytosis, aplastic anaemia, thrombocytopenic purpura.

**Hepatic:** Jaundice

**Musculoskeletal:** Extrapyramidal symptoms

**Nervous-system:** Tinnitus, euphoria, nervousness, insomnia, convulsive seizures, oculogyric crises, excitation, catatonic-like states, hysteria, extrapyramidal symptoms, tardive dyskinesia

**Respiratory:** Marked irregular respiration

Severe or life-threatening reactions

Agranulocytosis, anaphylaxis.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

This product should not be used in children under 2 years of age (see Precautions). Dosage varies according to the condition being treated and the individual’s response.

**Tablets**

**Allergic disorder**

Adults: 25 to 75 mg as a single dose at night, or 10 to 20 mg two to three times daily

Children: 6 – 12 years: 10 to 25 mg as a single dose at night, or 10 mg two to three times daily

Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 to 15 mg as a single dose at night, or 5 mg two to three times daily

**Sedation**

Adults: 25 to 75 mg as a single dose at night

Children: 6 – 12 years: 10 to 25 mg as a single dose at night

Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 to 15 mg as a single dose at night

**Travel sickness**

Adults: 25 mg

Children: 6 – 12 years: 10 mg

Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 mg

To be taken the night before travel and repeated after 6 to 8 hours on the following day if required.

**Nausea and vomiting**

Adults: 25 mg every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum daily dose of 100 mg

Children: 6 – 12 years: 10 mg every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum daily dose of 25 mg

Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 mg every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum daily dose of 15 mg

**Elixir**

**Allergic disorder**

Children: 6 - 12 years: 10 to 25 mL as a single dose at night, or 10 mL two to three times daily

Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 to 15 mL as a single dose at night, or 5 mL two to three times daily
**Sedation**

- Children: 6 - 12 years: 10 to 25 mL as a single dose at night
- Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 to 15 mL as a single dose at night

**Travel sickness**

- Children: 6 -12 years: 10 mL.
- Children: 2 - 5 years: 5 mL.
To be taken the night before travel and repeated after 6-8 hours on the following day if required.

**Nausea and vomiting**

- Children: 6 – 12 years: 10 mL every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum daily dose of 25 mL
- Children: 2 – 5 years: 5 mL every 4 to 6 hours to a maximum daily dose of 15 mL

**OVERDOSAGE**

In case of overdose, immediately contact the Poisons Information Centre (in Australia, call 13 11 26) for advice.

The chief sign of acute poisoning from ingestion of an overdose of Phenergan is unconsciousness, which is commonly delayed. In addition, convulsions, hallucinations, delirium, acute anxiety, psychotic reactions, extreme hyperaesthesia and hyperalgesia with extensor plantar responses may occur. Anticholinergic action may cause tachycardia, flushed skin, dry mouth and sometimes mydriasis and urinary retention.

In adults, CNS depression is more common, with drowsiness, coma, convulsions, progressing to respiratory failure or cardiovascular collapse.

In infants and children, CNS stimulation predominates over CNS depression causing ataxia, excitement, tremors, psychoses, hallucinations, convulsions and possibly hyperpyrexia, which may be followed by deepening coma and cardiorespiratory collapse.

**Treatment**

Similar to that of other phenothiazines. Contact the Poisons Information Centre (in Australia call 13 11 26).

Symptomatic supportive therapy is indicated and maintenance of adequate ventilation should be instituted if necessary.

**PRESENTATION AND STORAGE CONDITIONS**

**Elixir**

- 5 mg/5 mL
  - Sugar free, alcohol free, orange flavoured
  - 100 mL
  - Store below 25°C. Protect from light.

**Tablets**

- 10 mg
  - Circular, film-coated biconvex tablets with bevelled edges, pale blue in colour, one face impressed ‘PN’ above ‘10’, the reverse face plain.
  - 10 mg tablets are available in packs of 50’s.
  - Store below 30°C. Protect from light.

- 25 mg
  - Circular, film-coated biconvex tablets with bevelled edges, pale blue in colour, one face impressed ‘PN’ above ‘25’, the reverse face plain.
  - 25 mg tablets are available in packs of 50’s.
  - Store below 30°C. Protect from light.
NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SPONSOR
sanofi –aventis pty ltd
12-24 Talavera Rd
Macquarie Park NSW 2113
Australia

Poison Schedule of the Medicine
Elixir, Tablets: S3.

DATE OF APPROVAL
Date of TGA approval: 3rd September 2001
Date of safety related notification: 2nd August 2006