



(510) 679-3300
27206 Calaroga Ave - Ste 201
Hayward, CA 94545
BALMEDS.com

Phenylephrine Hydrochloride Injection

(Anti-Dote)

Patient Information

What is Phenylephrine Hydrochloride?

Phenylephrine Hydrochloride (aka as NeoSynephrine and Neofrin), is a man-made drug that stimulates alpha1 receptors on blood vessels and causes blood vessels to constrict (vasoconstriction). It is a vasoconstrictor medication, structurally similar to epinephrine and ephedrine. Vasoconstriction increases blood pressure. Phenylephrine increases blood pressure and heart rate without affecting heart rhythm.

How is Phenylephrine Hydrochloride used at Balanced Medical Solutions?

It is an important medication used when a patient has a priapism that needs to be resolved immediately and has not been resolved by other medications. A priapism is an erection that lasts too long. A priapism can develop without sexual stimulation and doesn't go away after orgasm.

What should I tell my doctor before taking Phenylephrine Hydrochloride?

You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take Phenylephrine Hydrochloride with all of your current drugs and health problems. Tell your prescribing provider if you are allergic to any other drugs, foods, or substances, including sulfites.

Phenylephrine should be used cautiously with MAO inhibitors like selegiline (Eldepryl, Zelapar), phenelzine (Nardil), isocarboxazid (Marplan), because they can also increase blood pressure and can cause a serious hypertensive episode. A similar reaction occurs when phenylephrine is combined with amphetamine and related drugs.

Phenylephrine should be used with caution with antidepressants like amitriptyline (Elavil, Endep), nortriptyline (Pamelor, Aventyl), doxepin (Sinequan, Adapin), and trazodone (Deyrel). Such antidepressants may increase blood pressure if used together with phenylephrine.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with Phenylephrine Hydrochloride so make sure to tell your prescribing doctor everything you know about your health and any medications that you take, including prescription or OTC, natural products, herbs, and vitamins.

What are the known side effects of Phenylephrine Hydrochloride?

The vast majority of patients have no side effects or only have minor side effects. This medicine may irritate the skin and cause redness or swelling at the injection site.



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Even though it may be rare, some patients may have side effects, especially if they are allergic to any of the ingredients in the injection, such as sodium metabisulfite. To minimize the risk of side effects, notify your prescribing physician if you are allergic to any medications or are currently taking medications or are under treatment for an acute or chronic medical condition.

Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a serious allergic reaction like a rash, hives, itching, red/swollen/blistered/peeling skin with or without fever, wheezing, tightness in the chest or throat, trouble breathing/swallowing/talking, unusual hoarseness, or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Some rare side effects you should know about:

- Can increase the need for renal replacement therapy in patients with septic shock.
- Epigastric pain, vomiting, nausea
- Headache, blurred vision, neck pain, tremors
- Excitability, anxiety, restlessness
- Can increase blood pressure and cause abnormal heart beats.
- Because of its increasing blood pressure effects, phenylephrine hydrochloride can precipitate angina in patients with severe arteriosclerosis or history of angina, exacerbate underlying heart failure, and increase pulmonary arterial pressure.
- Can cause excessive peripheral and visceral vasoconstriction and ischemia to vital organs, particularly in patients with extensive peripheral vascular disease.
- It can cause necrosis or sloughing of tissue. The infusion site should be checked for free flow.
- Can increase the need for renal replacement therapy in patients with septic shock.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, talk to your prescribing provider.

It is important that you continue to see your regular medical doctor for your usual health care, tests, and routine health maintenance. We are not replacing your primary physician.