

ARAMINE® INJECTION

(METARAMINOL (AS TARTRATE))

1 NAME OF THE MEDICINE

Metaraminol tartrate

2 QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

Aramine injection contains 10 mg/mL metaraminol (as tartrate) as the active ingredient.

Each mL of Aramine injection contains metaraminol (as tartrate) 10 mg and sodium metabisulfite 2.0 mg as antioxidant.

Metaraminol tartrate is a white, crystalline powder, which is freely soluble in water, slightly soluble in alcohol, and practically insoluble in chloroform and in ether.

List of excipients with known effect: sodium chloride and sodium metabisulfite.

This medicine contains sodium as sodium chloride and sodium metabisulfite.

For the full list of excipients, see Section 6.1 List of Excipients.

3 PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Aramine injection is a clear colourless to slightly yellow/pink sterile solution of metaraminol tartrate equivalent to 10 mg/mL metaraminol.

4 CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 THERAPEUTIC INDICATIONS

Prevention and treatment of the acute hypotensive state occurring with spinal anaesthesia; adjunctive treatment of hypotension due to haemorrhage, reactions to medications, surgical complications, and shock associated with brain damage due to tumour or trauma.

It may also be useful as an adjunct in the treatment of hypotension due to cardiogenic shock or septicaemia.

4.2 DOSE AND METHOD OF ADMINISTRATION

Aramine injection is for intravenous administration only (injection or infusion) and should be used in one patient on one occasion only. It contains no antimicrobial preservative. Unused solution should be discarded.

Because the maximum effect is not immediately apparent, at least ten minutes should elapse before increasing the dosage. As the effect tapers off when the vasopressor is discontinued, the patient should be carefully observed so that therapy can be reinitiated promptly if the blood pressure falls too rapidly. Patients with coexistent shock and acidosis may show a poor response to vasopressors. Established methods of shock management, such as

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blood or fluid replacement when indicated, and other measures directed to the specific cause of the shock also should be used.

Intravenous infusion (for adjunctive treatment of hypotension)

The recommended dose is 15 to 100 mg (1.5 to 10 mL) in 500 mL of sodium chloride injection or glucose injection 5%, adjusting the rate of infusion to maintain the blood pressure at the desired level.

Higher concentrations of metaraminol tartrate (150 to 500 mg/500 mL of infusion fluid) have been used.

If the patient needs additional saline or glucose solution at a rate of flow that would provide an excessive dose of the vasopressor, the recommended volume (500 mL) of infusion fluid should be increased accordingly. Conversely, if a smaller volume of infusion fluid is desirable, the required dose of metaraminol tartrate may be added to less than 500 mL of diluent.

Compatibility

In addition to sodium chloride injection and glucose injection 5%, the following infusion solutions were found physically and chemically compatible with metaraminol tartrate when 5 mL of Aramine injection was added to 500 mL of infusion solution: Ringer's injection and lactated Ringer's injection.

When metaraminol injection is mixed with an infusion solution, sterile precautions should be observed. To reduce microbiological hazard, use as soon as practicable after preparation. If storage is necessary, hold at 2-8°C for not more than 24 hours.

The injection solution contains no antimicrobial preservative and is for single use in one patient only. Discard any residue.

Direct intravenous injection

In severe shock, when time is of great importance, it may be desirable to administer Aramine injection by direct intravenous injection. The suggested dose is 0.5 to 5 mg (0.05 to 0.5 mL), followed by an infusion of 15 to 100 mg in 500 mL of diluent.

Direct intravenous injection of undiluted solution should be employed only in instances of grave emergency when prompt action is imperative to save life. Extreme care must be exercised to give the proper dose.

For direct intravenous injection use of a lower strength, 0.5 mg/mL metaraminol injection is recommended. A lower strength 0.5 mg/mL metaraminol injection can be obtained by diluting this 10 mg/1 mL product to 20 mL with 0.9% sodium chloride or by using a pre-diluted solution available under other tradenames.

4.3 CONTRAINDICATIONS

Use with cyclopropane or halothane anaesthesia should be avoided, unless clinical circumstances demand such use.

Hypersensitivity to any component of this product including sulfites.

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4.4 SPECIAL WARNINGS AND PRECAUTIONS FOR USE

Aramine injection contains sodium metabisulfite, a sulfite that may cause allergic-type reactions including anaphylactic symptoms and life-threatening or less severe asthmatic episodes in certain susceptible people. The overall prevalence of sulfite sensitivity in the general population is unknown and probably low. Sulfite sensitivity is seen more frequently in asthmatic than in non-asthmatic people.

Caution should be exercised to avoid an excessive blood pressure response. Rapidly induced hypertensive responses have been reported to cause acute pulmonary oedema, cardiac arrhythmias and arrest. Patients with cirrhosis should be treated with caution, with adequate restoration of electrolytes if diuresis ensues. A fatal ventricular arrhythmia has been reported in a patient with Laennec's cirrhosis while receiving metaraminol tartrate. In several instances, ventricular extrasystoles that appeared during infusion subsided promptly when the rate of flow was reduced.

With the prolonged action of this drug, a cumulative effect is possible, and with an excessive vasopressor response there may be a prolonged elevation of blood pressure even when therapy with metaraminol tartrate is discontinued.

Because of its vasoconstrictor effect, metaraminol tartrate should be given with caution in the presence of heart or thyroid disease, hypertension, or diabetes. Sympathomimetic amines may provoke a relapse in patients with a history of malaria.

When vasopressor amines are used for long periods, the resulting vasoconstriction may prevent adequate expansion of the circulating volume and may cause perpetuation of the shock state. There is evidence that plasma volume may be reduced in all types of shock, and that the measurement of central venous pressure is useful in assessing the adequacy of the circulating blood volume. Therefore, blood or plasma volume expanders should be employed when the principal reason for hypotension or shock is decreased circulating volume.

In choosing the site of injection, it is important to avoid those areas recognised as unsuitable for the use of any pressor agent, and to discontinue the infusion immediately if infiltration or thrombosis occurs. Although the urgent nature of the patient's condition may force the choice of an unsuitable injection site, the preferred areas of injection should be used when possible. The larger veins of the antecubital fossa or thigh are preferred to the veins in the ankle or the dorsum of the hand, particularly in patients with peripheral vascular disease, diabetes mellitus, Buerger's disease, or conditions with coexistent hypercoagulability.

Use in the elderly

No data available.

Paediatric use

The effect of therapy with Aramine injection in children has not been established.

Effects on laboratory tests

No data available.

4.5 INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICINES AND OTHER FORMS OF INTERACTIONS

Aramine injection should be used with caution in digitalised patients, since the combination of digitalis and sympathomimetic amines is capable of causing ectopic arrhythmic activity.

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MAOIs and tricyclic antidepressants have been reported to potentiate the action of sympathomimetic amines.

4.6 FERTILITY, PREGNANCY AND LACTATION

Effects on fertility

No data available.

Use in pregnancy (Category C)

There are no well controlled studies in pregnant women. Aramine injection may cause fetal hypoxia by constricting the uterine vessels thereby limiting placental perfusion.

Aramine injection should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk to the fetus.

Use in lactation

It is not known whether Aramine injection is secreted in human milk. Because many drugs are secreted in human milk, caution should be exercised if Aramine injection is given to a breastfeeding woman.

4.7 EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES

The effects of this medicine on a person's ability to drive and use machines were not assessed as part of its registration.

4.8 ADVERSE EFFECTS (UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS)

Abscess formation, tissue necrosis or sloughing rarely follow the use of metaraminol tartrate.

Sympathomimetic amines, including metaraminol tartrate, may cause sinus or ventricular tachycardia or other arrhythmias, especially in patients with myocardial infarction.

Reporting suspected adverse effects

Reporting suspected adverse reactions after registration of the medicinal product is important. It allows continued monitoring of the benefit-risk balance of the medicinal product. Healthcare professionals are asked to report any suspected adverse reactions at <http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems>.

4.9 OVERDOSE

Overdosage may result in severe hypertension accompanied by headache, constricting sensation in the chest, nausea, vomiting, euphoria, diaphoresis, pulmonary oedema, tachycardia, bradycardia, sinus arrhythmia, atrial or ventricular arrhythmias, myocardial infarction, cardiac arrest or convulsions.

Should an excessive elevation of blood pressure occur, it may be immediately relieved by a sympatholytic agent, e.g. phentolamine. An appropriate antiarrhythmic agent may also be required.

For information on the management of overdose, contact the Poisons Information Centre on 131126 (Australia).

The oral LD50 in the rat and mouse is 240 mg/kg and 99 mg/kg, respectively.

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5 PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 PHARMACODYNAMIC PROPERTIES

Mechanism of action

Metaraminol is a potent sympathomimetic amine that increases both systolic and diastolic blood pressure. The pressor effect begins one to two minutes after intravenous injection, about 10 minutes after intramuscular injection, 5 to 20 minutes after subcutaneous injection, and lasts about 20 minutes to one hour. Metaraminol has a positive inotropic effect on the heart and has a peripheral vasoconstrictor action.

Renal, coronary, and cerebral blood flow are a function of perfusion pressure and regional resistance. In most instances of cardiogenic shock, the beneficial effect of sympathomimetic amines is attributable to their positive inotropic effect. In patients with insufficient or failing vasoconstriction, there is additional advantage to the peripheral action of metaraminol, but in most patients with shock, vasoconstriction is adequate and any further increase is unnecessary. Therefore, blood flow to vital organs may decrease with metaraminol if regional resistance increases excessively.

The pressor effect of metaraminol is decreased but not reversed by alpha-adrenergic blocking agents. A primary or secondary fall in blood pressure and a tachyphylactic response to repeated use are uncommon.

Clinical trials

No data available.

5.2 PHARMACOKINETIC PROPERTIES

Absorption

No data available.

Distribution

No data available.

Metabolism

No data available.

Excretion

No data available.

5.3 PRECLINICAL SAFETY DATA

Genotoxicity

No data available.

Carcinogenicity

No data available.

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6 PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 LIST OF EXCIPIENTS

Each mL of Aramine injection contains sodium chloride 8.5 mg, sodium metabisulfite 2.0 mg as antioxidant in water for injections to 1 mL. Tartaric acid and/or sodium hydroxide are added for pH adjustment.

6.2 INCOMPATIBILITIES

Incompatibilities were either not assessed or not identified as part of the registration of this medicine.

6.3 SHELF LIFE

In Australia, information on the shelf life can be found on the public summary of the ARTG¹. The expiry date can be found on the packaging.

6.4 SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR STORAGE

Store below 25°C. Protect from light.

6.5 NATURE AND CONTENTS OF CONTAINER

Aramine injection is presented as 1 mL clear, colourless to slight yellow/pink solution in a 2 mL clear type I glass vial.

It is supplied in a carton containing 5 vials.

Phebra product code: INJ188

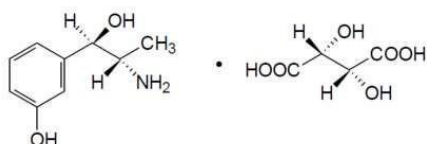
6.6 SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS FOR DISPOSAL

In Australia, any unused medicine or waste material should be disposed of by taking to your local pharmacy.

6.7 PHYSICOCHEMICAL PROPERTIES

The molecular weight of the compound is 317.29. The molecular formula is C₉H₁₃NO₂·C₄H₆O₆.

Chemical structure



CAS number

33402-03-8

¹ AUST R 284785

PRODUCT INFORMATION



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7 MEDICINE SCHEDULE (POISONS STANDARD)

Schedule 4 - Prescription Only Medicine

8 SPONSOR

Phebra² Pty Ltd, 19 Orion Road, Lane Cove West, NSW 2066, Australia.
Telephone: 1800 720 020

9 DATE OF FIRST APPROVAL

16 Jan 2018

10 DATE OF REVISION

19 Oct 2020

SUMMARY TABLE OF CHANGES

Section Changed	Summary of new information
2	Included information on "List of excipients with known effect"
6.1	Tartaric acid and/or sodium hydroxide are added for pH adjustment
9	Minor editorial update

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