
Advice following
administration of
oral Chlorphenamine
after a mild reaction
to contrast media

Radiology

Patient information



Introduction

This leaflet informs you about Chlorphenamine 4mg, tablet (anti-histamine). It also contains advice about your mild allergic reaction following the injection of contrast media (dye) given as part of your scan. If you have any questions after reading this leaflet, please speak to the radiographer.

What is Chlorphenamine used for?

Chlorphenamine is an allergy relief tablet used to relieve symptoms responsive to anti-histamines. These symptoms include:

- Hay fever
- Raised red rash (hives)
- Food allergy
- Drug reactions
- Itching.

How is Chlorphenamine given?

It is given as an oral 4mg tablet to be taken with water. This is only given if you have experienced a mild allergic reaction to the dye. You will only receive one tablet in the unit. If further supply is needed, Chlorphenamine tablets are available to purchase at most local pharmacies.

When can I go home after being given Chlorphenamine?

You should stay at The Royal Marsden for at least one hour after taking the Chlorphenamine tablet. Based on the nature of your reaction, you will need to be monitored to ensure you are well enough before going home. It is normal to be seen by a variety of staff members including a doctor to ensure that you are feeling better before leaving.

You may eat as usual, however, increased fluid intake is recommended in order to rehydrate your body after receiving the dye during your scan.

Does Chlorphenamine cause any side effects?

Chlorphenamine can cause side effects in some people. The most frequent side effects are dizziness, drowsiness and general tiredness. If you experience any of these symptoms you should not drive or operate machinery.

Less common side effects may include:

- Extreme dizziness or feeling faint
- Blurred vision
- Dry mouth
- Urinary retention (trouble emptying your bladder)
- Abdominal discomfort or pain

- Diarrhoea
- Nausea or vomiting
- Worsening skin rash.

You will be closely monitored after taking the tablet as we want to ensure your mild reaction has eased before you go home.

If you have experienced any side effects from the tablet, it is very important to tell staff before you have further scans or tests at any hospital.

Contact details

If you have any queries or feel unwell after your scan, please call the Imaging Department (MRI/CT) for advice.

MRI

Chelsea: 020 7811 8904 or
020 7808 2575

Sutton: 020 8661 3336 or
020 8661 3342 or
020 8661 3106

CT

Chelsea: 020 7808 2562 or
020 7808 2575

Sutton: 020 8661 3512 or
020 8661 3222

Alternatively please call:

**The Royal Marsden Macmillan
Hotline: 020 8915 6899**

(Available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

If you start feeling unwell whilst at home, please call the Royal Marsden Macmillan hotline.

However, if your symptoms worsen significantly please call 999 or go to your nearest A&E department.

References

This leaflet is evidence based wherever the appropriate evidence is available, and represents an accumulation of expert opinion and professional interpretation.

Details of the references used in writing this leaflet are available on request from:

The Royal Marsden Help Centre

Freephone: 0800 783 7176

Email: patientcentre@rmh.nhs.uk

No conflicts of interest were declared in the production of this leaflet.

Should you require information in an alternative format, please contact The Royal Marsden Help Centre.

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