

Paediatric dose

Short-term salivary control: >3 years, 1 mg twice daily, increasing at two-weekly intervals to 2 mg 2–3 times daily.

benztropine

anticholinergic, anti-Parkinsonian

Cautionary advisory labels: 1, 9 (long-term regular therapy)

Notes

Changes to urinary system: May induce or aggravate overflow incontinence due to reduced detrusor activity, voiding difficulty, urinary retention or constipation.

Elderly: Confusion, psychoses, constipation, urinary retention, blurred vision, orthostatic hypotension leading to falls and fractures. Counsel about rising slowly and cautiously.

Pregnancy: B2. Use not recommended.

Breastfeeding: Use with caution, especially in neonatal period. Limited data available. Risk of anticholinergic effects. May suppress lactation.

Common dosage range**Adult dose**

Parkinson's disease: Initial dose, 0.5–1 mg daily; increase gradually up to 6 mg daily in divided doses.

Drug-induced extrapyramidal disorders: 1–4 mg once or twice daily.

Paediatric dose

Children >3 years

Drug-induced extrapyramidal disorders: 20–50 micrograms/kg once or twice daily; maximum 6 mg daily.

Acute dystonic reaction: IM/IV, 0.02 mg/kg/dose. May be repeated after 15 minutes.

benzylpenicillin (penicillin G)

beta-lactamase labile narrow-spectrum penicillin

Notes

- Confirm appropriate antibiotic and dose regimen.
- May cause diarrhoea.
- If a skin rash occurs, seek medical advice.
- Ask about any previous reaction to penicillin.

Renal impairment (severe): Caution. Dose adjustment may be necessary. Large doses (20 g) cause convulsions.

Pregnancy: A.

Breastfeeding: May be used. Small amounts excreted in breast milk. Monitor for adverse effects (e.g. diarrhoea, thrush) in infant.

Common dosage range**Adult dose**

IV, 0.6–1.2 g every 4–6 hours depending on type and severity of infection. Maximum 18 g daily (e.g. endocarditis, meningitis); up to 24 g daily on specialist advice.

Paediatric dose

IM/IV, 30–60 mg/kg every 4–6 hours.

Dose equivalence

600 mg = 1 million units.

betamethasone

corticosteroid

Notes

Changes to Faeces: Pink, red, black faeces may indicate medicine-induced gastrointestinal bleeding.

Pregnancy: Topical: A; IM: C. Safe for topical use. Maternal blood glucose should be monitored for IM use.

Breastfeeding: Safe to use topically provided breast area is free of corticosteroid before breastfeeding. Use with caution systemically. Monitor infant if repeated doses are required.

Common dosage range**Adult dose**

IM, 5.7–11.4 mg.

Paediatric dose

IM, <1 year: 1 mg; 1–5 years: 2 mg; 6–12 years: 4 mg. Monitor development and growth carefully in children on long-term therapy.

bimatoprost

ocular prostaglandin analogue for glaucoma

Cautionary advisory labels: 7b

Notes

- Administer eye drops in the evening for best effect.
- Separate from other drops by 5 minutes.
- Apply pressure to tear duct after dosing to minimise systemic absorption.
- Do not allow dropper to touch eye.

Pregnancy: B3. Use not recommended.

Breastfeeding: Use not recommended as limited data available.