

Mucomyst (R)

Acetylcysteine

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Mucomyst.

It does not contain all the available information.

It does not take the place of talking with your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of your treatment using Mucomyst against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with the medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Mucomyst is used for

The name of your medicine is Mucomyst. It contains the active ingredient called acetylcysteine.

Mucomyst reduces the stickiness of fluid in your airways and lungs, making it more liquid.

Mucomyst is used in patients with abnormal, sticky or thick mucous secretions in conditions such as:

- * ongoing lung disease such as pneumonia, bronchitis, emphysema, tuberculosis and other conditions that affect your breathing
- * short term lung disease such as pneumonia or bronchitis
- * lung problems of cystic fibrosis

- * lung problems occurring after an accident or after surgery
- * other lung problems associated with having mucus in your airway

Mucomyst may also be used:

- * when you are having tests carried out on your lungs
- * as part of tracheostomy care
- * when you are receiving an anaesthetic

Your doctor may have prescribed Mucomyst for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Mucomyst has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence that Mucomyst is addictive.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you use Mucomyst

When you must not use it

Do not use Mucomyst if you have an allergy to Mucomyst or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing.

Do not use Mucomyst after the expiry date printed on the pack.

If you take this medicine after the expiry date has passed, it may not work as well.

Do not use Mucomyst if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

If you are not sure whether you should start using Mucomyst, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to use it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to:

- * Mucomyst, acetylcysteine or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- * any other medicines
- * any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using Mucomyst during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.

It is recommended that if Mucomyst must be given to breastfeeding mothers, the infant should not be breastfed during therapy.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any other medical conditions, especially the following:

- * asthma
- * difficulty in coughing
- * kidney disease
- * liver disease

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start using Mucomyst.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may be affected by Mucomyst, or may affect how well it works. You may need to take different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Your doctor and pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Mucomyst.

How to use Mucomyst

How much to use

Mucomyst may be used undiluted or diluted with an equal volume of either sterile normal saline or sterile water for injections.

The recommended dose for most patients is 3 to 5mL of the undiluted solution or 5 to 10 mL of the diluted solution, three to four times a day.

Follow your doctor's instructions about how much Mucomyst you should use, how often you should take it and for how long.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the box, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How to use it

Mucomyst may be administered in the hospital, in your doctor's office, or in your home.

Outside the hospital, Mucomyst is taken by inhalation through a device called a nebuliser. Your doctor will tell you where to obtain the necessary nebulisation equipment.

The following procedure should be followed:

- * Place the solution in the small chamber called the nebuliser.
- * Attach the nebuliser to an oxygen mask.
- * Attach the tubing from the oxygen mask to the container of compressed air.
- * Place the mask over your nose and mouth, making sure that it fits firmly.
- * Feed the compressed air into the tubing at the pressure level your doctor told you.
- * Once all of the solution is gone from the nebuliser, turn off the compressed air and remove the mask.

After using Mucomyst with a face mask there may be some stickiness remaining on the face. This is easily removed by washing with water.

You may initially notice a slight odour when the Mucomyst is nebulised. This is normal and you will very quickly get used to it.

If you have any questions about how to use Mucomyst, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

When to use it

Mucomyst is usually used three to four times a day. Your doctor's instructions may be different to this.

Always follow your doctor's instructions on when to use Mucomyst.

Use Mucomyst at the same time every day.

If you forget to use it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and use your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, use it as soon as you remember and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not use a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.

This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your pharmacist.

How long to use it

Mucomyst treats the symptoms of your condition, but it does not cure it. Continue taking Mucomyst for as long as your doctor tells you.

Do not stop using it unless your doctor tells you to - even if you feel better.

If you use it too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26), or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Mucomyst. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention.

While you are using Mucomyst

Things you must do

Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are using Mucomyst.

If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are using Mucomyst.

If you plan to have surgery that needs a general anaesthetic, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using Mucomyst.

If you become pregnant while using Mucomyst, tell your doctor immediately.

Things you must not do

Do not give Mucomyst to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Do not use Mucomyst to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not stop using Mucomyst, or lower the dosage, without first checking with your doctor.

Things to be careful of

Tell your doctor if you are not coughing properly.

Mucomyst may increase the amount of runny mucous in your lungs. If you are not coughing properly, you should let your doctor know as he/she may wish to remove the mucus mechanically.

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Mucomyst affects you.

As with some medicines, Mucomyst may cause drowsiness in some people. Make sure you know how you react to Mucomyst before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are affected. If this occurs do not drive. If you drink alcohol, symptoms may become worse.

Side Effects

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are using Mucomyst.

Mucomyst helps most people with mucous problems, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects. If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- * sore mouth
- * nausea or vomiting
- * runny nose
- * drowsiness
- * clamminess

These side effects are usually mild.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- * chest tightness
- * wheezing, coughing or difficulty breathing

These may be serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell.

Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

After using Mucomyst

Storage

Store unopened Mucomyst ampoules in a cool dry place, where the temperature stays below 25 degrees C.

Do not store Mucomyst or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car on hot days.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Keep it where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store

medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop using Mucomyst or if it has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

Product Description

What it looks like

Mucomyst is a clear, colourless liquid.

Under certain conditions, a light purple colour may appear in the Mucomyst solution. This does not affect its safety or effectiveness.

Mucomyst comes in ampoules of 5mL and is supplied in a box containing 6 ampoules.

Ingredients

Active ingredient:

- * acetylcysteine

Other ingredients:

- * disodium ethylenediamine tetraacetate dihydrate
- * sodium hydroxide

Manufacturer

Mucomyst is manufactured by:

Bristol-Myers Squibb S.r.l.

Anagni

Italy

And distributed in Australia by:

Bristol-Myers Squibb Australia Pty. Ltd., A.C.N. 004 3333 22

556 Princes Highway, Noble Park Vic 3174, Australia

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