Pentamidine

pen-TAM-i-deen

Brand Name: **Nebupent**

Drug Class: **Opportunistic Infection and Other Drugs**

Pentamidine isethionate, also known as Nebupent, is a type of medicine called an antiprotozoal. Antiprotozoals help the body overcome infections caused by protozoa, which are microscopic organisms that can cause disease.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Pentamidine isethionate was approved by the FDA on June 15, 1989, for use in the treatment of Pneumocystis jiroveci (formerly Pneumocystis carinii) pneumonia (PCP), an opportunistic infection in people with HIV/AIDS. Pentamidine is generally used only when patients with PCP cannot tolerate the first-line treatment, sulfamethoxazole-trimethoprim.

Dosage Form/Administration

Pentamidine isethionate comes in liquid form that is given by oral inhalation. It also comes in powder form that is mixed with sterile water and given by intravenous infusion into a vein or by injection into a muscle.

Contraindications

Individuals should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, pentamidine isethionate can cause some unwanted effects. Symptoms reflecting serious adverse effects may include fruit-like breath odor, increased thirst, increased or decreased urination, change in appetite, elevated liver function tests, chills, cold sweats, headache, nausea, sore throat or fever, rapid or irregular pulse, or heartbeat abnormalities. Drowsiness, anxiety, nervousness, shakiness, blurred vision, confusion, dizziness, fainting, lightheadedness, or unusual tiredness or weakness may also occur. Side effects to the skin may include unusual bleeding or bruising; cool, pale skin; flushed, dry skin; skin rash; redness; itching; fever; or pain, redness, or hardness at the site of injection. Individuals should tell a doctor if they have any of these side effects.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of the medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include nausea or vomiting, loss of appetite, diarrhea, and unpleasant metallic taste. Individuals should tell a doctor if these side effects continue or are bothersome.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Pentamidine, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at http://www.clinicaltrials.gov. In the Search box, enter: Pentamidine AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Pentamidine
Fujisawa Healthcare Inc
Parkway Center North / 3 Parkway North
Deerfield, IL 60015-2548
(800) 727-7003

Nebupent
American Pharmaceutical Partners
1501 East Woodfield Drive
Suite 300 East
Schaumburg, IL 60173-5837
(849) 969-2700

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

Pentamidine

For More Information (cont.)

• Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET

• Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET