

PHENYTOIN HAMA PHARMA

CAPSULES

PHENYTOIN SODIUM 25, 50, 100, 300 mg

COMPOSITION:

Each capsule of PHENYTOIN HAMA PHARMA contains: 25, 50, 100, 300 mg of phenytoin sodium.

Excipients: Magnesium stearate, Lactose, Silica (Colloidal Silicon Dioxide).

MODE OF ACTION:

PHENYTOIN appears to stabilise rather than raise the seizure threshold and prevents spread of seizure activity rather than abolish the primary focus of seizure discharge. The mechanism by which phenytoin exerts its anticonvulsant action has not been fully elucidated however, possible contributory effects include:

1. Non-synaptic effects to reduce sodium conductance, enhance active sodium extrusion, block repetitive firing and reduce post-tetanic potentiation
2. Post-synaptic action to enhance gaba-mediated inhibition and reduce excitatory synaptic transmission
3. Pre-synaptic action to reduce calcium entry and block release of neurotransmitter.

PHARMACOKINETICS: Phenytoin is absorbed from the small intestine after oral administration. After absorption it is distributed into body fluid including CSF. It is highly protein bound (usually 90% in adults). The plasma half-life of phenytoin in man averages 22 hours with a range of 7 to 42 hours. Steady state therapeutic drug levels are achieved at least 7 to 10 days after initiation of therapy. Phenytoin is hydroxylated in the liver by an enzyme system which is saturable. Small incremental doses may produce very substantial increases in serum levels when these are in the upper range of therapeutic concentrations. The parameters controlling elimination are also subject to wide interpatient variation. The serum level achieved by a given dose is therefore also subject to wide variation.

INDICATIONS: Control of tonic-clonic seizures (grand mal epilepsy), partial seizures (focal including temporal lobe) or a combination of these, and the prevention and treatment of seizures occurring during or following neurosurgery and/or severe head injury. Phenytoin has also been employed in the treatment of trigeminal neuralgia but it should only be used as second line therapy if carbamazepine is ineffective or patients are intolerant to carbamazepine.

CONTRAINDICATIONS: Phenytoin is contraindicated in those patients who are hypersensitive to phenytoin, or its excipients, or other hydantoin.

SIDE EFFECTS: The following adverse reactions have been reported with phenytoin:

Immune system reactions: Anaphylactoid reaction, and anaphylaxis.

Central Nervous System: Reactions include nystagmus, ataxia, slurred speech, decreased co-ordination, mental confusion. Dizziness, vertigo, insomnia, transient nervousness, motor twitchings, taste perversion, headache, paresthesia and somnolence have also been observed. There have also been rare reports of phenytoin induced dyskinesias, including chorea, dystonia, tremor and asterixis, similar to those induced by phenothiazine and other neuroleptic drugs. A predominantly sensory peripheral polyneuropathy has been observed in patients receiving long-term phenytoin therapy.

Gastrointestinal: Vomiting, nausea and constipation.

Hepatobiliary disorders: Acute hepatic failure, toxic hepatitis and liver damage.

Dermatological: Dermatological manifestations sometimes accompanied by fever have included scarlatiniform or morbilliform rashes. A morbilliform rash (measles-like) is the most common; other types of dermatitis are seen more rarely. Other more serious forms which may be fatal have included bullous, exfoliative or purpuric dermatitis, lupus erythematosus, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and toxic epidermal necrolysis.

Connective Tissue: Coarsening of the facial features, enlargement of the lips, gingival hyperplasia, hirsutism, hypertrichosis, Peyronie's Disease and Dupuytren's contracture may occur rarely.

Hematopoietic System: Hematopoietic complications, some fatal, have occasionally been reported in association with administration of phenytoin. These have included thrombocytopenia, leukopenia, granulocytopenia, agranulocytosis, and pancytopenia with or without bone marrow suppression. There have been a number of reports suggesting a relationship between phenytoin and the development of lymphadenopathy (local or generalized) including benign lymph node hyperplasia, pseudolymphoma, lymphoma, and Hodgkin's disease.

While macrocytosis and megaloblastic anemia have occurred, these conditions usually respond to folic acid therapy. If folic acid is added to phenytoin therapy, a decrease in seizure control may occur.

Immune System: Hypersensitivity syndrome/Drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms (HSS/DRESS), systemic lupus erythematosus, periarthritis nodosa, and immunoglobulin abnormalities.

Other: Polyarthropathy, interstitial nephritis, pneumonitis.

Musculoskeletal System: There have been reports of decreased bone mineral density, osteopenia, osteoporosis and fractures in patients on long-term therapy with phenytoin. The mechanism by which phenytoin affects bone metabolism has not been identified. Other disorders of bone metabolism such as hypocalcaemia, hypophosphatemia and decreased levels of Vitamin D metabolites have also been reported.

WARNINGS & PRECAUTIONS: Patients should be monitored for signs of suicidal ideation and behaviours and appropriate treatment should be considered. Patients (and caregivers of patients) should be advised to seek medical advice should signs of suicidal ideation or behaviour emerge.

Abrupt withdrawal of phenytoin in epileptic patients may precipitate status epilepticus. When, in the judgement of the clinician, the need for dosage reduction, discontinuation, or substitution of alternative anti-epileptic medication arises, this should be done gradually. However, in the event of an allergic or hypersensitivity reaction, rapid substitution of alternative therapy may be necessary. In this case, alternative therapy should be an anti-epileptic drug not belonging to the hydantoin chemical class.

Phenytoin is highly protein bound and extensively metabolised by the liver. Reduced dosage to prevent accumulation and toxicity may therefore be required in patients with impaired liver function. Where protein binding is reduced, as in uraemia, total serum phenytoin levels will be reduced accordingly. However, the pharmacologically active free drug concentration is unlikely to be altered. Therefore, under these circumstances therapeutic control may be achieved with total phenytoin levels below the normal range of 10-20mg/l (40-80 micromoles/l). Patients with impaired liver function, elderly patients or those who are gravely ill may show early signs of toxicity.

Phenytoin is not effective for absence (petit mal) seizures. If tonic-clonic (grand mal) and absence seizures are present together, combined drug therapy is needed.

Phenytoin may affect glucose metabolism and inhibit insulin release. Hyperglycaemia has been reported in association with toxic levels. Phenytoin is not indicated for seizures due to hypoglycaemia or other metabolic causes.

Serum levels of phenytoin sustained above the optimal range may produce confusional states referred to as "delirium", "psychosis", or "encephalopathy", or rarely irreversible cerebellar dysfunction. Accordingly, at the first sign of acute toxicity, serum drug level determinations are recommended. Dose reduction of phenytoin therapy is indicated if serum levels are excessive; if symptoms persist, termination of therapy with phenytoin is recommended.

Herbal preparations containing St John's wort (Hypericum perforatum) should not be used while taking phenytoin due to the risk of decreased plasma concentrations and reduced clinical effects of phenytoin. **Hypersensitivity Syndrome / Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (HSS/DRESS):** Hypersensitivity Syndrome (HSS) or Drug Reaction with Eosinophilia and Systemic Symptoms (DRESS) has been reported in patients taking anticonvulsant drugs, including phenytoin. HSS/DRESS typically presents with fever, rash, and/or lymphadenopathy, in association with other organ system involvement, such as hepatitis, nephritis, hematological abnormalities, myocarditis, myositis or pneumonitis. Initial symptoms may resemble an acute viral infection. Other common manifestations include arthralgias, jaundice, hepatomegaly, leukocytosis, and eosinophilia. The interval between first drug exposure and symptoms is usually 2-4 weeks but has been reported in individuals receiving anticonvulsants for 3 or more months. If such signs and symptoms occur, the patient should be evaluated immediately.

Serious Dermatologic Reactions: Phenytoin can cause rare, serious skin adverse events such as exfoliative dermatitis, Stevens - Johnson syndrome (SJS), and toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), which can be fatal. Although serious skin reactions may occur without warning, patients should be alert for the occurrence of rash and other symptoms of HSS/DRESS, and should seek medical advice from their physician immediately when observing any indicative signs or symptoms.

Hepatic Injury: The liver is the chief site of biotransformation of phenytoin. Cases of acute hepatotoxicity, including infrequent cases of acute hepatic failure, have been reported with phenytoin. Patients with impaired liver function, elderly patients, or those who are gravely ill may show early signs of toxicity.

The risk of hepatotoxicity and other hypersensitivity reactions to phenytoin may be higher in black patients. **Musculoskeletal Effect:** Phenytoin and other anticonvulsants that have been shown to induce the CYP450 enzyme are thought to affect bone mineral metabolism indirectly by increasing the metabolism of Vitamin D3. This may lead to Vitamin D deficiency and heightened risk of osteomalacia, bone fractures, osteoporosis, hypocalcaemia, and hypophosphatemia in chronically treated epileptic patients. Patients with rare hereditary problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose metabolism should not take this medicine.

DRUG INTERACTIONS: Phenytoin is extensively bound to serum plasma proteins and is prone to competitive displacement. Phenytoin is metabolized by hepatic cytochrome (CYP) P450 enzymes CYP2C9 and CYP2C19 and is particularly susceptible to inhibitory drug interactions because it is

subject to saturable metabolism. Inhibition of metabolism may produce significant increases in circulating phenytoin concentrations and enhance the risk of drug toxicity.

Phenytoin is a potent inducer of hepatic drug-metabolizing enzymes and may reduce the levels of drugs metabolized by these enzymes.

There are many drugs which may increase or decrease serum phenytoin levels or which phenytoin may affect. Serum level determinations for phenytoin are especially helpful when possible drug interactions are suspected.

Drugs which may increase phenytoin serum levels: Alcohol (acute intake), Analgesic/Anti-inflammatory agents (salicylates), Anesthetics, Antibacterial agents (chloramphenicol, clarithromycin, isoniazid, sulfadiazine, sulfamethoxazole, trimethoprim, sulfonamides), Anticonvulsants (oxcarbazepine, sodium valproate, succinimides, topiramate), Antifungal agents (amphotericin B, fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole, miconazole, voriconazole), Antineoplastic agents (capecitabine, fluorouracil), Benzodiazepines /Psychotropic agents (chlordiazepoxide, diazepam, disulfiram, methylphenidate, trazodone), Calcium channel blockers / Cardiovascular agents (amiodarone, diltiazem, nifedipine), H2-antagonists (cimetidine), HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (fluvastatin), Hormones (oestrogens), Immunosuppressant drugs (tacrolimus), Oral hypoglycemic agents (tolbutamide), Proton pump inhibitors (omeprazole), Serotonin re-uptake inhibitors (loxetine, fluvoxamine, sertraline).

Drugs which may decrease phenytoin serum levels: Alcohol (chronic intake), Antibacterial agents (ciprofloxacin, rifampin), Anticonvulsants (vigabatrin), Antineoplastic agents (bleomycin, carboplatin, cisplatin, doxorubicin), Antulcer agents (sucralfate), Antiretrovirals (fosamprenavir, ritonavir), Bronchodilators (theophylline), Cardiovascular agents (reserpine), Folic acid, Hyperglycemic agents, St. John's Wort.

Drugs which may either increase or decrease phenytoin serum levels: Antibacterial agents (ciprofloxacin), Anticonvulsants (carbamazepine, Phenobarbital, sodium valproate, valproic acid), Antineoplastic agents, Psychotropic agents (chlordiazepoxide, diazepam, phenothiazines).

Drugs whose serum levels and/or effects may be altered by phenytoin: Antibacterial agents (doxycycline, rifampin), Anticonvulsants (carbamazepine, lamotrigine, Phenobarbital, sodium valproate, valproic acid), Antifungal agents (posaconazole, voriconazole), Anthelmintics, Antineoplastic agents (methotrexate), Antiretrovirals (efavirenz, fosamprenavir, indinavir, lopinavir/ritonavir, ritonavir, saquinavir), Bronchodilators (theophylline), Calcium channel blockers / Cardiovascular agents (digoxin, mexiletine, nifedipine, verapamil), Corticosteroids, Coumarin anticoagulants (warfarin), Cyclosporine, Diuretics (furosemide), HMG-CoA reductase inhibitors (atorvastatin, fluvastatin, simvastatin), Hormones (oestrogens, oral contraceptives), Hyperglycemic agents, Immunosuppressant drugs, Neuromuscular blocking agents (pancuronium, rocuronium, vecuronium), Opioid analgesics (methadone), Oral hypoglycemic agents (tolbutamide), Psychotropic agents / Antidepressants (clozapine, paroxetine, quetiapine, sertraline), Vitamin D.

The effect of phenytoin on warfarin is variable and prothrombin times should be determined when these agents are combined.

Although not a true pharmacokinetic interaction, tricyclic antidepressants and phenothiazines may precipitate seizures in susceptible patients and phenytoin dosage may need to be adjusted.

Drug/Laboratory Test Interactions: Phenytoin may cause a slight decrease in serum levels of total and free thyroxine, possibly as a result of enhanced peripheral metabolism. Phenytoin may cause raised serum levels of glucose, alkaline phosphatase, and gamma glutamyl transpeptidase and lowered serum levels of calcium and folic acid. It is recommended that serum folate concentrations be measured at least once every 6 months, and folic acid supplements given if necessary. Phenytoin may affect blood sugar metabolism tests.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION: It is important to note that anticonvulsant drugs should not be discontinued in patients in whom the drug is administered to prevent major seizures because of the strong possibility of precipitating status epilepticus with attendant hypoxia and threat to life. Phenytoin Sodium should only be used during pregnancy, especially early pregnancy, if in the judgement of the physician the potential benefits clearly outweigh the risk.

In addition to the reports of increased incidence of congenital malformations, such as cleft lip/palate and heart malformations in children of women receiving phenytoin and other antiepileptic drugs, there have more recently been reports of a foetal hydantoin syndrome. This consists of prenatal growth deficiency, micro-encephaly and mental deficiency in children born to mothers who have received phenytoin, barbiturates, alcohol, or trimethadione. There have been isolated reports of malignancies, including neuroblastoma, in children whose mothers received phenytoin during pregnancy. Neonatal coagulation defects have been reported within the first 24 hours in babies born to epileptic mothers receiving phenytoin. Vitamin K1 has been shown to prevent or correct this defect and may be given to the mother before delivery and to the neonate after birth.

Infant breast-feeding is not recommended for women taking phenytoin because phenytoin appears to be secreted in low concentrations in human milk.

Effects on ability to drive and use machines: Caution is recommended in patients performing skilled tasks (e.g. driving or operating machinery) as treatment with phenytoin may cause central nervous system adverse effects such as dizziness and drowsiness.

DOSAGE & ADMINISTRATION: Dosage should be individualised as there may be wide interpatient variability in phenytoin serum levels with equivalent dosage. Phenytoin Hama Pharma Capsules should be introduced in small dosages with gradual increments until control is achieved or until toxic effects appear. In some cases, serum level determinations may be necessary for optimal dosage adjustments - the clinically effective level is usually 10-20mg/l (40-80 micromoles/l) although some cases of tonic-clonic seizures may be controlled with lower serum levels of phenytoin. With recommended dosage a period of seven to ten days may be required to achieve steady state serum levels with Phenytoin Hama Pharma Capsules and changes in dosage should not be carried out at intervals shorter than seven to ten days. Maintenance of treatment should be the lowest dose of anticonvulsant consistent with control of seizures.

Adults: Initially 3 to 4mg/kg/day with subsequent dosage adjustment if necessary. For most adults a satisfactory maintenance dose will be 200 to 500mg daily in single or divided doses. Exceptionally, a daily dose outside this range may be indicated. Dosage should normally be adjusted according to serum levels where assay facilities exist.

Elderly:

Elderly (over 65 years): As with adults the dosage of Phenytoin Hama Pharma Capsules should be titrated to the patient's individual requirements using the same guidelines. As elderly patients tend to receive multiple drug therapies, the possibility of drug interactions should be borne in mind.

Infants and Children: Initially, 5mg/kg/day in two divided doses, with subsequent dosage individually adjusted to a maximum of 300mg daily. A recommended daily maintenance dosage is usually 4-8mg/kg.

Neonates: The absorption of phenytoin following oral administration in neonates is unpredictable. Furthermore, the metabolism of phenytoin may be depressed. It is therefore especially important to monitor serum levels in the neonate.

OVERDOSAGE: The lethal dose in children is not known. The mean lethal dose for adults is estimated to be 2 to 5g. The initial symptoms are nystagmus, ataxia and dysarthria. The patient then becomes comatose, the pupils are unresponsive and hypotension occurs followed by respiratory depression and apnoea. Death is due to respiratory and circulatory depression.

Treatment is non-specific since there is no known antidote. If ingested within the previous 4 hours the stomach should be emptied. If the gag reflex is absent, the airway should be supported. Oxygen, and assisted ventilation may be necessary for central nervous system, respiratory and cardiovascular depression. Haemodialysis can be considered since phenytoin is not completely bound to plasma proteins. Total exchange transfusion has been utilised in the treatment of severe intoxication in children. In acute overdosage the possibility of the presence of other CNS depressants, including alcohol, should be borne in mind.

PACKING: 30 capsules in 3 blisters, each blister contains 10 capsules/ Carton box, for each strength.

STORAGE: "Store at room temperature, below 25° C, away from light".

*Keep out of reach of children"

TPP120567	THIS IS A MEDICAMENT
- A medicament is a product but unlike any other products.	
- A medicament is a product which affects your health, and its consumption contrary to instructions is dangerous for you.	
- Follow strictly the doctor's prescription, the method of use and the instructions of the pharmacist who sold the medicament. The doctor and the pharmacist are experts in medicine, its benefits and risks.	
- Do not by yourself interrupt the period of treatment prescribed for you.	
- Do not repeat the same prescription without consulting your doctor.	
KEEP MEDICAMENTS OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN (Council of Arab Health Ministers) (Arab Pharmacists Association)	

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