

INSTRUCTION FOR USE

- Read the insert paper carefully before use.
- For more information, please consult your doctor.

Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml

1. NAME OF THE MEDICINAL PRODUCT

Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml
Active substance: pethidine hydrochloride

2. QUALITATIVE AND QUANTITATIVE COMPOSITION

1 ampoule of 2 ml injection solution contains 100 mg pethidine-hydrochloride.

For a full list of excipients, see Section 6.1.

3. PHARMACEUTICAL FORM

Solution for injection.
Clear, colourless solution.

4. CLINICAL PARTICULARS

4.1 Therapeutic indications

For the relief of moderate to severe pain

4.2 Posology, method and duration of administration

1 ampoule of 2 ml injection solution contains 100 mg pethidine-hydrochloride.

Dosage for adults

The individual dose is:

- for intramuscular and subcutaneous administration: 50-150 mg pethidine hydrochloride
- for slow intravenous administration: 50-100 mg pethidine hydrochloride.

The individual dose can be repeated at 3-4 hour intervals.

The daily dose should not exceed 500 mg pethidine-hydrochloride.

Any further increase in individual dose does not produce an enhanced analgesic effect but merely exacerbates the side effects.

Dosage for children and adolescents

There is no empirical data available on safety of use for Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml among children and adolescents aged under 16 years.

1-1.8 mg/kg body weight, the single dose should not exceed 100 mg.

Dosage for patients with liver and kidney dysfunction

Liver failure can cause an increased concentration of pethidine in the blood so the dose must be reduced accordingly.

In cases of renal dysfunction, the interval between doses must be extended and/or the dose reduced to prevent an accumulation of active metabolites of pethidine.

Dosage for elderly patients

For elderly patients, the dose should be reduced (see Section 4.4).

Method and duration of administration

The injection solution is mainly administered by intramuscular injection into the largest possible muscle. However, it can also be administered subcutaneously or intravenously.

The intravenous injection must be administered slowly (i.e. over 1-2 minutes) to minimise any possible side effects.

A single dose is often sufficient to treat acute pain. If necessary, Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml can be administered repeatedly and with special care over several days.

Essentially, the smallest effective analgesic dose should be selected. If, as an exception, Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml is to be used to treat chronic pain, the dose should preferably be administered according to a set schedule.

Pethidine should not be used for prolonged periods due to the high neurotoxicity of the main metabolite norpethidine.

4.3 Contraindications

Do not use Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml for patients

- with hypersensitivity to pethidine or one of the excipients,
- on concomitant treatment with MAO inhibitors or within 14 days of the last dose (see also Section 4.5),
- with severe liver disease or severe hepatic dysfunction with biliary disorders,
- with severe renal failure,
- with severe respiratory failure, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, asthma,
- with raised intracranial pressure or head injury,
- suffering from confusion, agitation, seizures,
- with undiagnosed abdominal pain,
- who are children aged under 16 years.

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

Do not use Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml to treat chronic pain. Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml should only be used to treat acute episodes of moderate to severe pain so as to avoid secondary side effects due to accumulation of the metabolite norpethidine.

Take special care with Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml in

- patients with dependence on opioids or other substances (e.g. alcohol, medicinal products),
- patients with impaired consciousness,
- patients with disorders of the respiratory centre and respiratory function or pathologies where suppression of the respiratory centre is to be avoided,
- patients with head injuries or raised cerebral pressure,
- patients with hypotension with hypovolaemia,
- patients with liver dysfunction (e.g. cirrhosis) and patients with renal dysfunction (due to accumulation of pethidine and/or its active metabolites),
- patients with a history of epileptic seizures,
- patients with hypo- or hyperthyroidism,
- patients with Addison's disease,
- patients with supraventricular tachycardia,
- patients with disorders of the prostate and urethra (risk of urine retention),
- patients with acute abdominal symptoms,
- children and adolescents aged under 16 years,
- elderly patients (dose reduction recommended).

Dependency potential and withdrawal syndrome

Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml has a primary dependency potential.

Tachyphylaxis and physical and mental dependency develop with prolonged use. There is cross-tolerance to other opioids. When long-term treatment is suddenly terminated, symptoms of a withdrawal syndrome can occur (see also Section 4.2). These symptoms include mental symptoms such as agitation, anxiety, irritation, depression and/or vegetative symptoms such as sweating, abdominal cramps, vomiting, circulatory failure etc.

With medicinal products that act on the CNS, there is essentially the risk of abuse. Before prescribing Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml to patients who are or have been dependent on alcohol or pharmaceuticals or who have a tendency to abuse of prescription medications, the indication should be carefully checked and administration of Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml closely monitored.

There have been reports of fibrous myopathy following repeated i.m. injection.

Directions for treatment

With concomitant use of centrally suppressant medicinal products such as morphine, barbiturates or benzodiazepines there is an increased risk of respiratory depression which may prove fatal.

Take special care if there is a history of seizures.

In cases of renal dysfunction, intervals between doses should be extended and/or the dose reduced as otherwise seizures may occur due to accumulation of the metabolite norpethidine. In cases of epilepsy, Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml should only be administered together with an anticonvulsant.

Following i.v. injection respiratory depression may be more common and more severe.

Excitatory effects on the central nervous system (tremor, involuntary muscle spasms etc.) occur more frequently following parenteral injection and at a higher dose.

In elderly patients, even at the recommended dose, critical hypotension can occur with i.v. injection.

Using Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml may produce positive results in dope tests. Using Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml as a doping agent may also damage health.

This medicinal product contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per dose, i.e. it is almost "sodium-free".

4.5 Interactions with other medicinal products and other interactions

Plasma levels of the metabolite norpethidine may be increased by ritonavir so take care with concomitant use.

The hepatic metabolism of pethidine may be enhanced by phenytoin. Concomitant administration may lead to a reduced half-life and bioavailability of pethidine and a raised level of norpethidine so take care with concomitant use.

Cimetidine reduces the clearance and distribution volume of pethidine as well as formation of the metabolite norpethidine so take care with concomitant use.

Administering Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml and ingesting alcohol or centrally suppressant medicinal products (including barbiturates) results in a mutual enhancement and prolongation of the effects on the central nervous system (e.g. sedation and respiratory depression) so take care with concomitant use.

Concomitant use of pethidine and phenothiazines can increase the risk of hypotension.

Using Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml and long-term therapy with phenobarbital results in increased metabolism of pethidine. An increased risk of side effects cannot be ruled out.

Using pethidine together with partial opioid-receptor antagonists (pentazocine, nalbuphine and buprenorphine) can result in a reduced analgesic effect and lead to symptoms of withdrawal due to the competitive receptor antagonism.

Take care when combined with other strong-acting analgesics and anticonvulsants.

There have been reports of interactions leading to potentially fatal effects on the central nervous system, respiration and circulation with pethidine in cases where patients have previously been treated with MAO inhibitors within 14 days prior to administering the opioid. There have been reports of a serotonin syndrome with agitation, hyperthermia, diarrhoea, tachycardia, sweating, tremor and (pre-)syncope and a condition similar to opioid overdose with coma, severe respiratory depression and hypotension.

4.6 Pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

Using Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml during pregnancy, especially in the first trimester, and during the birth is not recommended as there is insufficient empirical data available. To date there have been no reported signs of any increased risk of congenital defects in humans. Chronic use of pethidine is to be avoided throughout pregnancy as it may lead to foetal dependency and postpartum withdrawal symptoms.

During the birth, pethidine should be administered only by intramuscular injection at the lowest possible dose. Pethidine does not impair the normal contraction of the uterus.

After administering pethidine during the birth

- it may cause respiratory depression in the neonate as pethidine crosses the placenta (this effect depends on the dose and time),
- there have been reports of impaired behaviour and EEG changes in the neonate for up to six days postpartum and
- the ability to survive of at-risk infants may be further impaired.

The neonate must therefore be monitored until no further major impairment of breathing is to be expected (and for at least 6 hours). Depending on the clinical profile (especially mindful of the breathing problems postpartum) it is recommended administering opiate antagonists (e.g. naloxone) to the neonate.

Lactation

Pethidine and its metabolite norpethidine pass into breast milk. As severe side effects may occur in the nursing infant, the benefit of breastfeeding to the infant must be weighed against the benefit of the treatment for the mother and a decision taken over whether to terminate breastfeeding or treatment with pethidine.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

The patient must be informed that they are no longer able to drive and use machines whilst taking Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml due to impaired concentration and confusion.

4.8 Adverse effects

- Very common: $\geq 1/10$;
- Common: $\geq 1/100$, $< 1/10$;
- Occasionally: $\geq 1/1000$, $< 1/100$;
- Rarely: $\geq 1/10\ 000$, $< 1/1000$;
- Very rarely: $< 1/10\ 000$;

Unknown: Incidence cannot be assessed based on available data.

Disorders of the immune system

Incidence unknown

Hypersensitivity reactions (anaphylaxis, possibly ranging through to potentially fatal shock).

Hypotension and/or tachycardia, flushing, sweating and pruritus due to release of histamine.

Psychiatric disorders

Common

Confusion, mood changes (mostly euphoria, occasionally dysphoria), changes in cognitive and sensory capacity (e.g. ability to make decisions as well as perception problems). This may also include states of excitation, mania, hallucinations etc. ¹⁾

Incidence unknown

Disorientation, delirium, dependency on prescription drugs, withdrawal syndrome.

Disorders of the nervous system

Common

Sedation, dizziness.

Incidence unknown

Tremor, involuntary muscle movements, seizures (especially at higher doses, in patients with impaired renal function and in patients with [e.g. drug-induced] increased tendency to convulsions).

Eye disorders

Incidence unknown

Miosis (especially following intravenous administration).

Cardiac disorders

Incidence unknown

Tachycardia, bradycardia.

Vascular disorders

Incidence unknown

Hypotensive circulatory reactions.

Disorders of the airways, thorax and mediastinum

Common

Respiratory depression. ²⁾

Incidence unknown

Bronchospasm, hiccough (both especially following rapid intravenous administration).

Disorders of the gastrointestinal tract

Incidence unknown

Nausea, vomiting (both especially following rapid intravenous administration).

Obstipation (due to reduced tone in the smooth muscles in the gastrointestinal area especially with prolonged use), dry mouth.

Disorders of the liver and gall bladder

Incidence unknown

Contraction of the gall ducts.

Disorders of the kidneys and urinary tract

Incidence unknown

Micturition problems (due to reduced tone in the smooth muscles in the urinary tract area especially with prolonged use).

General disorders and symptoms at the administration site

Incidence unknown

Tachyphylaxis.

With i.v. injection: pain, red skin and wheals along the affected vein.

With i.m. injection: muscle necrosis, nerve damage.

¹⁾ The diverse psychiatric side effects differ in severity and type between individuals (depending on personality and length of medication).

²⁾ In equal analgesic doses pethidine causes roughly the same degree of respiratory depression as morphine. This can lead to a rise in CO₂ concentration with subsequent rise in cerebral pressure so Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml should not be used with raised intracranial pressure. See Section 4.4.

4.9 Overdose

Lethal dose of pethidine in adults not addicted to drugs is approximately 1 g.

The risk of overdose is more common in elderly people, people that are debilitated and people suffering from increased intracranial pressure.

Symptoms: The symptoms of pethidine poisoning are very similar to symptoms of morphine poisoning. In cases of serious overdose respiratory depression occurs (decrease in respiratory rate and/or tidal volume, Cheyne-Stokes respiration), somnolence progressing to stupor or coma, skeletal muscle flaccidity, cold and clammy skin and sometimes bradycardia and hypotension. In severe overdosage - especially by intravenous injection - apnea, circulatory collapse, cardiac arrest and death may occur.

Treatment: Primary attention should be given to the re-establishment of adequate respiratory exchange through provision of a patent airway and institution of assisted or controlled ventilation. Oxygen, intravenous infusion fluids, vasopressors and other supportive measures should be employed as indicated.

Specific antidote is naloxone: start with an initial dose of 0.4 mg/kg for adults or 0.01 mg/kg for children by slow intravenous injection, then increase the dose carefully until respiratory exchange is re-established. Sometimes a continuous intravenous infusion may be required. Naloxone must be administered cautiously as the duration of effect is shorter than that of pethidine. It should not be used in the absence of clinically significant respiratory or cardiovascular depression. Simultaneously with the use of naloxone complementary measures to recover respiratory function should be taken.

Further measures are

- with oral use: primary toxin removal through gastric lavage and reducing absorption by administering medicated charcoal.

In severe cases it is necessary to closely monitor renal function, blood pH (acidosis) and electrolyte balance to adjust if indicated. Patients should be monitored closely to prevent pulmonary edema.

5. PHARMACOLOGICAL PROPERTIES

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group: analgesics, opioids, phenylpiperidine derivative, ATC code: N02AB02.

Pethidine is a phenylpiperidine derivative with opiate agonist properties. It displays a pronounced affinity to μ receptors and slight affinity to delta and kappa receptors. Pethidine has a strong analgesic, sedative and respiratory depressive effect. It lowers blood pressure and raises heart rate.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

Following intravenous administration of 25 mg pethidine hydrochloride maximum plasma levels of 100-200 ng/ml have been achieved within 15 minutes with comparable maximum plasma levels following intramuscular administration. The absorption half-life was 7-18 min and the bioavailability was 93-98%.

When administered orally the absorption half-life was 11-60 min. After a dose of 100 mg pethidine hydrochloride a C_{max} of 170 ng/ml was recorded after 1-2 hours. With this method of administration, due to the pronounced first-pass effect during initial passage through the liver, bioavailability was only between 48-63%. C_{max} for the key metabolite norpethidine was achieved 2-8 hours after the maximum pethidine concentration. Following oral administration of 1.6 mg pethidine hydrochloride per kg body weight it was 102 ng/ml. Norpethidine levels remained plateaued at a maximum for several hours and then slowly fell.

Plasma-protein binding of pethidine is between 37-73%.

Key metabolites of pethidine are pharmacologically active norpethidine and carbonic acids resulting from hydrolysis of pethidine and norpethidine which are mostly excreted in conjugated form. Other metabolites occurring in smaller quantities are pethidine-N-oxide, 4-hydroxypethidine, norpethidine-N-oxide and N-hydroxynorpethidine.

A plasma half-life of 3.2-8 hours has been measured for pethidine, compared to 8-12 hours for norpethidine.

Pethidine and its metabolites are largely excreted via the kidneys. 65.4% of the dose has been measured in 24-hour urine.

In 24-hour urine, 5-10% pethidine, 7-13% norpethidine, 5-7% free pethidinic acid, 13% pethidinic acid glucuronide, 4-10.5% norpethidinic acid and 16% norpethidinic acid glucuronide were detected.

With renal dysfunction, norpethidine can accumulate and cause severe side effects (seizures).

Pethidine crosses the placenta almost unhindered and also passes into breast milk.

In neonates a plasma half-life of 6.5-39 hours has been measured for pethidine which was 2-7 times more than with adults.

5.3 Preclinical safety data

a) Acute toxicity

LD₅₀ in mice is between 165 and 193 mg/kg body weight, in rats between 167 and 240 mg/kg body weight and in rabbits between 380 and 660 mg/kg body weight (see also Section 4.9).

b) Chronic toxicity

See Section 4.6 and Section 4.8.

c) Mutagenic and carcinogenic potential

There are no studies available to detect gene mutations. In-vivo studies produced clear signs of chromosome-breaking properties of pethidine. There is therefore a suspected mutagenic effect in humans.

There are no long-term studies into carcinogenic potential in animals.

d) Reproductive toxicity

Defomities of the skull (cranioschisis) have occurred from the lowest tested dose of 127 mg/kg body weight with a single injection of pethidine during early gestation in hamsters.

Empirical data in humans to date with approx. 270 pregnancies with exposure during the first trimester have produced no evidence of any teratogenic risk. A possible link with the onset of inguinal hernias cannot be ruled out.

6. PHARMACEUTICAL PARTICULARS

6.1 List of excipients

Sodium hydroxide solution
Water for injection

6.2 Incompatibilities

Pethidine-hameln 50 mg/ml should not be mixed with other medicinal products except for isotonic sodium chloride solution.

6.3 Shelf life

36 months from manufacturing date.

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Do not store above 30°C. Do not freeze.

Keep the ampoules in the outer carton in order to protect from light.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Colourless glass, type I containing 2 ml solution. Box of 10 ampoules x 2 ml.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Storage and handling of Pethidine-hameln should follow the German laws.

6.7 Specification: In house

Inform your doctor in case of any undesirable effects occurring related to drug use.
Keep out of reach of children!

7. MANUFACTURER

Siegfried Hameln GmbH
Langes Feld 13
31789 Hameln, Germany

8. MARKETING AUTHORISATION HOLDER

Binh Viet Duc Co., Ltd (BIVID CO., LTD)
62/36 Truong Cong Dinh St., Ward 14
Tan Binh Dist., Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam