

PENTHROX® (methoxyflurane)

Consumer Medicine Information

What is this leaflet

This leaflet answers some of the common questions people ask about PENTHROX®. It does not contain all the information known about PENTHROX®.

It does not take the place of talking to your healthcare professional (i.e., doctor, dentist, pharmacist, nurse, etc.)

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your healthcare professional has weighed the risks of you being given PENTHROX® against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

If you have any concerns about being given this medicine, ask your healthcare professional.

Keep this leaflet in a safe place. You may need to read it again.

What PENTHROX® is used for

PENTHROX® or methoxyflurane is a medicine which is used to reduce pain.

It is inhaled through the custom-built PENTHROX® INHALER.

Pain relief should start after 6-10 breaths. PENTHROX® is intended to reduce the severity of pain, rather than completely eliminate it.

PENTHROX® belongs to a family of medicines called inhalation anaesthetics. In low doses, PENTHROX® provides pain relief without producing anaesthesia.

There is no evidence that PENTHROX® is addictive.

Ask your healthcare professional if you have any questions about why PENTHROX® has been prescribed for you.

Before you are given PENTHROX®

When you must not be given it

You must not be given PENTHROX® if you have an allergy to methoxyflurane, inhalation anaesthetics 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 to breath.
- Swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- Rash, itching or hives on the skin

You must not be given PENTHROX® if you have, or are suspected of having, an inherited tendency for a condition called malignant hyperthermia. This is a condition where, when you or a related family member has been given an anaesthetic, symptoms such as a very high fever, fast, irregular heartbeat, muscle spasms and breathing problems have occurred.

You must not be given PENTHROX® if you have cardiovascular instability, renal impairment or failure or respiratory depression

If you are not sure whether you should be given PENTHROX®, talk to your healthcare professional.

Before you are given it

PENTHROX® should only be used if the package is undamaged and the expiry date marked on the bottle has not been passed.

Tell your healthcare professional if you have allergies to:

- Any other medicines
- Any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes
- Any ingredients listed at the end of this information leaflet

Tell your healthcare professional if you are pregnant or intending to become pregnant.

Your healthcare professional will discuss the possible risks and benefits of being given PENTHROX® during pregnancy.

Tell your healthcare professional if you are breast-feeding or intending to breast-feed.

Your healthcare professional will discuss the possible risks and benefits of being given PENTHROX® during **breast-feeding**.

Tell your healthcare professional if you have, or have had, any medical conditions, especially the following:

- Malignant hyperthermia (or any of your family has, or has had, malignant hyperthermia)
- Kidney problems
- Allergy to inhalational anaesthetics

If you have not told your healthcare professional about any of the above, tell them before you are given PENTHROX®.

You may still be able to use PENTHROX®, but your healthcare professional will need to assess the risks against the potential benefits.

Taking other medicines

Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription at the chemist, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and PENTHROX® may interfere with each other. Your healthcare professional needs to know if you are taking any of these medicines to accurately assess the risks and benefits of administering PENTHROX®. These include:

- Tetracycline
- Gentamycin
- Kanamycin
- Colistin
- Polymyxin b
- Cephaloridine
- Amphotericin b

Your doctor may have more information on medicines to be careful with around the time you receive PENTHROX®.

How PENTHROX® is given

PENTHROX® can be given to you by a doctor, dentist, paramedic, nurse, or any other appropriately qualified or trained healthcare professional.

How much is given

One 3 mL bottle of PENTHROX® provides approximately 20-25 minutes of pain

relief. A second 3 mL bottle of PENTHROX® can be given to extend the period of pain relief to approximately 50-55 minutes. The maximum recommended dosages are 6 mL per day and 15 mL per week per person. PENTHROX® should not be given on consecutive days.

How is it given

PENTHROX® is poured into the base of the PENTHROX® INHALER by the healthcare professional and is absorbed into the wick. You will inhale PENTHROX® either directly from the custom built PENTHROX® INHALER or with the assistance of a face mask. PENTHROX® may also be combined with pure oxygen if the healthcare professional thinks this is appropriate.

Overdose

The healthcare professional giving you PENTHROX® will be experienced in its use, so it is extremely unlikely that you will be given too much. The dose of PENTHROX® is limited by the amount contained in each bottle.

While you are being given PENTHROX®

Things you must do

You should breathe in through the mouthpiece, initially ensuring that the "diluter" hole of the PENTHROX® INHALER is not covered.

Accustom yourself to the characteristic fruity smell of PENTHROX® by inhaling gently for the first two breaths through the PENTHROX® INHALER. You should breathe out through the PENTHROX® INHALER.

If further relief is required you may cover the "diluter" hole for a higher inhaled concentration of PENTHROX®.

Use PENTHROX® intermittently as required to provide you pain relief.

Things you must not do

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

Things that may be helpful

You are in control of the level of your relief by directly inhaling PENTHROX® from the custom-built PENTHROX® INHALER.

The aim of PENTHROX® is to relieve pain until you feel comfortable. Relief will commence after approximately 6-10 breaths. Relief will continue for several minutes after ceasing use of PENTHROX®.

PENTHROX® has a characteristic fruity smell.

Side Effects

Tell your healthcare professional as soon as possible if you do not feel well after you have been given PENTHROX®.

PENTHROX® is well tolerated, but it may occasionally have unwanted side effects. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, but most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your healthcare professional to answer any questions you may have.

Other side effects not listed below may occur in some patients.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

Tell your healthcare professional if you notice any of the following side effects and they worry you.

PENTHROX® may cause

- Nausea
- Drowsiness

PENTHROX® sometimes causes

- Coughing (usually in the first few breaths)
- Vomiting
- Dizziness
- Mild amnesia
- Dislike of characteristic fruity smell
- Fever
- Headache

PENTHROX® rarely causes

- Liver toxicity
- Kidney failure (if the recommended dosage is exceeded)

This list includes the more common side effects of PENTHROX®. They are usually mild and only last a short time.

Tell your healthcare professional if you notice anything else that is making you feel unwell after being given PENTHROX®.

Storage

PENTHROX® should be stored below 30°C in its original container.

Disposal

Your healthcare professional will dispose of any excess PENTHROX® liquid and the PENTHROX® INHALER in the appropriate way.

Product Description

What it looks like

PENTHROX® is a clear, almost colourless liquid with a characteristic fruity smell that becomes a vapour or gas easily once it has been poured into the PENTHROX® INHALER.

PENTHROX® is available in 3mL brown glass, tamper proof bottles and comes packaged with the PENTHROX® INHALER.

Healthcare professionals can also obtain additional bottles of PENTHROX® or the PENTHROX® INHALER separately.

Ingredients

Active Ingredients

- Methoxyflurane

There is a small amount of preservative in PENTHROX®.

Manufacturer

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PENTHROX® INHALER: AUST L 13240