Take other medicines

Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are taking, or have recently taken, any other medicine including medicines obtained without prescription. Other medicines which may interact with Pethidine Injection include:

• selegiline, a medicine used to treat Parkinsonism's disease
• ritalin, a medicine used to treat HIV
depression
• a medicine used to treat stomach ulcers
• medicines used to reduce anxiety (anxiolytics)
• medicines used to help you to sleep (hypnotics)
• CNS depressants (drugs that act on the brain and make you feel drowsy or, in these cases, sleep). These include sleeping pills, anti-histamines (medicines used to treat allergies) that make you drowsy, medicines used to treat certain mental disorders, other pain killers or a general anaesthetic
• phenytoin, a medicine used to treat fits
• medicines used to treat serious mental disorders (psychotropes)
• duloxetine, a medicine used to treat depression

If you are in any doubt please tell your doctor or nurse what you are taking as this may affect the dose of Pethidine Injection you receive.

Pregnancy and breast feeding:

If you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or you are breast feeding, you should consult your doctor before having Pethidine Injection.

Pethidine can pass into your baby either through your blood when you are pregnant and lactating or through your breast milk. This can cause breathing problems in newborn babies. Your doctor will be aware of this and will correct the problem and discuss feeding with you.

Driving and using machines

This medicine can affect your ability to drive and operate machinery. Do not drive or operate machinery if you feel drowsy or cannot think clearly.

This medicine can affect your ability to drive and operate machinery as it may make you sleepy or dizzy. Do not drive while taking this medicine until you know how it affects you.

If it is an offence to drive if this medicine affects your ability to drive: 

• However, you would not be committing an offence if:
  • The prescription has been prescribed to treat a medical or dental problem and
  • You have taken it according to the instructions given by the prescriber or in the information provided with the medicine

• It was not affecting your ability to drive safely

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure whether it is safe for you to drive while taking this medicine.

Having Pethidine Injection with food and drink

You are advised not to drink alcohol during your treatment with this medicine.

Contraindications

Pethidine should be used with caution in patients with existing hypotension as it may reduce the hypotensive effect. In addition it should be avoided in patients with severe inflammatory bowel disease due to its effects on the gastrointestinal tract where it may precipitate toxic megacolon.

Interactions:

Pethidine should not be administered to patients receiving monoamine oxidase inhibitors or moclobemide or within two weeks of their withdrawal. Patients receiving selegiline should not be given pethidine as a hypnotic as hyperpyrexia may result. Plasma concentrations of pethidine may be decreased by co-administration of atorvastatin, lovastatin, simvastatin or pravastatin. Conversely, pethidine may increase the serum levels of one or both of these drugs.

There is inadequate evidence of safety in human pregnancy, but the drug has been widely used for many years without apparent ill consequence. Animal studies have not shown any hazard. As with all drugs during pregnancy care should be taken in assessing the risk to benefit ratio. Pethidine crosses the placental barrier and is secreted in breast milk. This should be taken into consideration if its use is planned during pregnancy or breast feeding. Administration during labour may cause respiratory depression in the new-born infant.

Side Effects:

General hyperpyrexia reactions occur rarely. Mild drowsiness may occur and CNS excitation has been reported in some patients. Following administration of pethidine dizziness, fainting, drowsiness, weakness, hallucinations, convulsions, tinnitus, vertigo, sweating and headache have been reported. Dependence may occur as a result of continued use. Pethidine should be avoided in patients with head injuries, where administration may affect both the respiratory function and the pupillary responses required for neurological assessment. Pethidine should be avoided in patients with liver disease or renal impairment. Pethidine should only be given with caution and in reduced doses to neonates, premature infants, patients who are elderly or debilitated or those with impaired hepatic or renal function. All of these patient groups may experience increased or prolonged effects of the product. Pethidine should be used with caution in patients with shock, hypothyroidism, adrenocortical insufficiency and a history of convulsive disorders. Although less soporic than morphine, pethidine may precipitate spasm of the uterine or biliary tract. Subsequently it should be used with caution in patients with prostatic hypertrophy and biliary tract disorders including those with pain secondary to gallbladder pathology.
Pethidine is a narcotic analgesic with similar actions to morphine.

Pharmacokinetics:
Pethidine is extensively distributed throughout the body with a distribution volume of 200-300L. It is 40 - 65% plasma bound and can cross the placenta. 70% of a dose is excreted in the urine in 24 hours. 5 – 30% is unchanged depending on the pH of the urine.

Pharmacodynamics:
Pethidine hydrochloride is a narcotic analgesic with similar actions to morphine.

Incompatibilities:
Pethidine is incompatible with barbiturate salts and with other drugs including amimophine, heparin sodium, methicillin sodium, morphine sulphate, intravenous sodium, phenytoin sodium, sulphanalazine sodium, sodium iodide, sulphaflavazole thiobarbitone. Incompatibility has also been observed between pethidine hydrochloride and acyclovir sodium, imipenem, frusemide and idarubicin.

Colour changes or precipitation have been observed in mixing pethidine with the following drugs, minocycline hydrochloride, tetracycline hydrochloride, cefoperazone sodium, mezlocillin sodium, nafcillin sodium and liposomal doxorubicin hydrochloride.

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