The name of your medicine is Doxapram Hydrochloride 20mg/ml Solution for Injection. It will be referred to as Doxapram Injection for ease hereafter.

What is in this leaflet

1. What is Doxapram Injection and what is it used for?
2. What you need to know before you are given Doxapram Injection
3. How Doxapram Injection is given to you
4. Possible side effects

What is Doxapram Injection?

Doxapram Injection contains the active substance doxapram hydrochloride. It is used to help you breathe after you have been given an anaesthetic, when your breathing may not be as good as it should be. Also some patients used in anaesthesiase have the side effect of decreasing your breathing. This medicine can prevent this problem. Your doctor can also use this medicine to speed up the recovery after an anaesthetic and also from associated sleepiness.

Doxapram Injection works by increasing the amount of air that goes in and out of your lungs and increases your rate of breathing. This medicine is therefore useful in conditions where breathing properly may be difficult.

What you need to know before you are given Doxapram Injection

You should not be given Doxapram Injection:

- If you know that you are allergic to Doxapram Hydrochloride or any of the other ingredients of Doxapram Injection
- If you have very high blood pressure
- If you are suffering from a state of sudden severe wheezing known as status asthmaticus
- If you have heart disease
- If you suffer from epixyeliosis or a similar condition involving fits or convulsions
- If you have what is called cerebral oedema, where there is build up of fluid in the brain
- If you have suffered from a stroke
- If you suffer from the condition known as hyperthyroidism / hyperthyrociosis (when you have an overactive thyroid gland and your body produces too much of the hormone thyroxine)
- If the airways in your lungs or the muscles in the chest wall that you use to breathe are severely blocked in any way
- If you have an injury to the head
- If you suffer from a blood clot in the lung (pulmonary embolism).

Make sure your doctor knows if you suffer from any of the above.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or nurse before you are given Doxapram Injection:

- If you are wheezing or have problems with your breathing, your doctor will probably give you another drug or oxygen to control this while you are taking Doxapram Injection.
- If you suffer from any liver problems
- If you have been under anaesthetic, the type of anaesthetic used will affect the way your doctor gives you Doxapram Injection. Your doctor will monitor you closely after having an anaesthetic, as the effects of other drugs used during an operation must be considered when this medicine is being given.
- If you have a tumour of the adrenal glands called phaeochromocytoma.
- If you have high blood pressure.
- Your doctor will monitor you closely after having anaesthetic.

If you develop sudden and severe increase in breathing, swelling of the eyelids, face or neck, chest pains or difficulty in breathing, call your doctor immediately if you feel any of these symptoms.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor for advice before you are given this medicine. This may affect his decision about whether to give you Doxapram Injection or not.

Side effects not listed in this leaflet. See your doctor or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.6.

Your doctor will give you Doxapram Injection by injecting it into one of your veins. The amount you are given will depend on your condition and on how well you are responding to the medicine.

Other medicines and Doxapram Injection

Tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following as it may alter their effect:

- Drugs that stimulate certain nerves known as sympathomimetics. These are often used in the treatment of asthma e.g. salbutamol and terbutaline.
- A Monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) which is a drug used to treat depression (e.g. phenelzine, tranylcypromine).
- Certain anaesthetics such as halothane, cyclopropane and enflurane.
- A Drug called amphetamine/Phillipine which may be used in the treatment of asthma.
- Curare type muscle relaxant drugs (which decrease the muscle tone).

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3. How Doxapram Injection is given to you

2. What you need to know before you are given

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It will be referred to as Doxapram Injection for the purposes of this leaflet. The name of your medicine is Doxapram Hydrochloride 20mg/ml Solution for Injection.

This medicine is therefore useful in conditions that involve the brain and in conditions associated with control of breathing, the brain having the function of controlling when people breathe and the muscles associated with breathing. It can also be used to help you breathe after you have been given anaesthetic.

Doxapram Injection contains the active substance doxapram hydrochloride. It is used to help you breathe after you have been given anaesthetic. Other ingredients of Doxapram Injection are: sodium chloride, water for injection. Doxapram Injection is a sterile solution for injection.

3. How Doxapram Injection is given to you

If you develop sudden and severe increase in blood pressure or difficulty in breathing your doctor will stop Doxapram Injection.

The following side effects have also been reported:

Not known (frequency cannot be estimated from available data)

- feeling feverish, flushed and possibly sweating
- coughing
- shortness of breath
- tightening of the chest and throat
- increased blood pressure
- quicker or slower heartbeat than usual
- warmth at the base of the lungs
- muscle twitches
- chest pain or chest tightness
- increased muscle tone/weakness (Muscle spasticity)
- reflex of toe in response to foot stroke (bilateral Babinski)
- weakness in the limbs, slurred speech or visual disturbances which may be caused by reduced blood supply to the brain
- slight decrease in blood supply to brain
- premature contraction of heart (extrastrokes)
- fits
- headache
- dizziness
- feeling hyperactive
- feeling confused
- having hallucinations (see, hear, smell, taste, or feel something that is not there)
- nausea (feeling sick) and vomiting (being sick)
- salivation
- series of involuntary muscular contractions (Clonus)
- increased reflexes in brain function (increased deep tendon reflexes)
- irregular heart beat
- inability to pass urine or sudden passing of urine.

Children, infants and pre-term newborns

Although Doxapram Injection is not recommended for use in children, its use in children is known to cause the following side effects:

- Prolonged use of Doxapram in premature infants may cause neurodevelopmental delay (some parts of the brain are late in maturing).
- Doxapram use in pre-term neonates may cause cardiac problems (significant lengthening of QTC interval on Electrocardiogram, sometimes associated with heart block)
- Blood in stools, pain on swallowing of abdominal cavity (abdominal distension), death of tissues in the portions of bowel (necrotizing enterocolitis), multiple gastric perforations (penetration of wall of the stomach)
- Early teeth eruption.
- If any of the side effects persist or become more serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor.

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via Yellow Card Scheme at: www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard or search for Mhra Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE DOXAPRAM INJECTION

Your doctor, pharmacist or nurse will know how to store Doxapram Injection properly.