

DISCLAIMER

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Dehydrated Alcohol Injection, USP

For Therapeutic Neurolysis

Rx only

DESCRIPTION:

Dehydrated Alcohol Injection, USP consists of not less than 98% by volume of ethanol (ethyl alcohol). Dehydrated alcohol is hypobaric in relation to the cerebrospinal fluid. It is injected proximate to nerve tissues and into spinal subarachnoid spaces to produce degeneration of nerve function (neurolysis) for control of chronic pain.

The product contains no bacteriostat or antimicrobial agent (other than ethanol) and no added buffer.

Dehydrated alcohol USP is a clear, colorless liquid miscible with water and has the following structural formula:



C₂H₆O 46.07

Ethanol.

Ethyl alcohol [64-17-5].

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Alcohol produces injury to tissue cells by dehydration and precipitation of protoplasm. When alcohol is injected in close proximity to nerve tissues, it produces neuritis and nerve degeneration (neurolysis). Deliberate injury to selected spinal nerves, peripheral nerves, or ganglia by injection of alcohol results in more or less enduring block of sensory, motor and autonomic function.

The injection of alcohol used for therapeutic neurolysis involves amounts too small to produce significant systemic effects of ethanol.

Ninety to 98% of ethyl alcohol that enters the body is completely oxidized.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Dehydrated Alcohol Injection, USP is indicated for therapeutic neurolysis of nerves or ganglia for the relief of intractable chronic pain in such conditions as inoperable cancer and trigeminal neuralgia (tic douloureux), in patients for whom neurosurgical procedures are contraindicated. Relief of trigeminal neuralgia usually is only temporary. Other conditions for which injection of alcohol has been reported include glossopharyngeal neuralgia, angina pectoris and severe claudication due to peripheral vascular insufficiency.

Alcohol concentrations of 40 to 50% (prepared by appropriate dilution of dehydrated alcohol) have been used for epidural or individual motor nerve injections to control certain manifestations

of cerebral palsy and spastic paraplegia. Similar concentrations also have been injected for celiac plexus block to relieve pain of inoperable upper abdominal cancer, and have been injected intra- and subcutaneously for relief of intractable pruritus ani.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Subarachnoid injection of dehydrated alcohol is contraindicated in patients receiving anticoagulants because of the danger of bleeding.

WARNINGS

Alcohol is a flammable liquid and should be kept cool and away from any heat source. Alcohol injections should be made with care to avoid unwanted tissue necrosis. Proper positioning of the patient is essential to control localization of injections of dehydrated alcohol (which is hypobaric) into the subarachnoid space.

PRECAUTIONS:

Do not administer unless solution is clear and container is intact. Discard unused portion.

It is sometimes advisable to make a trial injection of procaine or other local anesthetic prior to alcohol injection as a means of confirming accurate placement of the needle, and to decrease pain experienced during the procedure. X-ray visualization for precise placement also may be advisable.

When used for selective sensory block within the subarachnoid space, it is essential to avoid contact of the alcohol with the anterior (motor) roots of the spinal nerve to be treated if motor paralysis is not desired. When peripheral nerves are injected, care should be taken that residual alcohol is not deposited along the needle track or in any other locations where tissue destruction is not wanted. Instances have been reported in which the pain resulting from post-injection neuritis was more severe than that existing before the injection.

Pregnancy Category C: Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with dehydrated alcohol. It is also not known whether dehydrated alcohol can cause fetal harm when given to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. Dehydrated alcohol should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The most commonly encountered side effects are post-injection neuritis with persistent pain, hyperesthesia and paresthesia. Subarachnoid neurolysis and lumbar sympathetic block may be followed by motor paralysis, bladder or rectal incontinence and impotence. Severe hypotension may follow celiac ganglion injection. Corneal anesthesia, meningitis or cranial nerve palsy may follow injection of the gasserian ganglion.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

None known with this size and manner of presentation.

OVERDOSAGE

Excessive or faulty localization of injections may result in unwanted post-injection neuritis and/or tissue necrosis. In such cases, efforts should be directed toward dilution of deposited alcohol when feasible, relief of pain with analgesics and surgical intervention, if indicated.

Hypotension following celiac ganglion injection may be controlled with appropriate vasopressor agents. See **PRECAUTIONS** and **ADVERSE REACTIONS**.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The dosage of Dehydrated Alcohol Injection, USP for therapeutic nerve or ganglion block varies from as little as 0.05 to 0.5 mL in trigeminal neuralgia to 0.5 to 1.0 mL per interspace for subarachnoid injections. Doses larger than 1.5 mL are seldom required. All injections should be made slowly and only after all steps have been taken to insure precise placement of the alcohol. A 1.0 mL tuberculin syringe is desirable to facilitate accurate measurement of the dose. Separate needles should be used for injection of successive interspaces or other sites. Since Dehydrated Alcohol Injection, USP is hypobaric as compared to spinal fluid, proper positioning of the patient is essential to control localization of injections into the subarachnoid space.

When lesser concentrations of alcohol are used, larger volumes are usually injected. A dose of 2 mL of 45% alcohol has been used for injecting individual motor nerves, or from 1.5 to 4.0 mL for epidural injection in children with spastic cerebral palsy; 50 mL of 50% alcohol has been used for celiac plexus blockade.

The LD₅₀ oral dose in rats is 13.7 g/kg.

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit. See **PRECAUTIONS**.

HOW SUPPLIED: Dehydrated Alcohol Injection, USP

NDC 17478-503-05 5 mL Vial Packages of 10

Storage: Store in a cool place away from any heat source.

AKORN

Manufactured by: **Akorn, Inc.**
Lake Forest, IL 60045

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