

Phenylephrine

Pharmacology

Potent, direct-acting alpha-adrenergic agonist with virtually no beta-adrenergic activity; produces local vasoconstriction.

Use: Labeled Indications

For OTC use as treatment of hemorrhoids

Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to phenylephrine or any component of the formulation; hypertension; ventricular tachycardia

Dosing: Adult

Hemorrhoids: Rectal:

Ointment: Apply to clean, dry area up to 4 times/day

Suppository: Insert 1 suppository rectally up to 4 times/day

Dosing: Geriatric

Refer to adult dosing.

Dosing: Pediatric

Hemorrhoids, anorectal protection: Children ≥ 12 years and Adolescents:

Ointment: Topical or rectal: Apply to rectal area or by applicator into rectum up to 4 times daily (eg, morning, night, and after bowel movements)

Suppository: Rectal: Insert 1 suppository into rectum up to 4 times daily (eg, morning, night, and after bowel movements)

Adverse Reactions

Rare systemic effects may occur.

Warnings/Precautions

Disease-related concerns:

- Cardiovascular disease, including ischemic heart disease: Use caution.
- Diabetes mellitus: Use caution.
- Hyperthyroidism: Use caution.

Special populations:

- Elderly: Use caution.

Other warnings/precautions:

- Use with caution in patients with increased intraocular pressure or prostatic hyperplasia. Notify healthcare provider if symptoms do not improve within 7 days or if bleeding occurs.

Pregnancy Considerations

When administered intravenously, phenylephrine crosses the placenta. Refer to the Phenylephrine (Systemic) monograph for details. There is limited information available supporting the use of topical agents for the treatment of hemorrhoids. Products containing phenylephrine should be used with caution in pregnant women, especially patients with hypertension or diabetes.

Patient Education

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat signs of hemorrhoids or rectal irritation.

WARNING/CAUTION: Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Rectal bleeding
- Rectal pain
- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Note: This is not a comprehensive list of all side effects. Talk to your doctor if you have questions.

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