

# Aminophylline Injection

## Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is used in combination with other medicines to treat and prevent wheezing and trouble breathing caused by ongoing lung disease (e.g., asthma, emphysema, chronic bronchitis). Aminophylline belongs to a class of drugs known as xanthines. It works in the airways by relaxing muscles, opening air passages to improve breathing, and decreasing the lungs' response to irritants

## How should this medicine be used?

This medication is given into a vein by slow injection or through an IV infusion, usually by a health care professional.

Follow all instructions for proper mixing with the correct IV fluids. Before using, check this product visually for particles or discoloration. If either is present, do not use the liquid.

Dosage is based on your medical condition, response to therapy, age, drug blood levels, and other drugs you may be taking

## What special precautions should I follow?

Before using aminophylline, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to theophylline, theobromine, caffeine, or ethylenediamine; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of a certain breathing disorder (cystic fibrosis), a certain eye problem (glaucoma), diabetes, heart problems (e.g., congestive heart failure, irregular heartbeat), high blood pressure, current fever/flu-like symptoms, kidney disease, liver disease (e.g., cirrhosis), seizures, stomach/intestinal ulcer, thyroid disease.

This drug may make you dizzy. Use caution while driving, using machinery, or doing any activity that requires alertness. Limit alcoholic beverages.

Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this medication.

Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to its effects.

Caution is advised when using this drug in children, especially newborns and children younger than 1 year, because they may be more sensitive to its effects.

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed.

This drug passes into breast milk and may have undesirable effects on a nursing infant (e.g., irritability).

### **What should I do if I forget a dose?**

If the dose is interrupted, contact the doctor to establish a new dosing schedule/IV rate.

### **What side effects can this medication cause?**

Stomach pain/cramping, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite, headache, trouble sleeping, irritability, restlessness, nervousness, shaking, flushing, and increased urination may occur.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: confusion, dizziness, mental/mood changes, muscle twitching/pain/tenderness/weakness, rapid breathing.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: fainting, fast/slow/irregular heartbeat, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, seizures.

A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is rare.

### **What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?**

Store the unmixed solution at room temperature between 15-30 degrees C away from light and moisture. Store the mixed solution at room temperature and use/discard within 24 hours. Do not freeze

### **In case of emergency/overdose**

Symptoms of overdose can occur at usual prescribed dosages of aminophylline. If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately

### **What other information should I know?**

Certain diets (e.g., high protein/low carbohydrate or high carbohydrate/low protein) may change the effect of aminophylline. Tell your doctor if you are following a dietary plan or eat beef every day. The dose of your medicine may need to be adjusted.

Caffeine and alcohol can increase the side effects of this medication. Avoid drinking large amounts of beverages containing alcohol or caffeine (e.g., coffee, tea, colas), or eating large amounts of chocolate.