

Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin L-A®) Client Information Sheet



You are receiving a medication called penicillin G benzathine, brand name Bicillin L-A®, as an injection as a treatment for syphilis. The number of injections you receive will depend on the stage of syphilis. Your healthcare provider will explain your syphilis stage and the number of injections necessary to treat it.

Allergic Reactions

If you are allergic to or have had a reaction to penicillin, amoxicillin, or cephalosporin, be sure to discuss this with your provider. They can decide whether this medication is safe for you.

Side Effects

Penicillin G benzathine may cause nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea. You may also have pain and tenderness where you get the injection. Some people have a reaction to the medication that occurs up to six hours after receiving the injection and usually goes away within 24 hours without any treatment. Symptoms of this reaction may include some of the following:

- Chills
- Fever
- Rapid heart rate
- Muscle and joint pain
- Sweating
- Fatigue
- Headache

You can take pain medicine like acetaminophen (Tylenol®) or ibuprofen (Advil®). Follow the package directions or talk to your doctor or pharmacist before you take it.

If you have trouble breathing or swallowing, swelling or tingling in your mouth or on your face, hives, or wheezing, this may signal an allergic reaction. Call 911 or visit the emergency department immediately.

Missed Dose:

To treat syphilis properly, make sure to take all the scheduled injections on time. If you miss a dose, call your provider or treatment clinic for instructions.

Penicillin G Benzathine and Pregnancy

Penicillin G benzathine is approved for use during pregnancy. It is important to get treated as soon as possible for syphilis during pregnancy so your baby does not get syphilis. Congenital syphilis, or syphilis in babies, can cause serious health problems and even death.

For more information, visit the [CDC Sexually Transmitted Infections Treatment Guidelines](https://www.cdc.gov/std/treatment-guidelines).

This project is supported by 1 FPTPA006031-03-00 issued by the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$1,000,000 with 100 percent funded by the Office of Population Affairs/OASH/HHS.