

Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

Patient Drug Education

HYDROXYZINE HCL 25 MG TABLET

USES:

Hydroxyzine is used for the short-term treatment of nervousness and tension that may occur with certain mental/mood disorders (e.g., anxiety, dementia). It is also used to treat itching from allergies and other causes (e.g., reactions to certain drugs). It may also be used to help you feel calmer before/after surgery, or to help certain narcotic pain relievers (e.g., meperidine) work better. Hydroxyzine belongs to a class of medications called antihistamines. It works by blocking a certain natural substance (histamine) that your body makes during an allergic reaction. Its other effects (e.g., calming, pain relief) may work by affecting other natural substances (e.g., acetylcholine, serotonin) or by acting directly on certain parts of the brain.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:

HOW TO USE: Take this medication by mouth as needed, usually three or four times daily or as directed by your doctor. If you are taking the syrup or suspension, measure the dose carefully using a special medication spoon or a kitchen measuring spoon. If you are using the suspension, shake the bottle well before each dose. Dosage is based on your age, medical condition, and response to therapy. In children, dosage may also be based on body weight. Take this medication as directed. Do not take more medication or take it more often than prescribed. Inform your doctor if your condition does not improve or if it worsens.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Drowsiness, dizziness, blurred vision, dry mouth, or headache may occur. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. To relieve dry mouth, suck on sugarless hard candy or ice chips, chew sugarless gum, drink water, or use a saliva substitute. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but serious side effects occur: mental/mood changes (e.g., worsening anxiety, confusion, hallucinations), shaking (tremor), decreased/painful urination, vision changes. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these rare but very serious side effects occur: pounding/irregular heartbeat, seizures. A very serious allergic reaction to this drug is unlikely, but seek immediate medical attention if it occurs. Symptoms of a serious allergic reaction may include: rash, itching, swelling, severe dizziness, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

PRECAUTIONS:

Before taking hydroxyzine, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to cetirizine; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: breathing problems (e.g., emphysema, asthma), a certain eye problem (glaucoma), heart problems, high blood pressure, kidney problems, liver problems, seizures, stomach/intestine problems (e.g., ulcer, blockage), overactive thyroid (hyperthyroidism), problems urinating (e.g., due to enlarged prostate, bladder blockage). This drug may make you dizzy or drowsy or cause blurred vision; use caution while engaging in activities requiring alertness or clear vision such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages. Before having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are using this medication. Liquid forms of this medication may contain sugar and/or alcohol. Caution is advised if you have diabetes, alcohol dependence, or liver disease. Ask your doctor or pharmacist about the safe use of this product. Caution is advised when using this drug in children because they may be more sensitive to its effects. This drug can often cause excitement in young children instead of drowsiness. Caution is advised when using this drug in the elderly because they may be more sensitive to the side effects of the drug, especially drowsiness and confusion. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during the last six months of pregnancy. It is not recommended for use during the first three months of pregnancy due to possible harm to the unborn baby. If you become pregnant or think you may be pregnant, inform your doctor immediately. It is not known if this medication passes into breast milk. Breast-feeding while using this drug is not recommended. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

Your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Do not start, stop or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with them first. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: antispasmodics (e.g., atropine, belladonna alkaloids), epinephrine, MAO inhibitors (e.g., furazolidone, isocarboxazid, linezolid, moclobemide, phenelzine, procarbazine, rasagiline, selegiline, tranylcypromine), drugs for Parkinson's disease (e.g., anticholinergics such as benztropine, trihexyphenidyl), scopolamine, tricyclic antidepressants (e.g., amitriptyline). Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you also take drugs that cause drowsiness such as: certain antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine), anti-seizure drugs (e.g., carbamazepine), medicine for sleep or anxiety (e.g., alprazolam, diazepam, zolpidem), muscle relaxants, narcotic pain relievers (e.g., codeine), psychiatric medicines (e.g., chlorpromazine, risperidone, trazodone). Check the labels on all your medicines (e.g., cough-and-cold products, allergy products, sleep medications) because they may contain drowsiness-causing ingredients or other antihistamines (e.g., diphenhydramine). Ask your pharmacist about the safe use of those products. This medication may interfere with certain laboratory tests (allergy skin tests, urine corticosteroids), possibly causing false test results. Make sure laboratory personnel and your doctors know you use this drug.

NOTES:

Do not share this medication with others.

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MISSED DOSE:

If you are taking this medication on a regular schedule and miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

STORAGE:

Store in a tightly closed container at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom. Do not freeze liquid forms of this medication. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.