



## Penicillin G Benzathine – Long Acting

### Treatment

- An antibiotic used to treat sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

### How do I take this medication?

- Given by intramuscular (IM) injection.
- One dose of the medication is 2 IM injections; one in the left and one in the right muscle of your hip/buttock.
- Depending on the stage of your infection – you may require additional doses.

### Important things to know:

- Please disclose any allergies and all medications that you are taking to the health care provider.
- Do not have sexual contact for 7 days after your last treatment.
- Disclose if you are pregnant and/or breast/chest feeding. The health care provider may talk with a specialist to decide on the best treatment plan.

### Possible Side Effects

#### Most Common:

- Mild, temporary pain or swelling at the injection site.

#### Less Common:

- Nausea and vomiting
- Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction can include:
  - Fever, headache, muscle aches, or chills
  - May occur 2 hours after treatment and usually resolves within 24 hours

**\*Although rare, Benzathine Penicillin G can result in serious complications. If you have any severe skin reactions, heart issues, or other concerns please seek medical attention immediately or contact 911, if required.**



## Allergic Reaction

Please remain in the waiting room for **20 minutes** after your treatment to monitor for an allergic reaction. If you experience any of the following, inform the nurse right away:

- Hives with itching
- Itchiness, tearing, nasal congestion or facial flushing
- Painless swelling around the face or mouth
- Sneezing, coughing, wheezing, and difficulty breathing or difficulty swallowing

**\*If you develop signs of an allergic reaction at home – please go to your nearest emergency department or call 911.**

## Follow-Up Testing

- Your health care provider will discuss follow-up and repeat testing recommendations with you.

## References

- Canadian Guidelines on Sexually Transmitted Infections (2023). Syphilis: Treatment and follow-up. <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/infectious-diseases/sexual-health-sexually-transmitted-infections/canadian-guidelines/syphilis/treatment-follow-up.html>
- Pfizer (2020). Product Monograph Bicillin-L.A. [PRODUCT MONOGRAPH \(hres.ca\)](http://product.monograph(hres.ca))
- UpToDate (2023). Penicillin G benzathine (long-acting intramuscular): Drug Information.
- UpToDate (2023). Syphilis: Treatment and Monitoring.

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