

PRODUCT INFORMATION
NUELIN® SYRUP
COMPOSITION

Nuelin Syrup contains 133.3mg anhydrous theophylline per 25mL in immediate release form. Nuelin Syrup contains the following excipients: Berry Citrus Blend PFC 9756, Methylparaben, Propylparaben, Sorbitol Solution 70%, Sucrose, Water and does not contain alcohol. If a sustained release theophylline formulation is required Nuelin SR may be appropriate.

PHARMACOLOGY

Site and Mode of Action:

Theophylline has a direct relaxant effect on the smooth muscle of bronchial airways and pulmonary blood vessels, serving as a bronchoidlator and pulmonary vasodilator. It also exhibits activities ypical of xanthines such as CNS stimulation, cluding the respiratory centre, cardiac stimulation, coronary vasodilatation, diuresis and increased gastric secretion. The mechanism of action of theophylline in vivo has not been fully elucidated. One mechanism of smooth muscle relaxation may be inhibition of phosphodiesterase that reduces intracellular concentrations of cyclic AMP. Increased intracellular concentrations of cyclic AMP have been associated with relaxation of bronchial smooth muscle. There is no evidence that tolerance develops with continued use of theophylline.

Relationship to Other Drugs:

Theophylline is closely related to the other xanthines, caffeine and theofromine. Generally, the xanthines relax smooth muscle, act on the kidney to produce diuresis, stimulate the central nervous system and stimulate cardiac muscle.

PHARMACOKINETICS

It is now generally believed that plasma concentrations of 10-20 µg/mL constitute a therapeutic range, although some patients may benefit from levels below this.

Absorption:

clearance is extremely slow.

Theophylline is well absorbed throughout the gastrointestinal tract. Peak plasma theophylline levels occur 1.5 to 2 hours after a dose of Nuelin Syrup. The plasma half-life of theophylline in adults varies considerably. In healthy adults it ranges from 3 to 12 hours. The half-life is shortened by smoking. The half-life of theophylline is prolonged by reduced hepatic function, congestive heart failure, pulmonary disease, severe hypoxia, reduced thyroid function, acute febrile states, viral infections and administration of some drugs. (See Drug Interactions.) Patients with a prolonged half-life of theophylline, from whatever cause, require a reduced dosage.

Distribution:

Approximately 50-70% of circulating theophylline is bound to the plasma proteins of adults, but binding is decreased to about 40% in newborn infants and int adults with hepatic cirrhosis. Theophylline partitions into saliva and breast milk and crosses the placental barrier

Metabolism:

Theophylline is metabolised in the liver, principally to 1,3-dimethyluric acid with other metabolites being 3-methylxanthine and 1-methyluric acid. 3-Methylxanthine has some pharmacological activity, but less than theophylline.

Excretion:

Theophylline and its metabolites are excreted by the kidney. About 10% of the administered dose is excreted unchanged in the urine. **INDICATIONS**

For the relief and prophylaxis of reversible bronchospasm associated with bronchial asthma, bronchitis, emphysema and related conditions.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

Nuelin Syrup should not be used where hypersensitivity to its constituents or to xanthines generally is known or has been demonstrated.

PRECAUTIONS

1. As there is a correlation between plasma levels of theophylline and therapeutic effect and as patient response can vary considerably

due to variable rates of elimination, monitoring plasma levels in individual patients is strongly recommended (see THEOPHYLLINE MONITORING). Dosage should be individualised if optimal therapeutic effect is to be achieved. However, individual patients also have a widely variable tolerance to adverse effects answiptomatology should be considered as well as monitored levels. Theophylline should not be administered concurrently with other

- xanthine medications and caution should be exercised when sympathomimetic agents are also part of the regimen.

 3. Theophylline clearance decreases in patients with reduced thyroid function, congestive heart failure, acute pulmonary oedema, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, severe hypoxia, pneumonia, acute febrile episodes and during acute viral infection. Clearance is markedly decreased in patients with impaired liver function, such as headic cirrihosis. Also refer to Druio Interaction.
- 4. Because of its cardiac side effects, use theophylline with caution in patients with cardiac arrhythmias, coronary artery disease, unstable angina, cardiomyopathy and severe hypertension. Theophylline increases gastric acid secretion and should be used with caution in patients with peptic ulcer or gastro-oesophageal reflux.

 5. Smoking may increase theophylline clearance and increased doses

of theophylline may be required. (See Drug Interactions.)

There is some evidence that theophylline exhibits dose-dependent kinetics, at least in sick and elderly patients. Care should be exercised by titration of dosage requirements in small increments and by monitoring serum theophylline levels.

 Xanthine containing beverages (eg tea, coffee, cola, cocoa) may

interfere with some serum theophylline assays.

Use in Pregnancy

Theophylline does cross the placental barrier. The effect on foetal development is not known. Theophylline clearance is significantly decreased in premature infants. Therefore, if this drug is administered to the mother near the time of delivery, the neonate should be monitored closely for the pharmacologue effects of theophylline. Hence the use of theophylline in pregnant women should be balanced against the risk of uncontrolled asthma.

Use in Lactation

Theophylline is excreted in breast milk and irritability has been reported in infants of nursing mothers taking theophylline. It is advisable to keep serum theophylline concentrations as low as possible in nursing mothers while maintaining adequate asthma control.

Drug Interactions

The following drugs have been shown to decrease the hepatic clearance of theophylline, thus increasing its serum concentration: Cimetidine, high dose allopurinol, propranolol, macrolide antibiotics (eq.

erythromycin, clarithromycin) quinolone antibiotics (eq. ciprofloxacin and enoxacin) alcohol, oral contraceptives, mexilitene, tacrine, thiabendazole, disulfiram, Interferon alpha and verapamil. The following substances have been shown to increase the hepatic clearance of theophylline, thus lowering its serum concentration: tobacco or marijuana smoking, phenobarbitone, phenytoin, carbamazepine and rifampicin. Theoretical potential interactions of theophylline with products containing Hypericum perforatum (St John's wort), possibly involving the CYP 1A2 isoform, could result in reduced plasma levels of theophylline. It is recommended that serum theophylline evels are monitored and dosage adjustments made if concomitant therapy with these drugs/substances is commenced or ceased during continued theophylline therapy. Ventricular arrhythmias have been reported when halothane is used concurrently with theophylline. Concurrent use of ketamine with theophylline may lower the seizure threshold. Theophylline has been reported to enhance the renal clearance of lithium, thus reducing serum lithium levels. Synergism with adrenaline and other sympathomimetic amines has been reported with theophylline. Concomitant administration of a 8-adrenergic agonist with methylxanthines has resulted in cardiac arrhythmias and sudden death in studies carried out in laboratory animals. The clinical significance of these findings when applied to humans is not known at present. The effect of ranitidine, diltiazem, nifedipine, isoniazid, frusemide, influenza vaccine and corticosteroids on theophylline is uncertain, but concomitant use of these drugs should

be monitored closely.

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Leaflet Inside: 72mm x 303mm

500 mL = 2.8 mm

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Product Variant: Syrup	Printer: XXX	PMS 318C	Helvetica LT Std Condensed Helvetica LT Std Bold Condensed				
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