

Labelling – Patient Information

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

Sea Snake Antivenom

AUST R 74901

WHAT IS IN THIS LEAFLET?

This leaflet contains information about Sea Snake Antivenom. Please read it carefully and keep it for future reference. The information in this leaflet is only a summary and is not intended to replace advice from your doctor.

Please consult your doctor or pharmacist if you have any comments or questions.

WHAT IS SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM?

Sea Snake Antivenom is an injection designed to help neutralise the effect of the venom (poison) of sea snakes. The antivenom is produced by immunising horses against the venom of sea snakes and then collecting that part of the horse's blood which neutralises this poison. The antivenom is purified and made into an injection for those people who may need it after being bitten by a sea snake.

WHEN IS SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM USED?

Sea Snake Antivenom is given to those people who become ill after being bitten by a sea snake.

Not everyone who is bitten needs the antivenom as many people have only very mild effects from the bite or none at all. However, some people can become extremely ill after being bitten and in these people it is essential to use an appropriate amount of antivenom to counteract the effects of the poison.

WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE THE ANTIVENOM?

As there are sometimes unpleasant and dangerous reactions to the antivenom (see **SIDE EFFECTS OF SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM**), it should not be given to people who have no effects from the bite. However, as Sea Snake Antivenom can be an emergency life-saving product, it should not be withheld from anyone who needs it.

BEFORE YOU HAVE SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM

Before you have the injection, you should tell your doctor if:

- you are an asthmatic
- you suffer from hayfever
- you suffer from any other allergies
- you have ever received injections containing horse serum (snake bite and other antivenoms)
- you had an anti-tetanus injection before 1974
- you are suffering from any other illness
- you are taking medicines and what they are
- you are pregnant
- you are breast feeding

When medicines are produced in animals and injected into you, it is always possible that viruses or other substances could also be present in the medicine and cause an illness. These could be viruses or other infectious agents which may not yet have been discovered. In the past, there have been no reports of this ever having happened with this product.

SIDE EFFECTS OF SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM

As with any medicine, some side effects may occur.

As the injection is made with horse serum, side effects occur more commonly in those who have allergies, particularly if they have ever had injections before which were also prepared from horse serum. There has been one report of a rash following the use of Sea Snake Antivenom. Serious allergic reactions have not been reported but could occur. These can be treated by your doctor.

An illness consisting of a rash, swollen glands, joint pains and fever may occur anytime up to two weeks after the injection.

Always tell your doctor if you have any unpleasant effects after receiving Sea Snake Antivenom.

THE DOSE OF SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM

The dose for both adults and children is one to three vials of 1,000 units depending on the severity of the condition. The injection is considerably diluted and given slowly as a drip into a vein. The dose can be repeated as necessary. Your doctor will take precautions to counteract any allergic reactions if they should happen.

OVERDOSE

There is no information on overdose.

WHAT DOES SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM CONTAIN?

Each vial of Sea Snake Antivenom contains 1000 units of antivenom in between 15 and 35 mL of liquid. The injection also contains phenol as a preservative, sodium chloride and substances found in horse blood.

The Australian Registration Number is AUST R 74901.

HOW TO STORE SEA SNAKE ANTIVENOM

Sea Snake Antivenom should be protected from light and stored at 2 - 8°C (in the refrigerator). It must not be frozen. It should not be used after the expiry date on the package.

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

You can get more information from your doctor or pharmacist.

Sea Snake Antivenom is manufactured by:

CSL Limited ABN 99 051 588 348
45 Poplar Road
Parkville Victoria 3052
Australia

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Department of
**Health and
Ageing**

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