

DrugFAQs

Mepergan Fortis

Generic Name: meperidine & promethazine

Brand Names: *Mepergan Fortis*, *Meprozone*

Why is Mepergan prescribed?

Meperidine is a narcotic pain reliever.

Promethazine is an anti-nausea medication.

The meperidine and promethazine combination is used to treat moderate to severe pain. Meperidine and promethazine may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

What is the most important information I should know about Mepergan Fortis?

Before using meperidine and promethazine, tell your doctor if you have heart disease, asthma or other breathing disorder, a history of brain injury or seizures, urination problems, or a history of drug or alcohol abuse.

Do not use this medication if you have taken an MAO inhibitor such as isocarboxazid (Marplan), tranylcypromine (Parnate), phenelzine (Nardil), or selegiline (Eldepryl, Emsam) within the past 14 days. Serious, life-threatening side effects can occur if you take meperidine and promethazine before the MAO inhibitor has cleared from your body. Avoid drinking alcohol, which can increase some of the side effects of meperidine and promethazine. Avoid using other medicines that make you sleepy (such as cold medicine, pain medication, muscle relaxers, and medicine for seizures, depression or anxiety). They can add to sleepiness caused by meperidine and promethazine. This medication can cause side effects that may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be awake and alert. Meperidine may be habit-forming. Do not change your dose of this medicine without your doctor's advice. Call your doctor if you think the medicine is no longer working as well in relieving your pain.

What should I discuss with my health care provider before taking Mepergan?

Do not use this medication if you have taken an MAO inhibitor such as isocarboxazid (Marplan), tranylcypromine (Parnate), phenelzine (Nardil), or selegiline (Eldepryl, Emsam) within the past 14 days. Serious, life-threatening side effects can occur if you take meperidine and promethazine before the MAO inhibitor has cleared from your body. Before using meperidine and promethazine, tell your doctor if you have:

- heart disease or a heart rhythm disorder;
- kidney disease;
- liver disease;
- underactive thyroid;
- an allergy to sulfites;
- asthma or a breathing disorder;
- a history of head injury or brain tumor;
- epilepsy or other seizure disorder;
- glaucoma;
- Addison's disease;
- prostate enlargement or urination problems; or
- a history of drug or alcohol dependence or abuse.

If you have any of these conditions, you may not be able to use meperidine and promethazine, or you may need a dosage adjustment or special tests during treatment. This medication may be harmful to an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment. Meperidine and promethazine may pass into breast milk and could harm a nursing baby. Do not use this medication without telling your doctor if you are breast-feeding a baby.

How should I take Mepergan Fortis?

Take this medication exactly as it was prescribed for you. Do not take the medication in larger amounts, or take it for longer than recommended by your doctor. Take this medicine with a full glass of water. Drink plenty of water to prevent constipation that may be caused by meperidine and promethazine. If this medication upsets your stomach, take it with food or

milk. Meperidine may be habit-forming. Do not change your dose of this medicine without your doctor's advice. Call your doctor if you think the medicine is no longer working as well in relieving your pain. Store meperidine and promethazine at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since pain medication is usually taken as needed, you may not be on a dosing schedule. If you are taking the medication regularly, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and wait until your next regularly scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention if you think you have used too much of this medicine. Symptoms of a meperidine and promethazine overdose may include light-headedness, increased sweating, blue lips, limp muscles, cold or clammy skin, slow heartbeat, shallow breathing, or fainting.

What should I avoid while taking Mepergan Fortis?

Avoid drinking alcohol, which can increase some of the side effects of meperidine and promethazine. Avoid using other medicines that make you sleepy (such as cold medicine, pain medication, muscle relaxers, and medicine for seizures, depression or anxiety). They can add to sleepiness caused by meperidine and promethazine. This medication can cause side effects that may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be awake and alert.

Mepergan Fortis side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction: hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat. Stop using meperidine and promethazine and call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- fast, slow, or uneven heartbeats;
- shallow breathing;

- extreme weakness or drowsiness;
- feeling light-headed, fainting;
- feeling anxious or agitated;
- urinating less than usual;
- tremors; or
- unusual thoughts or behavior.

Continue using meperidine and promethazine and talk with your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects:

- constipation;
- mild nausea or stomach upset;
- warmth, tingling, or redness under your skin;
- blurred vision; or
- dry mouth.

Side effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What other drugs will affect Mepergan?

There may be other drugs that can affect meperidine and promethazine, tell your doctor about all the prescription and over-the-counter medications you use. This includes vitamins, minerals, herbal products, and drugs prescribed by other doctors. Do not start using a new medication without telling your doctor.