

[Home](#)

2. Phenergan

Phenergan

Generic name: [promethazine](#) (oral) [*pro-METH-a-zeen*]**Brand names:** Phenergan, [Phenadoz](#), [Promethegan](#)**Drug classes:** [Antihistamines](#), [Phenothiazine antiemetics](#)Medically reviewed by [Kaci Durbin, MD](#). Last updated on Feb 5, 2025.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

The Phenergan brand name has been **discontinued** in the U.S. If generic versions of this product have been approved by the FDA, there may be [generic equivalents available](#).

Phenergan is also found in combination with other medications such as phenylephrine (Prometh Hydrochloride), codeine (Prometh VC), or dextromethorphan (Promethazine DM)

What is Phenergan?

Phenergan belongs to a group of drugs called phenothiazines. It works by changing the actions of chemicals in your brain. Promethazine also acts as an antihistamine. It blocks the effects of the naturally occurring chemical histamine in your body.

Phenergan is used to treat allergy symptoms such as itching, runny nose, sneezing, itchy or watery eyes, hives, and itchy skin rashes.

Phenergan also prevents motion sickness, and treats nausea and vomiting or pain after surgery. It is also used as a sedative or sleep aid.

Phenergan is not for use in treating symptoms of asthma, pneumonia, or other lower respiratory tract infections.

Warnings

Stop using Phenergan and call your doctor at once if you have twitching or uncontrollable movements of your eyes, lips, tongue, face, arms, or legs. These could be early signs of dangerous side effects. **Phenergan should not be given to a child younger than 2 years old.** Phenergan can cause severe breathing problems or death in very young children. Carefully follow your doctor's instructions when giving this medicine to a child of any age.

Phenergan 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. Avoid drinking alcohol, which can increase some of the side effects of Phenergan. There are many other medicines that can interact with 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. Keep a list with you of all the medicines you use and show this list to any doctor or other healthcare provider who treats you.

Before taking this medicine

Phenergan should not be given to a child younger than 2 years old. Phenergan can cause severe breathing problems or death in very young children. **Carefully follow your doctor's instructions when giving this medicine to a child of any age.**

You should not take Phenergan if you are allergic to promethazine or to similar medicines such as chlorpromazine, fluphenazine, mesoridazine, perphenazine, prochlorperazine, thioridazine, or trifluoperazine.

You should not take Phenergan if you have asthma or another lower respiratory tract disorder.

To make sure Phenergan is safe for you, tell your doctor if you have:

- asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), sleep apnea, or other breathing disorder;
- a sulfite allergy;
- a history of seizures;
- a weak immune system (bone marrow depression);
- glaucoma;
- enlarged prostate or problems with urination;
- stomach ulcer or obstruction;
- heart disease or high blood pressure;
- liver disease;
- adrenal gland tumor (pheochromocytoma);
- low levels of calcium in your blood (hypocalcemia); or
- if you have ever had a serious side effect while using promethazine or any other phenothiazine.

It is not known whether Phenergan will affect an unborn baby. Animal studies have not shown any effects. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant while using this medicine.

It is not known whether promethazine passes into breast milk or if it could affect a nursing baby. Tell your doctor if you are nursing prior to using Phenergan.

 [Phenergan pregnancy and breastfeeding warnings](#) (more detail)

How should I take Phenergan?

Take Phenergan exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results. Do not take this medicine in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended.

Phenergan is often taken at bedtime or before meals. For motion sickness, Phenergan is usually started within 1 hour

before traveling. When used for surgery, Phenergan is usually taken the night before the surgery.

How often you take Phenergan and the timing of your dose will depend on the condition being treated.

Measure liquid medicine with the dosing syringe provided, or with a special dose-measuring spoon or medicine cup. If you do not have a dose-measuring device, ask your pharmacist for one.

If a child is using this medicine, tell your doctor if the child has any changes in weight. Phenergan doses are based on weight in children, and any changes may affect your child's dose.

Call your doctor if your symptoms do not improve, or if they get worse while using Phenergan.

This medicine can cause unusual results with certain medical tests. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using Phenergan.

Store Phenergan at room temperature away from moisture, heat, and light.

 [Detailed Phenergan dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose. Do not take extra medicine to make up the missed dose.

What happens if I overdose?

Seek emergency medical attention or call the Poison Help line at 1-800-222-1222.

Overdose symptoms may include overactive reflexes, loss of coordination, severe drowsiness or weakness, fainting, dilated pupils, weak or shallow breathing, or seizure (convulsions).

What to avoid

This medicine may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert. Avoid getting up too fast from a sitting or lying position, or you may feel dizzy. Get up slowly and steady yourself to prevent a fall.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of Phenergan. Do not drink alcohol while taking this medication.

Avoid exposure to sunlight or tanning beds. Phenergan can make you sunburn more easily. Wear protective clothing and use sunscreen (SPF 30 or higher) when you are outdoors.

Phenergan side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have any **signs of an allergic reaction**: hives; difficult breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Stop using Phenergan and call your doctor at once if you have:

- severe drowsiness, weak or shallow breathing;

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- confusion, agitation, hallucinations, nightmares;
- seizure (convulsions);
- fast or slow heartbeats;
- jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes);
- uncontrolled muscle movements in your face (chewing, lip smacking, frowning, tongue movement, blinking or eye movement);
- easy bruising or bleeding (nosebleeds, bleeding gums);
- sudden weakness or ill feeling, fever, chills, sore throat, mouth sores, red or swollen gums, trouble swallowing; or
- very stiff (rigid) muscles, high fever, sweating, confusion, fast or uneven heartbeats, tremors, feeling like you might pass out.

Side effects such as confusion and severe drowsiness may be more likely in older adults.

Common Phenergan side effects may include:

- drowsiness, dizziness;
- ringing in your ears;
- double vision;
- feeling nervous;
- dry mouth; or
- tired feeling, sleep problems (insomnia).

This is not a complete list of side effects and others may occur. Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects. You may report side effects to FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088.

 [Phenergan side effects](#) (more detail)

Related/similar drugs

Olanzapine

Olanzapine (brand name Zyprexa) is an atypical antipsychotic that may be used to treat adults and ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[1,091 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Dexamethasone

Dexamethasone is used to treat inflammatory conditions such as allergies, skin conditions ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[162 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Xolair

Xolair injection (omalizumab) is used to reduce the risk of severe food allergy reactions ...

Reviews & ratings

7.5 / 10

[229 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Loratadine

Loratadine is a non-drowsy antihistamine used to relieve allergy symptoms like sneezing, runny ...

Reviews & ratings

4.7 / 10

[139 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Methylprednisolone

Methylprednisolone is used to treat conditions such as allergies, arthritis, lupus and ulcerative ...

Reviews & ratings

7.1 / 10

[484 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Cetirizine

Cetirizine treats cold or allergy symptoms such as sneezing, itching, watery eyes, or runny nose ...

Reviews & ratings

5.8 / 10

[294 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Lorazepam

Lorazepam is in a group of drugs called benzodiazepines and is used to treat anxiety disorders ...

Reviews & ratings

7.9 / 10

[1,054 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Montelukast

Montelukast is a daily oral medication used to prevent asthma attacks, exercise-induced ...

Reviews & ratings

5.6 / 10

[571 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Hydroxyzine

Hydroxyzine is an antihistamine used to treat itching, hives, and anxiety. It also acts as a ...

Reviews & ratings

5.9 / 10

[1,404 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

What other drugs will affect Phenergan?

Cold or allergy medicine, sedatives, narcotic pain medicine, sleeping pills, muscle relaxers, and medicine for seizures, depression or anxiety can interact with Phenergan and cause medical problems or increase side effects. Tell your doctor if you regularly use any of these medicines.

Also tell your doctor if you are using any of the following medicines:

- lithium (Eskalith, Lithobid);
- atropine (Atreza, Sal-Tropine), belladonna (Donnatal, and others), benztropine (Cogentin), dimenhydrinate (Dramamine), methscopolamine (Pamine), or scopolamine (Transderm-Scop);
- blood pressure medication such as guanadrel (Hyloriel), guanethidine (Ismelin), propranolol (Inderal), and others;
- a blood thinner such as warfarin (Coumadin);
- bronchodilators such as ipratropium (Atrovent) or tiotropium (Spiriva);
- bladder or urinary medications such as oxybutynin (Ditropan, Oxytrol), solifenacin (Vesicare), and others;
- a MAO inhibitor such as isocarboxazid (Marplan), tranylcypromine (Parnate), phenelzine (Nardil), or selegiline (Eldepryl, Emsam) or methylene blue injection; or
- medicines to treat Parkinson's disease, restless leg syndrome, or pituitary gland tumor (prolactinoma); or
- medicine to treat stomach ulcer or irritable bowel syndrome, such as dicyclomine (Bentyl), glycopyrrolate (Robinul), hyoscyamine (Anaspaz, Cystospaz, Levsin, and others), mepenzolate (Cantil), or propantheline (Pro-Banthine).

This list is not complete and there are many other medicines that can interact with Phenergan. Tell your doctor about all your prescription and over-the-counter medications, vitamins, minerals, herbal products, and drugs prescribed by other doctors. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor. Keep a list with you of all the medicines you use and show this list to any doctor or other healthcare provider who treats you.

 [Phenergan drug interactions](#) (more detail)

Does Phenergan interact with my other drugs?

Enter medications to view a detailed interaction report using our [Drug Interaction Checker](#).

Phenergan

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Frequently asked questions

- [Par promethazine with codeine vs Hi-Tech promethazine with codeine?](#)
- [How long does promethazine stay in your system?](#)

More about Phenergan (promethazine)

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(150\)](#)

- [Drug images](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [Patient tips](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Generic availability](#)
- [Support group](#)
- [Drug class: antihistamines](#)
- [Breastfeeding](#)

Patient resources

Other brands

[Promethegan](#), [Phenadoz](#), [Antinaus 50](#)

Professional resources

- [Phenergan prescribing information](#)
- [Phenergan Injection \(FDA\)](#)
- [Phenergan Suppositories \(FDA\)](#)
- [Promethazine \(Sedative\) \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Promethegan](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Allergic Reactions](#)
- [Allergic Rhinitis](#)
- [Allergies](#)
- [Anaphylaxis](#)


Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use this medication only for the indication prescribed.


Always consult your healthcare provider to ensure the information displayed on this page applies to your personal circumstances.

[Medical Disclaimer](#)


DRUG STATUS

- 


Availability

Discontinued
- 

Pregnancy & Lactation

Risk data available
- 

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug
- 

Approval History

Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

7.4 / 10

[150 Reviews](#)

Images

[Phenergan 25 mg \(WYETH 27\)](#)



Drugs.com Mobile App

Access drug & treatment information, identify pills, check interactions and set up personal medication records.



About

- [About Drugs.com](#)
- [Advertising policy](#)
- [Attribution & citations](#)

Terms & privacy

- [Terms of use](#)
- [Editorial policy](#)
- [Privacy policy](#)

Support

- [Help center](#)
- [Sitemap](#)

Contact us



[Subscribe to our newsletter](#) for the latest medication news, new drug approvals and FDA alerts.

Drugs.com provides accurate and independent information on more than 24,000 prescription drugs, over-the-counter medicines and natural products. This material is provided for educational purposes only and is not intended for medical advice, diagnosis or treatment. Data sources include Micromedex (updated 7 Apr 2025), Cerner Multum™ (updated 13 Apr 2025), ASHP (updated 10 Apr 2025) and others.



Ad Choices
ADVERTISEMENT



Copyright © 2000-2025 Drugs.com. All rights reserved.