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2. Procrit

Procrit

Generic name: [epoetin alfa](#) [e-POE-e-tin-AL-fa]**Brand names:** [Epogen](#), Procrit, [Retacrit](#)**Drug class:** [Recombinant human erythropoietins](#)Medically reviewed by [Sanjai Sinha, MD](#). Last updated on Apr 7, 2025.[Uses](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Side effects](#) [Interactions](#) [FAQ](#)

What is Procrit?

Procrit is a man-made form of a protein that helps your body produce red blood cells. This protein may be reduced when you have [kidney failure](#) or use certain medications. When fewer red blood cells are produced, you can develop a condition called anemia.

Procrit is used to treat [anemia](#) caused by chemotherapy or [chronic kidney disease](#), or anemia caused by taking [zidovudine](#) to treat [HIV](#) (human immunodeficiency virus).

Procrit is also used to reduce the need for red blood cell transfusions in people having certain types of surgery.

Warnings

Procrit can cause serious side effects, including [heart attack](#) or stroke. Epoetin alfa may also speed up tumor growth, or shorten remission or survival time in some people. **Talk with your doctor about the risks and benefits of using Procrit.**

You should not use Procrit if you have uncontrolled [high blood pressure](#), or if you have ever had pure red cell aplasia (PRCA, a type of anemia) caused by using epoetin alfa or [darbepoetin alfa](#).

Call your doctor at once if you have signs of a blood clot: sudden numbness or weakness, problems with vision or speech, chest pain, trouble breathing, pain or cold feeling in an arm or leg.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use Procrit if you are allergic to epoetin alfa or darbepoetin alfa, or if:

- you have untreated or uncontrolled high blood pressure;
- you have had pure red cell aplasia (PRCA, a type of anemia) after using darbepoetin alfa or epoetin alfa; or
- you use an Procrit multi-dose vial and you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Do not use Procrit from a multi-dose vial when giving medicine to a baby. The multi-dose vial contains an ingredient that can cause serious side effects or death in very young infants or premature babies.

Epoetin alfa may speed up tumor growth, or shorten remission or survival time in some people with certain types of cancer. Talk with your doctor about the risks and benefits of using epoetin alfa.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- heart disease, high blood pressure;
- a heart attack, or blood clot;
- a seizure disorder;
- [phenylketonuria](#) (PKU); or
- kidney disease (or if you are on dialysis).

It is not known whether Procrit will harm an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

It may not be safe to breast-feed while using this medicine. Ask your doctor about any risk.

Do not use Procrit from a multi-dose vial if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Epoetin alfa is made from donated human plasma and may contain viruses or other infectious agents. Donated plasma is tested and treated to reduce the risk of contamination, but there is still a small possibility it could transmit disease. Ask your doctor about any possible risk.

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

How should I use Procrit?

Use Procrit injection exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides or instruction sheets. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Procrit is injected under the skin, or as an infusion into a vein. A healthcare provider may teach you how to properly use the medication by yourself.

Read and carefully follow any Instructions for Use provided with your medicine. Do not use Procrit if you don't understand all instructions for proper use. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have questions.

Prepare your injection only when you are ready to give it. Do not use if the medicine has changed colors or has particles in it. Call your pharmacist for new medicine.

Do not shake a Procrit vial or you may ruin it.

Call your doctor if you feel weak, tired, or light-headed. These may be signs that your body has stopped responding to epoetin alfa.

You may need frequent medical tests to be sure this medicine is not causing harmful effects. Your injections may be delayed based on the results.

You may be given other medications to help prevent serious side effects. Keep using these medicines for as long as your doctor has prescribed.

If you need surgery, tell the surgeon ahead of time that you are using epoetin alfa. You may need to use a medicine to prevent blood clots.

Procrit is only part of a complete treatment program that may also include a special diet. Follow your doctor's instructions very closely.

Store in the refrigerator and protect from light. **Do not freeze Procrit**, and throw away the medication if it has become frozen.

Each single-use Procrit vial (bottle) of this medicine is for one use only. Throw it away after one use, even if there is still medicine left inside. Throw away any leftover medicine in a multi-dose vial 21 days after the first use.

Use a needle and syringe only once and then place them in a puncture-proof "sharps" container. Follow state or local laws about how to dispose of this container. Keep it out of the reach of children and pets.

 [Detailed Procrit dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Call your doctor for instructions if you miss a dose of Procrit.

What happens if I overdose?

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

What should I avoid while using Procrit?

Avoid driving or hazardous activity until you know how this medicine will affect you. Your reactions could be impaired.

Procrit side effects

Get emergency medical help if you have **signs of an allergic reaction to Procrit** (hives, sweating, rapid pulse, wheezing, trouble breathing, severe dizziness or fainting, swelling in your face or throat) **or a severe skin reaction** (fever, sore throat, burning eyes, skin pain, red or purple skin rash with blistering and peeling).

Epoetin alfa can cause serious side effects, including heart attack or stroke. **Seek emergency medical help if you have:**

- **heart attack symptoms** - chest pain or pressure, pain spreading to your jaw or shoulder, nausea, sweating;
- **signs of a stroke** - sudden numbness or weakness (especially on one side of the body), sudden severe headache, slurred speech, problems with vision or balance;
- **signs of a blood clot** - pain, swelling, warmth, redness, cold feeling, or pale appearance of an arm or leg; or
- **increased blood pressure** - severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears, anxiety, nosebleed.

Call your doctor at once if you have:

- unusual tiredness;
- a seizure (convulsions);
- **high blood sugar** - increased thirst, increased urination, dry mouth, fruity breath odor;
- **low potassium** - leg cramps, [constipation](#), irregular heartbeats, fluttering in your chest, increased thirst or urination, numbness or tingling, muscle weakness or limp feeling; or
- **increased blood pressure** - severe headache, blurred vision, pounding in your neck or ears, anxiety, nosebleed.

Common Procrit side effects may include:

- increased blood pressure;
- joint pain, bone pain, muscle pain;
- itching or rash;
- fever, chills, cough;
- mouth pain, trouble swallowing;
- nausea, [vomiting](#);
- headache, dizziness;
- trouble sleeping;
- depressed mood;
- [weight loss](#); or
- pain or redness where the medicine was injected.

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.

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

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What other drugs will affect Procrit?

Other drugs may interact with epoetin alfa, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Tell your doctor about all your current medicines and any medicine you start or stop using.

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

Does Procrit interact with my other drugs?

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

Procrit

+

Enter a drug name

Add

Procrit Biosimilars

Biosimilar and interchangeable products are biological products that are highly similar to and have no clinically meaningful differences from the reference product.

Reference products

These are biological products that have already been approved by the FDA, against which biosimilar products are compared. There are 2 for Procrit.

Epogen/Procrit (epoetin alfa) - Amgen Inc.

▼

Formulation type	Strength
Multi-Dose Vial	20,000 units/2 mL (10,000 units/mL)
Multi-Dose Vial	20,000 units/mL
Single-Dose Vial	10,000 units/mL
Single-Dose Vial	2,000 units/mL
Single-Dose Vial	3,000 units/mL
Single-Dose Vial	4,000 units/mL

View [Epogen/Procrit](#) information in detail.

Procrit (epoetin alfa) - Amgen Inc.

▼

Epogen/Procrit, Procrit biosimilar products

Biosimilar products can only be dispensed in place of the **reference product** if the healthcare provider specifically prescribes the biosimilar product by name.

Pharmacy laws for biosimilar prescribing may vary by state

Retacrit (epoetin alfa-epbx) - Hospira Inc., a Pfizer Company

▼

Frequently asked questions

- [What biosimilars have been approved in the United States?](#)
- [What is the difference between Retacrit and Procrit?](#)

More about Procrit (epoetin alfa)

- [Check interactions](#)
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Patient resources

Other brands

[Retacrit](#), [Epogen](#)

Professional resources

- [Procrit prescribing information](#)
- [Epoetin Alfa \(AHFS Monograph\)](#)

Other brands

[Retacrit](#), [Epogen](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Anemia Due to Chronic Kidney Disease](#)
- [Anemia](#)
- [Anemia, Chemotherapy Induced](#)
- [Anemia Prior to Surgery](#)
- [Anemia, Drug Induced](#)

Further information

Remember, keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children, never share your medicines with others, and use Procrit 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](#)

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DRUG STATUS

Availability		
Rx	Prescription only	
Pregnancy & Lactation		
	Risk data available	
CSA Schedule*		
N/A	Not a controlled drug	▼
WADA Class		
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