



[Home](#)

2. Alprostadil

Alprostadil (injectable and transurethral)

Generic name: alprostadil (injectable and transurethral) [*al-PROS-ta-dil*]

Brand names: [Caverject](#), [Caverject Impulse](#), [Edex](#), [Muse](#), [Prostin VR Pediatric](#), Edex Refill

Dosage forms: injectable kit (10 mcg; 20 mcg; 40 mcg), injectable powder for injection (10 mcg; 20 mcg; 40 mcg), ... [show all 4 dosage forms](#)

Drug classes: [Impotence agents](#), [Vasodilators](#)



[Medically reviewed](#) by Drugs.com on Aug 8, 2024. Written by [Cerner Multum](#).

[Uses](#) [Side effects](#) [Warnings](#) [Before taking](#) [Dosage](#) [Interactions](#)

What is alprostadil?

Alprostadil is used to treat [erectile dysfunction](#) ([impotence](#)) and to help diagnose certain causes of this disorder.

Alprostadil is also used to improve blood flow in newborn babies with heart problems. **This medication guide addresses only the adult male use of alprostadil in erectile disorders.**

Alprostadil relaxes blood vessels and muscles in the penis which increases blood flow, causing an erection.

Alprostadil may also be used for purposes not listed in this medication guide.

Alprostadil side effects

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

Alprostadil may cause serious side effects. Stop using alprostadil and call your doctor at once if you have:

- a light-headed feeling, like you might pass out;
- bleeding after an injection;
- a painful erection that lasts 4 hours or longer;
- new or worsening pain in your penis; or
- redness, swelling, tenderness, lumps, unusual shape or curving of the erect penis.

Common side effects of alprostadil may include:

- mild pain in your penis, urethra, or testicles;
- redness of the penis; or
- warmth or burning in your urethra.

Your sex partner may have side effects such as burning, [itching](#), or irritation of body areas that come into contact with your penis.

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.

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

Related/similar drugs

Advil

Advil (ibuprofen) reduces fever, pain and inflammation caused by headaches, toothaches, arthritis ...

Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[41 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Tadalafil

Tadalafil increases blood flow to particular areas of the body and is used to treat erectile ...

Reviews & ratings

8.4 / 10

[777 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

FEATURED

Omvol

Omvol is used to treat moderate to severe ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease in adults. This ...

Reviews & ratings

[1 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Cialis

Cialis (tadalafil) increase increases blood flow to a certain area of the body and is used to treat ...

Reviews & ratings

8.6 / 10

[554 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Viagra

Viagra (sildenafil) is used to treat erectile dysfunction or impotence in men. Includes Viagra side ...

Reviews & ratings

8.5 / 10

[253 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Levitra

Levitra relaxes muscles and increases blood flow to particular areas of the body and is used to ...

Reviews & ratings

7.8 / 10

[133 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Revatio

Revatio (sildenafil) is used to treat pulmonary arterial hypertension. Includes Revatio side ...

Reviews & ratings

6.9 / 10

[10 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Motrin IB

Motrin IB is used to reduce fever and treat pain or inflammation caused by headache, toothaches ...

Reviews & ratings

[5 Reviews](#)

[View more](#)

Warnings

This medication guide addresses only the adult male use of alprostadil in erectile disorders.

Seek emergency medical attention if you have a painful or prolonged erection lasting 4 hours or longer.

Before taking this medicine

You should not use alprostadil if you are allergic to it, or if you have:

- [sickle cell anemia](#) or the sickle cell trait;
- [leukemia](#);
- a tumor of the bone marrow ([multiple myeloma](#));
- a curved or deformed penis;
- penile fibrosis or [Peyronie's disease](#);
- if you have a penile implant; or
- if you must avoid sexual intercourse for health reasons.

Tell your doctor if you have ever had:

- [heart disease](#);
- high or [low blood pressure](#); or
- bleeding problems.

Caverject, Caverject Impulse, Edex, or Muse should not be used by women or by anyone under 18 years old.

While using alprostadil **pellets**, use condoms during sex if your partner is pregnant or able to get pregnant. The effects of alprostadil on an unborn baby at conception or during pregnancy are unknown.

How should I use alprostadil?

A healthcare provider will give your first dose and teach you how to properly use the medication by yourself.

Follow all directions on your prescription label and read all medication guides. Use the medicine exactly as directed.

Alprostadil is used only when needed. An erection should occur within 5 to 20 minutes and last up to 60 minutes.

Alprostadil **injection** is injected into the side of the penis.

Alprostadil **transurethral pellet** is a very small suppository to be inserted into the opening of the penis (the urethra).

Do not use more than 2 **pellets** in one day. Do not use more than 3 **injections** per week. **Wait at least 24 hours**

between each injection.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand how to use the **injection**.

Prepare an injection only when you are ready to give it. **Call your pharmacist if the medicine looks cloudy, has changed colors, or has particles in it.**

Do not reuse a needle or syringe. Place them in a puncture-proof "sharps" container and dispose of it following state or local laws. Keep out of the reach of children and pets.

Call your doctor if a needle breaks while you are injecting alprostadil. If you can grasp the broken end, remove the needle right away.

Your doctor should check you every 3 months to be sure alprostadil is not causing harmful effects on your penis.

Storing alprostadil:

- Keep **pellets** in their original foil pouch in the refrigerator. You may store a pouch at cool room temperature for up to 14 days. Protect from freezing or extreme heat. Do not store in a closed automobile or in luggage while traveling.
- Store alprostadil **injection** vials at cool room temperature. The 40-microgram strength should be used within 3 months or before the [expiration date](#) on the label.
- After mixing a **Caverject** injection, keep it at room temperature and use within 24 hours.

 [Detailed Alprostadil dosage information](#)

What happens if I miss a dose?

Since alprostadil is used when needed, it does not have a daily dosing schedule.

What happens if I overdose?

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

Overdose can cause [fainting](#), or a painful and prolonged erection.

What should I avoid while using alprostadil?

Avoid driving or hazardous activity if you feel light-headed.

Using alprostadil will not protect you from sexually transmitted disease. Ask your doctor how to prevent disease transmission during sex. Sharing drug or medicine needles is never safe.

What other drugs will affect alprostadil?

Tell your doctor about all your other medicines, especially:

- other medicines injected into the penis; or
- a blood thinner--[heparin](#), [warfarin](#), [Coumadin](#), [Jantoven](#).

This list is not complete. Other drugs may affect alprostadil, including prescription and over-the-counter medicines, [vitamins](#), and [herbal products](#). Not all possible [drug interactions](#) are listed here.

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

Does alprostadil interact with my other drugs?

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

+

Add

More about alprostadil

- [Check interactions](#)
- [Compare alternatives](#)
- [Pricing & coupons](#)
- [Reviews \(182\)](#)
- [Side effects](#)
- [Dosage information](#)
- [During pregnancy](#)
- [Drug class: impotence agents](#)
- [En español](#)

Patient resources

- [Alprostadil \(Intracavernosal\) advanced reading](#)
- [Alprostadil \(Intravenous\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)
- [Alprostadil \(Urethral\) \(Advanced Reading\)](#)

Other brands

[Caverject](#), [Edex](#), [Muse](#), [Prostin VR Pediatric](#)

Professional resources

- [Alprostadil \(Systemic, Local\) monograph](#)
- [Alprostadil \(FDA\)](#)

Other brands

[Caverject](#), [Edex](#), [Muse](#), [Caverject Impulse](#), [Prostin VR Pediatric](#)

Related treatment guides

- [Erectile Dysfunction](#)
- [Patent Ductus Arteriosus](#)

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](#)

Copyright 1996-2025 Cerner Multum, Inc. Version: 11.02.

DRUG STATUS

Availability

Rx Prescription only

[Pregnancy & Lactation](#)


 Risk data available

CSA Schedule*

N/A Not a controlled drug



Approval History

 Drug history at FDA



User Reviews & Ratings

7.0 / 10

[182 Reviews](#)

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](#)

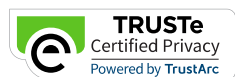
[Sitemap](#)

[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.