



## Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin® L-A)

This antibiotic is injected into the hip muscle, and is the preferred treatment for syphilis.

### Tell your doctor, nurse, or nurse practitioner if you:

- Are pregnant or breastfeeding.
- Are allergic to any of the penicillins or any other antibiotics
- Are taking any medications or recently had a typhoid vaccine or BCG
- Have a history of kidney disease or seizure disorder

### Possible side effects:

- Pain or tenderness where the shot is given
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea
- If you develop severe diarrhea, see your doctor
- Dizziness, feeling sleepy
- **Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction** (fever, chills, headache, flu-like symptoms) can occur 4 -12 hours after treatment. **This is not an allergic reaction** and usually ends within 24 hours.

### Getting this medication:

- 1 dose treats early syphilis. If syphilis has been present for more than 1 year or is of unknown duration, 3 doses over 3 weeks are required.
- 1 dose of this medication is given as 2 shots, 1 into each hip muscle
- You must wait in the clinic for **15 minutes** after the injections.

### To ease discomfort at injection site:

- Massage the site immediately after the shot, take a brisk walk after leaving the clinic, use warm or cold compresses (15 minutes at a time), take a warm bath

### Precautions after getting this medication:

- Do not have sex until 14 days after treatment even with condoms.
- This drug may cause dizziness – avoid activities that require alertness.
- If symptoms do not go away, see your healthcare provider.
- Tell us immediately if you develop a rash, itching, vomiting, tightness in the chest or throat, trouble breathing, swelling of the face, lips or tongue. If you have these symptoms after you have left the clinic, seek emergency medical care.

**For information, call the Sexual Health Clinic 613-234-4641**

