

**REVIEWED**

By Chris at 10:28 am, Feb 28, 2020

Bentyl

Generic Name: dicyclomine (dye SYE kloe meen)

Brand Name: *Bentyl*

Medically reviewed by Drugs.com on Oct 29, 2019 – Written by **Cerner Multum**

What is Bentyl?

Bentyl relieves spasms of the muscles in the stomach and intestines.

Bentyl is used to treat functional bowel or **irritable bowel syndrome**.

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

Important Information

This medication may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of **dicyclomine**.

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather. Bentyl can decrease your sweating, which can lead to heat stroke in a hot environment.

Stop using Bentyl and call your doctor right away if you have serious side effects such as confusion, hallucinations, unusual thoughts or behavior, fast or uneven heart rate, or if you urinate less than usual or not at all.

There are many other medicines that can interact with Bentyl. 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

You should not take this medication if you are allergic to Bentyl, or if you have:

- problems with urination;
- a **bowel obstruction** or severe **constipation**;
- severe **ulcerative colitis** or toxic megacolon;
- **gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD)**;
- a serious heart condition or active bleeding;

- **glaucoma**;
- **myasthenia gravis**; or
- if you are breast-feeding a baby.

To make sure you can safely take Bentyl, tell your doctor if you have any of these other conditions:

- ulcerative **colitis**;
- an ileostomy or **colostomy**;
- a nerve problem (such as **numbness** or tingling);
- liver or kidney disease;
- heart disease, congestive **heart failure**, **high blood pressure**, or a heart rhythm disorder;
- **hiatal hernia**; or
- an **enlarged prostate**.

FDA **pregnancy category B**. This medication is not expected to be harmful to an unborn baby. Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant during treatment.

Dicyclomine can pass into breast milk and can cause breathing problems or other life-threatening side effects in infants younger than 6 months of age. **Do not breast feed a baby while taking this medication.**

Older adults may be more likely to have side effects from Bentyl.

Bentyl should not be given to a child younger than 6 months old.

How should I take Bentyl?

Take exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Do not take in larger or smaller amounts or for longer than recommended. Follow the directions on your prescription label.

Bentyl is usually taken 4 times each day. Your doctor may occasionally change your dose to make sure you get the best results.

Take this medicine with a full glass of water.

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

Talk with your doctor if your symptoms do not improve after 2 weeks of treatment.

Store at room temperature away from moisture and heat.

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 **nausea, vomiting**, dilated pupils, weakness or loss of movement in any part of your body, trouble swallowing, fainting, or seizure (convulsions).

What should I avoid while taking Bentyl?

This medication may cause blurred vision and may impair your thinking or reactions. Be careful if you drive or do anything that requires you to be alert and able to see clearly.

Avoid becoming overheated or dehydrated during exercise and in hot weather. Bentyl can cause decreased sweating, which can lead to heat stroke in a hot environment.

Drinking alcohol can increase certain side effects of dicyclomine.

Avoid using **antacids** without your doctor's advice. Use only the type of antacid your doctor recommends. Some **antacids** can make it harder for your body to absorb Bentyl.

Bentyl side effects

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

Stop using Bentyl and call your doctor at once if you have a serious side effect such as:

- severe constipation, **bloating**, or stomach pain;
- worsening of **diarrhea** or other irritable bowel symptoms;
- feeling very thirsty or hot, being unable to urinate, heavy sweating, or hot and **dry skin**
- confusion, hallucinations, unusual thoughts or behavior; or
- pounding heartbeats or fluttering in your chest.

Less serious side effects may include:

- drowsiness, **dizziness**, weakness, nervousness;
- blurred vision;
- dry mouth, stuffy nose; or
- mild constipation.

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.

See also:

Bentyl side effects (in more detail)

What other drugs will affect Bentyl?

Before using Bentyl, tell your doctor if you regularly use other medicines that make you sleepy (such as cold or allergy medicine, sedatives, narcotic pain medicine, sleeping pills, muscle relaxers, and medicine for **seizures, depression, or anxiety**). They can add to sleepiness caused by this medicine.

Tell your doctor about all other medicines you use, especially:

- **amantadine** (Symmetrel);
- **digoxin** (Lanoxin, Lanoxicaps);
- **metoclopramide** (Reglan);
- **atropine** (Atreza, Sal-Tropine), **belladonna** (Donnatal, and others), **benztropine** (Cogentin), **dimenhydrinate** (Dramamine), **methscopolamine** (Pamine), or **scopolamine** (Transderm Scop);
- **bronchodilators** such as **ipratropium** (Atrovent) or **tiotropium** (Spiriva);
- bladder or urinary medications such as **darifenacin** (Enblex), **flavoxate** (Urispas), **oxybutynin** (Ditropan, Oxytrol), **tolterodine** (Detrol), or **solifenacin** (Vesicare);
- a heart rhythm medication such as **quinidine** (Quin-G), **procainamide** (Procan, Pronestyl), **disopyramide** (Norpace), **flecainide** (Tambocor), **mexiletine** (Mexitol), **propafenone** (Rythmol), and others;
- irritable bowel medications such as **hyoscyamine** (Hyomax) or **propantheline** (Pro Banthine);
- an **MAO inhibitor** such as **furazolidone** (Furoxone), **isocarboxazid** (Marplan), **phenelzine** (Nardil), **rasagiline** (Azilect), **selegiline** (Eldepryl, Emsam, Zelapar), or **tranylcypromine** (Parnate);
- nitrate medication, such as **nitroglycerin** (Nitro Dur, Nitrolingual, Nitrostat, Transderm Nitro, and others), **isosorbide dinitrate** (Dilatrate, Isordil, Isochron), or **isosorbide mononitrate** (Imdur, ISMO, Monoket);
- phenothiazines such as **chlorpromazine** (Thorazine), **fluphenazine** (Permitil, Prolixin), **perphenazine** (Trilafon), **prochlorperazine** (Compazine, Compro), **promethazine** (Pentazine, Phenergan, Anergan, Antinaus), **thioridazine** (Mellaril), or **trifluoperazine** (Stelazine);
- steroid medication such as **prednisone** and others; or
- ulcer medication such as **glycopyrrolate** (Robinul) or **mepenzolate** (Cantil).

This list is not complete and other drugs may interact with Bentyl. Tell your doctor about all medications you use. This includes prescription, over-the-counter, vitamin, and **herbal products**. Do not start a new medication without telling your doctor.

See also:

Bentyl drug interactions (in more detail)

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.

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