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Tessalon (benzonatate) - Drug Summary

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[Benzonatate \(benzonatate\)](#)

COMMON BRAND NAMES

Tessalon, Benzonatate

THERAPEUTIC CLASS

Non-narcotic antitussive

DEA CLASS

RX

ADULT DOSAGE & INDICATIONS

Cough

Usual: 100mg or 200mg tid prn

Max: 600mg/day in 3 divided doses

PEDIATRIC DOSAGE & INDICATIONS

Cough

>10 Years:

Usual: 100mg or 200mg tid prn

Max: 600mg/day in 3 divided doses

ADMINISTRATION

Oral route

Swallow whole; do not break, chew, dissolve, cut, or crush

HOW SUPPLIED

Cap: 200mg; (Tessalon) 100mg

WARNINGS/PRECAUTIONS

Severe hypersensitivity reactions (eg, bronchospasm, laryngospasm, cardiovascular collapse) reported, possibly related to local anesthesia from sucking or chewing the cap instead of swallowing. Accidental ingestion resulting in death reported in children <10 yrs of age. May cause adverse CNS effects; caution with prior sensitivity to related agents, such as para-aminobenzoic acid (PABA) based anesthetics (eg, procaine, tetracaine).

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Hypersensitivity reactions, sedation, headache, dizziness, mental confusion, visual hallucinations, constipation, nausea, GI upset, pruritus, skin eruptions, nasal congestion, numbness of the chest, sensation of burning in the eyes, vague "chilly" sensation.

DRUG INTERACTIONS

Bizarre behavior (eg, mental confusion, visual hallucinations) reported when taken in combination with other prescribed drugs. May cause adverse CNS effects with concomitant medications.

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Category C, caution in nursing.

MECHANISM OF ACTION

Non-narcotic antitussive; acts peripherally by anesthetizing the stretch receptors located in the respiratory passages, lungs, and pleura by dampening their activity, thereby reducing cough reflex at its source.

ASSESSMENT

Assess for hypersensitivity to the drug or previous sensitivity to related compounds such as PABA based anesthetics, pregnancy/nursing status, and possible drug interactions.

MONITORING

Monitor for hypersensitivity reactions, CNS adverse effects, and other adverse reactions.

PATIENT COUNSELING

Inform to take ud. Inform that release of benzonatate from the cap in the mouth can produce a temporary local anesthesia of the oral mucosa and choking may occur. Instruct to refrain from oral ingestion of food or liquids if numbness or tingling of the tongue, mouth, throat, or face occurs until numbness resolves. Advise to seek medical attention if symptoms worsen/persist. Inform that overdosage resulting in death may occur in adults; instruct not to exceed a single dose of 200mg and a total daily dosage of 600mg.

STORAGE

Protect from light. (200mg Cap) 20-25°C (68-77°F). (Tessalon) 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15-30°C (59-86°F).

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