

STERILE WATER FOR IRRIGATION

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet?

This leaflet answers some common questions about Sterile Water for Irrigation.

It does not contain all of the available information.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has ordered the use of Water for Irrigation for you in the knowledge that the benefits outweigh any possible risks. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist. If you have any concerns about receiving this medicine, ask your health care professional.

What Water for Irrigation is used for?

Water for Irrigation is used for general irrigation (washing out) of body cavities, wounds, or indwelling urethral catheters draining the bladder. It may also be used to irrigate the bladder during electrosurgical procedures and for fibre optic examination of the bladder and/or urinary tract. It is used for rinsing or soaking surgical dressings that are in contact with wounds, and soaking surgical instruments.

Before you are treated with Water for Irrigation

Water for Irrigation should not be used for your treatment if:

- you are undergoing a major surgical procedure that may carry the possibility of a significant amount of water entering your bloodstream (where it may cause destruction of red blood cells)
 - the solution is not clear and the seal intact
- Also, the product should not be used if the expiry date printed on the bottom of the bag has passed, or if the packaging is torn or shows any signs of tampering.

You must tell your doctor if you:

- have any other illness
- are taking any other medicines including anything that you bought without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop
- are allergic to any type of medication
- are pregnant

How Water for Irrigation is used

How much is used:

Your health professionals know how much Water for Irrigation should be used for your treatment. There is no dosage limitation with this product as normally applied to other medicines.

How it is given:

Your doctor and health professionals know that the Water for Irrigation should **not** be injected into your bloodstream. Water for Irrigation in plastic bottle is for washing surgical equipment, or washing or rinsing of the wounds during minor surgical procedure, whereas that in Vialflex plastic bags is for urethral irrigation administered through an indwelling tube (catheter).

Water for Irrigation is for single use in a single patient.

In case of Overdose:

Since Water for Irrigation is an irrigating and washing fluid, an overdose is unlikely to occur. You should notify your nurse or doctor immediately if you experience any unexpected effects. See **Side Effects**.

While you are receiving Water for Irrigation

Ensure that a new container of Water for Irrigation is opened on every occasion of use. It is a sterile solution and it does not contain a preservative. Once opened, it will not remain sterile. The volume of container selected should be appropriate for a single application only. Discard any remaining solution immediately after use.

Discuss with your doctor or nurse if you have experienced any unexpected effects, especially during the first few days after the treatment (see Side effects below).

Side effects

Side effects rarely occur with the use of Water for Irrigation.

There may be undesirable effects if water damages tissues or large volumes enter the bloodstream. Symptoms may include fever, pain, blood in the urine, breathlessness or confusion.

If you experience any unexpected effect during or after the treatment with Water for Irrigation, you must tell your doctor or trained nurses immediately.

Product descriptions

What Water for Irrigation looks like?

It is sterile, clear, colourless water contained in collapsible Vialflex plastic bags and in plastic bottles. The collapsible plastic bags are primarily used for irrigating the bladder or urinary tract by means of an indwelling urethral catheter (tube).

What is in Water for Irrigation?

Water for Irrigation does not contain any additive or antimicrobial agent. These products are only sterile water.

How to store Water for Irrigation

Exposure to heat should be minimised. Avoid excessive heat. Water for Irrigation should be stored below at temperatures not exceeding 30°C. Do not freeze. If intended for irrigation of the bladder, the solution may be gently warmed in a warming cabinet, oven or water bath before use. A microwave oven **should not** be used. Keep out of reach of children.

Where can you get more information?

You can get more information from your doctor or pharmacist.

Name and address of the manufacturer (sponsor)

Baxter Healthcare Pty. Ltd.,
1 Baxter Drive,
Old Toongabbie N.S.W., 2146 Australia
www.baxterhealthcare.com.au.

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