

Ben-A[®]

Tablet/ Suspension

Albendazole

Description

Ben-A[®] (Albendazole) is a broad spectrum anthelmintic. Albendazole exhibits vermicide, oxicidal and larvicidal activities. The drug is thought to exert its anthelmintic effect by blocking glucose uptake in the susceptible helminths, thereby depleting the energy level until it becomes inadequate for survival. Immobilization is followed by the parasite. These events may be a consequence of the binding and subsequent inhibition of parasite tubulin polymerization by Albendazole and its metabolites, although the drug also binds to human tubulin. Albendazole is extensively metabolised, probably in the liver. Albendazole is poorly absorbed from the gastrointestinal tract, but rapidly undergoes extensive first-pass metabolism. The principal metabolite albendazole sulphoxide has anthelmintic activity and a plasma half life of about 8.5 hrs. It is excreted in the urine together with other metabolites.

Composition

Tablet: Each chewable tablet contains Albendazole USP 400 mg.

Suspension : Each 5 ml suspension contains Albendazole USP 200 mg.

Indications

• Hookworm (*Ancylostoma*, *Necator*) • Roundworm (*Ascaris*) • Threadworm (*Enterobius*) • Whipworm (*Trichuris*)
• Strongyloides • Tapeworm • Opisthorchi • Hydatid.

Dosage and Administration

Adults & children (over two years) :

400 mg (one Ben-A[®] tablet or 10 ml Ben-A[®] suspension) as a single dose in cases of *Enterobius vermicularis*, *Trichuris trichiura*, *Ascaris lumbricoides*, *Ancylostoma doudenale* and *Necator americanus*.

In cases of strongyloidiasis or taeniasis, 400 mg (one Ben-A[®] tablet or 10 ml Ben-A[®] suspension) as a single dose should be given for three consecutive days.

Giardiasis : 400 mg (one Ben-A[®] tablet or 10 ml Ben-A[®] suspension) once daily for five days.

Ben-A[®] tablet may be chewed, swallowed or crushed and mixed with food.

Children of 1-2 years of age : Recommended dose is a single dose of 200 mg (half of 400 mg Ben-A[®] tablet) or 5 ml Ben-A[®] suspension.

Children under 1 year of age : Not recommended.

Ben-A[®] (Albendazole) in Hydatid disease (Echinococcosis):

In the treatment of Echinococcosis, Ben-A[®] (Albendazole) is given by mouth with meals in a dose of 400 mg twice daily for 28 days for patients weighing over 60 kg. A dose of 15 mg/kg body weight daily in two divided doses (to a maximum total daily dose of 800 mg) is used for patients weighing less than 60 kg. For cystic Echinococcosis the 28 day course may be repeated after 14 days without treatment to a total of three treatment cycles. For alveolar Echinococcosis, cycles of 28 days of treatment followed by 14 days without treatment may need to continue for months or years. When administering Albendazole in the pre or post-surgical setting, optimal killing of cyst contents is achieved when three courses of therapy have been given.

OR AS DIRECTED BY THE PHYSICIAN.

Precautions

Blood counts and liver function tests before treatment and twice during each cycle; breast feeding; exclude pregnancy before starting treatment. Albendazole should only be used in the treatment of Echinococcosis if there is constant medical supervision with regular monitoring of serum-transaminase concentrations and of leucocyte and platelet counts.

Contraindications

Neonates : Albendazole is not normally used in neonates.

Children : Reduction of the dose from 400 mg to 200 mg may be indicated in children weighing less than 10 kg but there are no grounds for a general reduction in dosage to children.

Pregnant woman : Albendazole should not be given during pregnancy or women thought to be pregnant. No information is available on placental transfer.

Concurrent disease : There is no evidence to suggest that dose should be altered in renal, hepatic or cardiac failure.

Side Effects

Gastrointestinal disturbances, headache, dizziness, changes in liver enzymes, rarely reversible alopecia; rash, fever, blood disorders including leucopenia and pancytopenia reported; allergic shock if cyst leakage; convulsion and meningism in cerebral disease.

Drug Interactions

No interaction involving Albendazole, either pharmacodynamic or pharmacokinetic, has been reported.

Supply

Tablet : Box containing 25x1 tablets in blister strips.

Suspension : Each carton contains 10 ml suspension in glass bottle and a 5 ml spoon.

Keep all medicines out of reach of children.

Store in a cool & dry place, protected from light.

*** Further information is available on request.**



Manufactured by:

The ACME Laboratories Ltd.

Dhamrai, Dhaka, Bangladesh

For Health, Vigour and Happiness