BENZATHINE PENICILLIN

SYNONYMS
Benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate

BRAND NAME
BICILLIN L-A

DRUG CLASS
Penicillin antibiotic

AVAILABILITY
Disposable syringe contains 517 mg (600,000 units)/1.17 mL or 1016.6 mg (1.2 million units)/2.3 mL of benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate. Also contains lecithin, carmellose sodium, povidone, methyl hydroxybenzoate, propyl hydroxybenzoate and sodium citrate buffer. The suspension is thick and white.1

WARNING
Contraindicated in patients with severe hypersensitivity to penicillins, carbapenems and cephalosporin antibiotics.

pH
No information

PREPARATION
For part doses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dose as benzathine benzylpenicillin</th>
<th>Dose as benzathine benzylpenicillin tetrahydrate</th>
<th>Dose in units</th>
<th>Volume of the dose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>900 mg</td>
<td>1016.6 mg</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>2.3 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>675 mg</td>
<td>762 mg</td>
<td>900,000</td>
<td>1.7 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>450 mg</td>
<td>508 mg</td>
<td>600,000</td>
<td>1.2 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>337.5 mg</td>
<td>381 mg</td>
<td>450,000</td>
<td>0.9 mL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>225 mg</td>
<td>254 mg</td>
<td>300,000</td>
<td>0.6 mL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

STABILITY
Store at 2 to 8 °C. Do not freeze. Stable for a single period of up to 2 months below 30 °C. Discard if not used, do not return to the fridge.1

ADMINISTRATION

IM injection
Inject slowly, at a steady rate, preferably over at least 2 to 3 minutes, deep into the upper, outer quadrant of the gluteal muscle. In infants and small children, the midlateral aspect of the thigh may be preferable.1,2
For repeated dose rotate the site of injection. Give doses greater than 1.2 million units as 2 injections at separate sites.1,3
To reduce the pain of deep IM injections: allow the syringe to reach room temperature before use, apply pressure with a thumb for 10 seconds before inserting the needle and use the 21-gauge needle supplied.2
Injection into or near major peripheral nerves or blood vessels may cause neurovascular damage. After inserting the needle, aspirate and observe the barrel for any blood or discolouration. Withdraw the needle and discard the syringe if any blood or discolouration appears in the barrel. Stop the injection immediately if it causes severe pain.1

SUBCUT injection
Not recommended

IV injection
Contraindicated1

IV infusion
Contraindicated1

REFERENCES