

## Ascorbic Acid Injection

*Ascorbic Acid (a-SCOR-bik AS-id)*

### Consumer Medicine Information

#### What is in this leaflet?

This leaflet answers some common questions about Ascorbic Acid Injection.

It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you being given Ascorbic Acid Injection against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

**If you have any concerns about this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet in a safe place.**

You may need to read it again.

#### What Ascorbic Acid Injection is used for

Ascorbic acid is also known as Vitamin C. Your body needs ascorbic acid for growth and health. It is usually obtained from foods that you eat, such as citrus fruits and green vegetables.

A lack of ascorbic acid can lead to a condition called scurvy, which causes symptoms such as weakness, gum problems and tiredness. Ascorbic Acid Injection may be used to prevent or treat scurvy.

Some conditions may increase your need for ascorbic acid. These include:

- infections
- wound healing
- burns
- trauma
- recovery from operations
- thyrotoxicosis (an overactive thyroid gland).

Ascorbic Acid Injection works by providing a source of ascorbic acid for your body to use. It may be used when ascorbic acid cannot be taken by mouth.

Your doctor may have prescribed Ascorbic Acid Injection for another reason.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Ascorbic Acid Injection has been prescribed for you.**

Ascorbic acid is not addictive.

#### Before you are given Ascorbic Acid Injection

##### *When you must not be given it*

**You should not be given Ascorbic Acid Injection if you have an allergy to ascorbic acid or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**

Symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin.

**Low birth weight babies should not be given Ascorbic Acid Injection.**

**If you are not sure whether you should be given Ascorbic Acid Injection, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.**

##### *Before you are given it*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have allergies to:**

- any other medicines
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.**

Your doctor or pharmacist will discuss the possible risks and benefits of being given Ascorbic Acid Injection during pregnancy.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are breast-feeding or plan to breast-feed.**

Your doctor or pharmacist will discuss the possible risks and benefits of being given Ascorbic Acid Injection during breast-feeding.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- kidney disease, including kidney stones
- glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency (lack of an enzyme in the red blood cells)
- sickle-cell anaemia (a condition in which the oxygen-carrying pigment (haemoglobin) in the blood is abnormal)
- heart or lung disease
- diabetes
- gouty arthritis (a condition associated with painful, swollen joints caused by uric acid crystals)
- cancer.

**If you have not told your doctor or pharmacist about any of the above, tell them before you are given Ascorbic Acid Injection.**

##### *Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and ascorbic acid may interfere with each other. These include:

- aspirin
- warfarin
- ethinyloestradiol (contained in some oral contraceptive pills)
- desferrioxamine (a medicine used in iron overload)
- iron supplements
- isoprenaline (a medicine used in the treatment of heart block and cardiac arrest)
- alcohol
- disulfiram (a medicine used to help manage alcoholism)
- barbituates or primidone (medicines used to control epilepsy/fits)
- fluphenazine or other phenothiazines (medicines used to treat certain psychiatric and emotional conditions)
- tricyclic anti-depressants, such as dothiepin, clomipramine and amitriptyline.

These medicines may be affected by ascorbic acid, or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor or pharmacist will advise you.

Your doctor and pharmacist may have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while being given Ascorbic Acid Injection.

#### How Ascorbic Acid Injection is given

##### *How it is given*

Ascorbic acid is usually given as an injection into the muscle. Alternatively, it may be given as an injection under the skin or as a slow infusion (intravenous drip) into a vein.

Ascorbic Acid Injection must only be given by a doctor, nurse.

##### *How much is given*

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your condition and other factors, such as your weight.

##### *Overdose*

As Ascorbic Acid Injection is given to you under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive too much.

**However, if you experience severe side effects, tell your doctor or nurse immediately.**

Your doctor or pharmacist may have more information on how to recognise and treat an overdose.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any concerns.**

#### While you are being given Ascorbic Acid Injection

##### *Things you must do*

**Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given ascorbic acid.**

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are being given ascorbic acid.**

**If you are about to have any laboratory tests, tell your doctor that you are taking ascorbic acid.**

Ascorbic acid may interfere with the results of some tests.

**If you become pregnant while you are being treated with Ascorbic Acid Injection, tell your doctor or pharmacist.**

##### *Things to be careful of*

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how Ascorbic Acid Injection affects you.**

As with other medicines, Ascorbic Acid Injection may cause dizziness or tiredness in some people. Make sure you know how you react to Ascorbic Acid Injection before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything else that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or tired. If this occurs, do not drive.

#### Side Effects

**Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given ascorbic acid.**

Ascorbic Acid Injection helps most people with low levels of ascorbic acid in their bodies, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- local reactions around the injection site such as pain or swelling
- flushing or redness of the skin
- headache
- dizziness or lightheadedness
- tiredness
- trouble sleeping
- stomach cramp, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting.

These side effects are usually mild.

**Tell your doctor or nurse immediately if you notice any of the following:**

- tenderness, pain, warmth or swelling of any of the limbs
- difficulty in passing urine
- severe skin reactions at the injection site
- signs of an allergic reaction, such as those listed at the start of this leaflet.

These may be serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

Other side effects not listed above may occur in some patients.

**Tell your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

**Do not be alarmed by this list of side effects.** You may not experience any of them.

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## After being given Ascorbic Acid Injection

### *Storage*

Ascorbic Acid Injection will be stored in the pharmacy or on the ward. The injection is kept in a cool dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 25°C.

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## Product description

### *What it looks like*

Ascorbic Acid Injection is a clear, colourless solution. It is available in 5 mL ampoules in packs of 50.

### *Ingredients*

Active ingredient:

- ascorbic acid 100 mg/mL.

Other ingredients

- benzyl alcohol
- sodium bicarbonate
- sodium chloride
- thiourea
- water for injections.

Ascorbic Acid Injection does not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

### *Manufacturer/Distributor/ Supplier*

F H Faulding & Co Limited  
(trading as David Bull Laboratories)  
ABN 88 007 870 984  
1-23 Lexia Place  
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