

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

Why am I using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection contains the active ingredient bupivacaine hydrochloride. MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is used to prevent or relieve pain before surgery of the lower abdomen and lower limbs. It will not put you to sleep. MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection can also be used to make childbirth less painful.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to bupivacaine hydrochloride, other local anaesthetics or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is given?

- MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will be injected by your doctor into the spinal canal, through a space between the bones in your lower back.
- The dosage you will be given will depend on your body size, age and the type of pain relief required.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is given?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while receiving MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful driving or operating machinery after you have been given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection. You may be drowsy and your reflexes may be slow.
Drinking alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not drink alcohol while you are being given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection. If you drink alcohol while you are being given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection your blood pressure may drop, making you feel dizzy and faint.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will be stored by your doctor or pharmacist under the recommended conditions. It should be kept in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while receiving MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

Some of the mild side effects of MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection include nervousness, dizziness, blurred vision, drowsiness, ringing in the ears, numbness, feeling strange (disoriented), nausea, vomiting

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection

Active ingredient: *bupivacaine hydrochloride*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection contains the active ingredient bupivacaine hydrochloride.

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection belongs to a group of medicines called spinal local anaesthetics. They are injected into the spinal fluid where they make the nerves unable to pass messages to the brain. Depending on the amount used, MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will either totally stop pain or will cause a partial loss of feeling.

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is used to prevent or relieve pain before surgery of the lower abdomen and lower limbs. It will not put you to sleep. This medicine can also be used to make childbirth less painful.

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor carefully.

Your doctor will have explained why you are being treated with MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection and told you what dose you will be given.

Ask your doctor if you want more information.

Your doctor may prescribe this medicine for another use. MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is not addictive.

2. What should I know before I use MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?

Warnings

You must not be given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection if:

- you are allergic to bupivacaine hydrochloride, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- you are allergic to other local anaesthetics e.g. lignocaine and any other substances.

If you have an allergic reaction, you may get a skin rash, hay fever or difficulty breathing.

- you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor says so. We do not know if it is safe for you to be given it while you are pregnant. It may affect your baby if you take it early in pregnancy or in the last weeks before your baby is due. However, they can be used during childbirth. Your baby can take in very small amounts of MARCAIN 0.5% from breast milk if breastfeeding.
- the expiry date printed on the pack has passed.
- the solution is not clear, or the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Check with your doctor if you:

- have or have had any of the following medical conditions:
 - problems with your blood pressure or circulation
 - blood poisoning
 - problems with the clotting of your blood
 - nerve or heart problems
 - liver or kidney problems
 - malignant hyperthermia
 - diseases of the brain or spine
 - some types of back problems.

It may not be safe for you to be given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection if you have any of these conditions.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Do not use MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection if you are pregnant or breastfeeding unless your doctor says so.

Ask your doctor about the risks and benefits involved.

We do not know if it is safe for you to be given it while you are pregnant. It may affect your baby if you take it early in pregnancy or in the last weeks before your baby is due. However, they can be used during childbirth. Your baby

can take in very small amounts of MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection from breast milk if breastfeeding.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

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

This medicine may affect the way MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection work.

Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

4. How MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is given?

How much is given

The dosage you will be given will depend on your body size, age and the type of pain relief required.

Your doctor will have had a lot of experience injecting MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection or other local anaesthetics and will choose the best dose for you.

How MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is administered

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will be injected by your doctor into the spinal canal, through a space between the bones in your lower back. This is called a spinal injection and it will result in a feeling of numbness in your lower body, in an area that may seem unrelated to the site of injection.

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection should not be injected directly into the blood.

If you are given too much

The doctor giving you MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will be experienced in the use of spinal local anaesthetics, so it is unlikely that you will be given an overdose.

However, if you are particularly sensitive to MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection, or the dose is accidentally injected directly into your blood, you may develop problems for a short time with your sight or hearing. You may get a numb feeling in or around the mouth, feel dizzy or stiff, or have twitchy muscles.

Whenever you are given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection, equipment will be available to care for you if an overdose happens.

If an overdose occurs, you should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (by calling 13 11 26), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need medical attention.

5. What should I know while using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection?

Things you should do

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

Driving or using machines

Be careful driving or operating machinery after you have been given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

You may be drowsy and your reflexes may be slow.

Drinking alcohol

Do not drink alcohol while you are being given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

If you drink alcohol while you are being given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection your blood pressure may drop, making you feel dizzy and faint.

Looking after your medicine

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will be stored by your doctor or pharmacist under the recommended conditions.

It should be kept in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.

When to discard your medicine

Any MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection which is not used, will be disposed of in a safe manner by your doctor or pharmacist.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor or nurse as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection will prevent or relieve pain in most people, but they may have unwanted side-effects.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or nurse if you have any further questions about side effects.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">nervousnessdizzinessblurred visiondrowsinessringing in the earsnumbnessfeeling strange (disoriented)nauseavomiting.	<p>Speak to your doctor or nurse if you have any of these mild side effects and they worry you.</p> <p>These are all mild side effects of MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection.</p>

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>If MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection is given wrongly, or you are very sensitive to it, it sometimes causes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">fitsunconsciousnessbreathing problemslow blood pressureslow heart beatcollapse.	<p>Tell your doctor straight away if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p> <p>You may need urgent medical attention. These are all serious side effects.</p>

After a spinal injection you may develop a headache or backache which is not always related to the medicine used. These can, on rare occasions, last for some months after the injection is given.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">bupivacaine hydrochloride 0.5% (5 mg/mL)
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">glucose monohydrate 8% w/v (80 mg/mL)hydrochloric acid or sodium hydroxide (for pH adjustment)water for injections.

The inclusion of glucose in MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection means that it will move along your spinal canal with gravity, depending on which way your body is tilted.

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection looks like

MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY is a clear and colourless sterile solution for injection. Available in sterile theatre packs of 5 x 4 mL glass ampoules.

Australian Registration number: AUST R 11941

Who distributes MARCAIN SPINAL 0.5% HEAVY injection

Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd
34-36 Chandos St
St Leonards NSW 2065
Australia

This leaflet was revised in June 2025.