

# ALBEY VENOM Pronounced (al-b-ay ve-n-om)

ALBEY HONEY BEE VENOM, ALBEY YELLOW JACKET VENOM and ALBEY WASP VENOM

## 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.

### 1. Why am I being given ALBEY VENOM?

ALBEY HONEY BEE VENOM contains freeze dried allergen extracts of honey bee venom (known by species name *apis mellifera*).

ALBEY YELLOW JACKET VENOM contains freeze dried allergen extracts of *Vespula* spp (yellow jacket wasp) venom (commonly known as European Wasp or Yellow Jacket).

ALBEY WASP VENOM contains freeze dried allergen extracts of paper wasp venom known by the species name *polistes* spp .

ALBEY VENOM Products are used to diagnose and treat allergic reactions to honey bee stings, wasp stings, and yellow jacket stings

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I being given ALBEY VENOM ?](#) in the full CMI.

### 2. What should I know before being given ALBEY VENOM?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to ALBEY HONEY BEE /YELLOW JACKET/WASP VENOM 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 plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.**

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use ALBEY VENOM?](#) in the full CMI.

### 3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with ALBEY VENOM 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 is ALBEY VENOM given?

- ALBEY VENOM is given as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin). It must only be given by a nurse or doctor.
- Your doctor will administer the correct dose as appropriate depend on the type of therapy decided upon by your doctor.
- Stay under medical observation for 60 min after injection. More instructions can be found in Section [4. How is ALBEY VENOM given?](#) in the full CMI.

### 5. What should I know while being given ALBEY VENOM?

<b>Things you should do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are being treated with ALBEY VENOM</li><li>• If you become pregnant while being treated with ALBEY VENOM, tell your doctor immediately.</li></ul>
<b>Things you should not do</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do not perform diagnostic skin tests with ALBEY VENOM products during pregnancy.</li><li>• Do not start ALBEY VENOM allergy treatment during pregnancy.</li></ul>
<b>Driving or using machines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how ALBEY VENOM Injection affects you.</li></ul>
<b>Drinking alcohol</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol. Patients should also avoid excessive alcohol consumption for several hours after taking medication</li><li>• Alcohol may affect the way ALBEY VENOM works in your body.</li></ul>
<b>Looking after your medicine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ALBEY VENOM Injections are stored between 2° to 8 ° C.</li><li>• Should not be frozen.</li></ul>

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know during treatment with ALBEY VENOM Injection?](#) in the full CMI

### 6. Are there any side effects?

Some of the less serious side effects include nausea, diarrhoea, dizziness, headache, rash or itching, pain or redness at the injection site, and feeling weak or unwell. Serious side effects include: signs of an allergic reaction (such as trouble breathing, wheezing, swelling of the face or throat, or hives), severe breathlessness, fast, slow or irregular heartbeat, and chest pain. 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.

# ALBEY VENOM (phonetic pronunciation – (al-b-ay ve-n-om)

Active ingredient(s): ALBEY HONEY BEE VENOM contains freeze dried allergen extracts of honey bee venom  
ALBEY YELLOW JACKET VENOM contains freeze dried allergen extracts of *Vespula* spp. (yellow jacket wasp)  
ALBEY WASP VENOM contains freeze dried allergen extracts paper wasp venom

## Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using ALBEY VENOM. **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 ALBEY VENOM.**

**Where to find information in this leaflet:**

- [1. Why am I being given ALBEY VENOM?](#)
- [2. What should I know before being given ALBEY VENOM?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How is ALBEY VENOM is given?](#)
- [5. What should I know while being given ALBEY VENOM?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

### 1. Why am I being given ALBEY VENOM?

**ALBEY VENOMS contains active ingredients** which are freeze dried extracts of venom protein known as allergen extracts. There are three types of venom – Paper Wasp Venom (*Pollistes spp*); *Vespula spp* (commonly known as European Wasp or Yellow Jacket) and Honey Bee Venom (*Apis Millefera*). ALBEY VENOMS belong to a group of medicines called Anti-allergy preparations.

**ALBEY VENOMS are used for both diagnosis and treatment of potential allergic reactions to the relevant insect stings. It is one type of immunotherapy your doctor may choose to administer to reduce the risk of a severe allergic reaction.**

The exact mechanism by which ALBEY VENOM Products work is not completely understood. Your doctor, however, may have prescribed the ALBEY VENOM product for another purpose. ALBEY VENOMS are not addictive.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions why the ALBEY VENOM has been prescribed for you.**

### 2. What should I know before being given ALBEY VENOM?

#### Warnings

**Do not use ALBEY VENOM if:**

- you are hypersensitive (allergic) to any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.

- If in addition to the allergic reaction, you have had any unusual kidney, muscle, joint, skin, nervous system effects, blood related reactions after a Honey bee, Yellow Jacket or Paper Wasp sting.
- If you have an illness which affects the immune system
- If you suffer from severe and/or unstable asthma or have experienced severe asthma exacerbation
- Children under the age of 2 years
- If you are pregnant

#### Check with your doctor if you:

- have severe allergic symptoms.
- If you have had recently an asthma attack or your asthma symptoms, get noticeably worse than normal. It may be necessary to postpone the injection to a later date.
- You have cardiovascular and/or bronchopulmonary disease.
- If you suffer from mast cell disorder (mastocytosis) and/or increased serum tryptase
- You have cancer or immunodeficiency or if you are taking medicines which affect your immune system.
- Autoimmune disease in remission.
- take any medicines for any other condition. Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking ALBEY VENOM. (refer to [section 3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#))

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

Check with your doctor if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant. It is not known whether ALBEY VENOMS are harmful to an unborn baby when taken by a pregnant woman.

Talk to your doctor if you are breastfeeding or intend to breastfeed. It is not known whether ALBEY VENOMS pass into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of using ALBEY VENOMS if you are breast-feeding. Carrying out diagnostic skin tests with ALBEY VENOM products is not recommended during pregnancy. Venom allergy treatment with ALBEY VENOMS must not be initiated during pregnancy. If you find out that you are pregnant while you are having this treatment, talk to your doctor who will decide with you if you can continue treatment with ALBEY or not.

## Relevant condition-specific or medicine-specific

### **Before you start to take it:**

Severe local or systemic reactions to venom administration can occur immediately (within one hour) or as delayed reactions. Patients should be kept under direct observation for at least one hour following skin testing and/or therapeutic injections and should be instructed to contact the doctor promptly if symptoms of an allergic reaction or shock occur. Patients should be instructed in the use of, and have available, an emergency anaphylaxis kit for self-administration of adrenaline.

## 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.

### **Some medicines may interfere with the ALBEY VENOM Product and affect how it works.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the below medicines.**

- You are taking a beta blocker (i.e., a class of drugs often prescribed for heart conditions and high blood pressure but also present in some eye drops and ointments), as this drug may decrease the effectiveness of adrenaline, a medicine used to treat serious allergic reactions.
- If you are taking MAOIs, tricyclic antidepressants and COMT inhibitors. Allergen immunotherapy in patients treated with mono amine oxidase inhibitors (MAOIs) or tricyclic antidepressants or for Parkinson's disease with COMT inhibitors should be considered carefully as these treatments could potentiate the effect of adrenaline (epinephrine).
- If you are taking Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors (ACE inhibitors) as this treatment may increase the risk of serious reactions to insect stings or hymenoptera venom immunotherapy.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking ALBEY VENOM.**

In addition tell your doctor if you are taking other allergy medicines such as antihistamines, asthma relief medication or steroids or a medication that blocks a substance called immunoglobulin E (IgE), or if you are being treated with other allergens, or if you recently had or if you plan to have a vaccination soon.

Patients should also avoid high-intensity physical exercise, hot baths, heavy meals and excessive alcohol consumption for several hours after taking medication.

**Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect ALBEY VENOM Products.**

## 4. How is ALBEY VENOM given?

### **How much is given**

- Your doctor will administer the correct dose as appropriate. You should stay under medical observation for at least 60 min after injection. The dose administered will depend on the type of therapy decided upon by your doctor.
- The dose schedule for children is the same as for adults, and 100 microgram per venom should still be considered the maintenance dose. Because of the smaller size of the child, the larger volumes of solution may produce excessive discomfort. Therefore, in order to achieve the total dose required, the volume of the dose may need to be divided into more than one injection per visit.
- You will be given ALBEY VENOM according to your prescription. The duration of your treatment will be decided by your doctor. The longer the course of treatment the better the therapeutic effect of the drug. Therefore, the course of treatment may last from three to five years. Once a maintenance dose is reached the frequency of administration should decrease.

### **How ALBEY VENOM is given**

- This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription and is usually administered under a doctor's supervision.
- Albe venom immunotherapy will be given to you by your doctor as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin).
- Immunotherapy injections should never be given intravenously.

### **If you are given too much ALBEY VENOM**

If you think that you are given too much ALBEY VENOM, you may need urgent medical attention. In the event of overdose there is a higher risk of side effects, in particular for systemic or local reactions as described in [6. Are there any side effects?](#) you must remain under medical supervision.

#### **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.**

## 5. What should I know while being given ALBEY VENOM?

### Things you should do

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given ALBEY VENOM.

### Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while being given ALBEY VENOM.

Be sure to keep all of your appointments with your doctor so that your progress can be checked.

Call your doctor straight away if you do not feel well while you are taking ALBEY VENOM.

In cases of anaphylactic shock that can cause a fall in blood pressure and suddenly feeling generally unwell, emergency treatment will be required. If this happens your doctor will have an emergency kit available with a 'ready for use' adrenaline syringe. This is the reason why you are kept under medical supervision for at least one hour after having your injection.

### Things you should not do

- Do not take any other medicines, whether they require a prescription or not, without first telling your doctor or consulting a pharmacist.

### Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how the ALBEY VENOM product affects you.

ALBEY VENOM products are not expected to affect your ability to drive a car or operate machinery.

### Drinking alcohol

Tell your doctor if you drink alcohol. Patients should also avoid alcohol consumption on the day after taking Albey Venom injection.

Alcohol may affect the way ALBEY VENOM works in your body.

### Looking after your medicine

Your medicine will generally be stored in the doctor's surgery or clinic, or at the pharmacy. It should be kept refrigerated between 2° to 8° C. It should not be frozen.

At the time of reconstitution, your doctor will record the date of reconstitution and expiration date of reconstituted product in the space provided (day, month, year) on the product label and store the reconstituted vial in the refrigerator at between 2° to 8° C.

## 6. Are There Any Side Effects?

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. ALBEY VENOMS generally cause few side effects and help most people with hypersensitivity to insect stings,

however they may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects. Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given ALBEY VENOM.

### Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<p><b>General disorders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feeling hot</li> <li>General malaise or feeling generally unwell</li> <li>Mild to moderate tiredness</li> <li>Local injection-site reactions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Small weal</li> <li>Mild swelling</li> <li>Pain</li> <li>Itching</li> <li>Redness</li> <li>Induration (firmness)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Respiratory system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cough</li> <li>Blocked nose</li> <li>Throat irritation</li> <li>Throat tightness</li> <li>Wheezing (mild)</li> </ul> <p><b>Gastrointestinal system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mild abdominal or stomach pain</li> <li>Nausea</li> <li>Diarrhoea</li> </ul> <p><b>Musculoskeletal system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Arthralgia (joint/knuckle pain)</li> </ul> <p><b>Skin and subcutaneous tissue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hives</li> <li>Itching</li> <li>Redness</li> </ul>	<p><b>Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.</b></p>

### Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p><b>General disorders</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Large or persistent swelling at the injection site</li> <li>Extreme tiredness</li> </ul> <p><b>Immune system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hypersensitivity reactions</li> <li>Anaphylaxis or anaphylactic shock, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Severe itching or widespread rash</li> <li>Sudden feeling unwell</li> <li>Drop in blood pressure causing dizziness or collapse</li> <li>Breathing difficulty</li> <li>Severe abdominal pain</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Cardiovascular system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rapid heartbeat</li> </ul>	<p><b>Call your doctor straight away, tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the serious side effects that are listed here.</b></p>

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low blood pressure (hypotension)</li> <li>• Dizziness or fainting</li> </ul> <b>Respiratory system</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath</li> <li>• Asthmatic crisis</li> <li>• Severe wheezing</li> <li>• Swelling in the throat</li> </ul> <b>Gastrointestinal system</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Severe abdominal pain</li> <li>• Skin and subcutaneous tissue</li> <li>• Face swelling</li> </ul>	

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

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell, even if it is not on this list.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you don't understand anything in this list.**

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known. 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 in Australia to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at [www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems](http://www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems). By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.**

## 7. Product details

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

### What ALBEY VENOM contains

<b>Active ingredient (main ingredient)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Albey Bee Venom:- honey bee venom</li> <li>– Albey Paper Wasp Venom:- paper wasp venom extract (<i>Polistes spp.</i>).</li> <li>– Albey Yellow Jacket Venom:- <i>Vespula spp.</i> venom extract</li> </ul>
<b>Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)</b>	In all venom products <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– mannitol</li> <li>– sodium chloride</li> </ul>
<b>Albumin saline diluent</b>	Human albumin Phenol Sodium chloride

**Advise your doctor if you are allergic to any of these ingredients**

### What ALBEY VENOMs look like

ALBEY VENOMs are available in composite packs containing a single vial of freeze dried powder of venom allergenic extract, with 1 x 9 mL vial of Albumin saline diluent and 3 vials of 1.8 mL Albumin saline diluent.

The powder is white to slightly yellow; the diluent is without color or exogenous particles.

The presence of aggregates or flocs may be observed.

The powder is to be reconstituted and diluted only with Albumin-Saline diluent

#### Albey Bee Venom

Honey bee venom extract 550 micrograms per vial

#### Albey Paper Wasp Venom

Paper wasp venom (*Polistes spp.*) 550 micrograms per vial.

#### Albey Yellow Jacket Venom Injection (Injection)

*Vespula spp.* venom extract 550 micrograms per vial.

**Albumin-Saline Diluent-** available in 9 mL and 1.8 mL vials

To be used only for the dilution of the above Albey Venoms.

**AUST R: 161298 (Albey Bee Venom)**

**AUST R: 18770 (Albey Yellow Jacket Venom)**

**AUST R: 18695 (Albey Paper Wasp Venom)**

**AUST R : 32486 (Albumin-Saline Diluent)**

### Who distributes ALBEY VENOM

#### NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SPONSOR IN AUSTRALIA:

Stallergenes Australia Pty Ltd  
 Suite 2408, 4 Daydream St.,  
 Warriewood, NSW 2102  
 Ph: 1800 824 166

#### NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE SPONSOR IN NEW ZEALAND:

Stallergenes Greer New Zealand Limited  
 Level 1, 24 Manukau Road,  
 Epsom, Auckland 1023  
 New Zealand  
 Ph: 0800 824 166

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