Bupivacaine

Essential medicine status

Section: 1. Anaesthetics, preoperative medicines and medical gases > 1.2. Local anaesthetics

EMLc | ATC codes: N01BB01

Indication	Local anaesthetics ICD11 code: XM7Y85
INN	Bupivacaine
Medicine type	Chemical agent
List type	Core
Formulations	**Parenteral > Locoregional injections > Spinal anaesthesia:** 0.5% in 4 mL ampoule (hydrochloride) + 8% glucose solution **Parenteral > General injections > unspecified:** 0.25% (hydrochloride) ; 0.5% (hydrochloride)
EML status history	First added in 1977 (TRS 615) Changed in 2007 (TRS 950) Changed in 2021 (TRS 1035) Changed in 2025 (TRS 1064)
Sex	All
Age	Also recommended for children
Therapeutic alternatives	Medicines within the same pharmacological class can be used
Therapeutic alternatives limitations	Therapeutic alternatives to be reviewed (2023)
Therapeutic alternatives limitations for EMLc	Therapeutic alternatives to be reviewed (2023)
Patent information	Patents have expired in most jurisdictions Read more about patents.
Wikipedia	Bupivacaine
DrugBank	Bupivacaine

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

Following the review of the age-appropriateness of formulations on the EMLc, the Expert Committee recommended: - to remove specification of container type for bupivacaine injection. - to modify the formulation descriptions of bupivacaine injection for spinal anaesthesia to better describe the available dosage forms.