

[Suramin sodium](#)

Essential medicine status

Section:

[6. Anti-infective medicines](#) [6.5. Antiprotozoal medicines](#) [6.5.5. Antitrypanosomal medicines](#) [6.5.5.1. African trypanosomiasis](#) [6.5.5.1.1. Medicines for the treatment of 1st stage African trypanosomiasis](#)

ATC codes: [P01CX02](#)

EMLc

Indication

Rhodesiense trypanosomiasis ICD11 code: [1F51.1](#)

INN

Suramin sodium

Medicine type

Chemical agent

List type

Core

Additional notes

To be used for the treatment of the initial phase of *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* infection.

Formulations

Parenteral > General injections > IV: 1 g in vial

EML status history

First added in 1977 ([TRS 615](#))

Changed in 1979 ([TRS 641](#))

Changed in 2007 ([TRS 946](#))

Changed in 2007 ([TRS 950](#))

Sex

All

Age

Also recommended for children

Therapeutic alternatives

The recommendation is for this specific medicine

Patent information

Patents have expired in most jurisdictions

Read more [about patents](#).

Wikipedia

[Suramin sodium](#)

DrugBank

[Suramin sodium \(Suramin\)](#)

Summary of evidence and Expert Committee recommendations

The EMLc Subcommittee recommended that suramin sodium be endorsed for the EMLc for treatment of first-stage of *Trypanosoma brucei rhodesiense* infections. The Subcommittee noted that African trypanosomiasis is a major public health problem in affected countries. Medicines available for treating this infection are limited. Hence despite the toxicity profile, these medicines are still used. There is a paucity of documented information specific to children and recommendations for adults are usually followed.