

Medical Liquid Oxygen Medicinal gas, compressed

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Medical Liquid Oxygen
Oxygen 99.5%
Medicinal gas, liquefied

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start using this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet as you may need to read it again.
- If you have further questions, ask your healthcare professional (doctor, nurse or pharmacist).
- This medicine has been prescribed for you.
- Do not pass it on to others as it may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any of the side effects become serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your healthcare professional immediately.

This leaflet gives you information about:

1. What is Medical Liquid Oxygen and what is it used for
2. Things to consider before use
3. How to use Medical Liquid Oxygen
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinders
6. Further information

1. WHAT IS MEDICAL LIQUID OXYGEN AND WHAT IS IT USED FOR?

Medical Liquid Oxygen is supplied and stored as a liquid at very low temperatures, in cylinders and storage tanks. It is converted to Medical Oxygen, a gas at normal temperatures, for you to breathe when required. In hospitals, the converted Medical Oxygen is supplied via a medical gas pipeline system.

Medical Liquid Oxygen is used:

- during anaesthesia and for recovery following surgery
- to treat or prevent oxygen deficiency in the body in many different situations such as:
 - surgery or major trauma such as a road traffic accident
 - heart attacks
 - severe blood loss
 - carbon monoxide poisoning
 - severe lung and heart conditions
 - very high fevers
- for resuscitation of adults, children and babies.

2. THINGS TO CONSIDER BEFORE USE

Medical Liquid Oxygen is only prescribed to you by a healthcare professional. Ensure that your healthcare professional is aware of any medical conditions that you may have.

Take special care when using Medical Oxygen if:

- your baby requires extra oxygen and is premature. Only give the amount of Medical Oxygen advised by your healthcare professional
- you are suffering from chronic lung disease, such as bronchitis or emphysema. The amount of Medical Oxygen used must be carefully controlled to the flow rate you have been advised to use by your healthcare professional
- you have accidentally taken Paraquat (a type of weed killer), advise your healthcare professional before using Medical Oxygen, as there is a possibility of toxic effects to the lungs.

As Medical Liquid Oxygen is stored as a very cold liquid under pressure, rapid opening of the outlet valve will either cause very cold gas or liquid to be discharged. If this gas or liquid comes in contact with the skin it will cause cold burns. Parts of the cylinder can also become very cold, when in use. This will be evident by ice forming on the cold sections and care should be taken not to touch these areas.

If you have received a cold burn intense pain may be experienced when the skin starts to thaw. To treat cold burns:

- loosen any clothing restricting blood flow and get medical help immediately
- do not apply any direct heat to the affected area
- place the affected area(s) in lukewarm water
- use sterile, dry dressings to protect the damaged skin.

Your clothing could become saturated with oxygen if either liquid or excessive gas comes in contact with it. If your clothing becomes saturated you should walk around in a well-ventilated area for 5 minutes, keeping well away from naked flames and sources of ignition.

Taking other medicines

If you have been taking or prescribed Bleomycin (to treat cancer) or Amiodarone (to treat an irregular heartbeat) or Nitrofurantoin and similar antibiotics (to treat infection), advise your healthcare professional before using Medical Oxygen, as there is a possibility of toxic effects to the lungs.

Tell your healthcare professional if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

Medical Oxygen will not affect you or your baby if used during pregnancy or whilst breast feeding.

Driving and using machines

You may drive and use machines after using Medical Oxygen providing that your healthcare professional considers that you are both fit and capable.

3. HOW TO USE LIQUID MEDICAL OXYGEN

Instructions for use

Medical Liquid Oxygen is only given to you after it has been converted into Medical Oxygen at room temperature. In a hospital or clinic Medical Oxygen will be given to you by a healthcare professional. They will ensure that your Medical Oxygen supply is suitable for your use and that the equipment has been set up correctly so that you receive the right amount of oxygen.

To breathe your oxygen you will either be given a face mask or a nasal cannula. The prongs on the cannula are inserted into your nostrils and the tubing is placed over your ears and adjusted under your neck for comfort. The face mask or nasal cannula is connected to your oxygen system with the tubing provided.

If you are using a Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinder at home you will be given full training on the use of your cylinder and equipment when you receive your first supply.

When using your Medical Liquid Oxygen at home, you must:

- ensure the liquid cylinder is stood upright on a flat surface and supported so that it will not fall over. Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinders should only be used in the vertical position with the valve uppermost, to prevent liquid from being spilt
- check the contents gauge on the vessel before you start to make sure there is enough gas available for your use
- check that the tubing is correctly fitted to the outlet
- select the flow prescribed by your healthcare professional
- ensure that all equipment is kept free from oil and grease
- open the cylinder valve slowly
- if a leak occurs, this will be evident by a hissing noise.

Always use your Medical Liquid Oxygen equipment exactly as your healthcare professional has shown you and at the correct flow rate. You should check with your healthcare professional if you are not sure.

DO NOT SMOKE or have a naked flame near your Medical Liquid Oxygen gas cylinder. The oxygen will make a flame burn much more violently.

NEVER use oil based moisturising creams with your Medical Liquid Oxygen equipment.

If you use more Medical Liquid Oxygen than you should

In most cases it is unlikely that an overdose could occur if you follow your healthcare professional's advice.

If you are concerned that you have used too much Medical Oxygen and feel unwell or if you have any questions on the correct use of Medical Oxygen, please ask your healthcare professional.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, Medical Oxygen may cause side effects although not everybody will get them.

The side effects that may occur whilst using Medical Liquid Oxygen are:

- soreness of the chest associated with coughing and breathing difficulties after breathing pure oxygen for a prolonged period (6-12 hours). This is made worse by smoking and exposure to cold air
- dizziness, fits and loss of consciousness after 2-3 hours of exposure, which can occur if you are treated with high pressure (hyperbaric) oxygen in pressurised chambers
- eye damage (retrolental fibroplasia) which can result in blindness, which may occur with new born babies if they are exposed to oxygen concentrations of more than 40%.

Reporting of side effects

If you experience any of these side effects, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, contact your healthcare professional immediately.

You can also report side effects directly via:

HPRA Pharmacovigilance Earlsfort Terrace,
IRL - Dublin 2

Tel: +353 1 6764971

Fax: +353 1 6762517

Website: www.hpra.ie

E-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE MEDICAL LIQUID OXYGEN

Expiry date

Do not use Medical Liquid Oxygen after the expiry date which is stated on the cylinder batch label.

Cylinder storage

Store your Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinders:

- upright on a level surface so that they can not fall over
- in clean, well ventilated and dry conditions, not exposed to extremes of heat or cold
- away from oil, grease and flammable material
- in a designated area, where empty and full cylinders can be kept apart
- out of the sight and reach of children.

Handling cylinders

Always handle your Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinders with care, only moving them using an appropriate trolley or handling device.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION

What Medical Liquid Oxygen contains

Your Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinder contains a minimum of 99.5% Oxygen.

There are no other ingredients.

Medical Liquid Oxygen cylinders

Medical Liquid Oxygen is supplied in various size containers designed to meet patient needs.

Marketing authorisation holder

BOC Gases Ireland Limited
J F Kennedy Drive, Bluebell, Dublin 12
Tel 1800 370700
healthcareinfo.ie@boc.com

Manufacturer

BOC Gases Ireland Limited
J F Kennedy Drive, Bluebell, Dublin 12

BOC Gases Ireland Cork
Little Island, Cork

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