Approved package insert:

SCHEDULING STATUS

S4

PROPRIETARY NAME (AND DOSAGE FORM):

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL (Tablets)

COMPOSITION:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL:

Each tablet contains:

250 mg Phenoxymethylpenicillin (as the potassium salt).

The excipients are: Lactose, maize starch, magnesium stearate, pregelatinised starch.

PHARMACOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION:

A 20.1.2 Penicillins.

PHARMACOLOGICAL ACTION:

Pharmacodynamic properties

Phenoxymethylpenicillin is a narrow spectrum penicillin, inhibited by penicillinase. It has an antimicrobial spectrum similar to benzylpenicillin for aerobic Gram + organisms. Organisms that may be resistant to phenoxymethylpenicillin are: *Viridans streptococci, S. pneumonia, S. aureus, S. epidermidis, Gonococci, Corynebacterium diphtheria, Bacteroides fragilis, Prevotella melaninogenicus. None of the penicillins is effective against amoebae, plasmodia, rickettsiae, fungi or viruses.*

Pharmacokinetic properties:

It is stable in acidic medium and is therefore absorbed from the gastro-intestinal tract.

Absorption is usually good, although variable, about 60 % of an oral dose being absorbed. The plasma half-life of phenoxymethylpenicillin is about 30 to 60 minutes and may be increased to about 4 hours in severe renal impairment. About 80 % is reported to be protein bound. Phenoxymethylpenicillin is metabolised in the liver and the unchanged phenoxymethylpenicillin and metabolites are excreted rapidly in the urine. Only small concentrations are excreted in the bile.

INDICATIONS:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL is used for the treatment of mild to moderate infections caused by sensitive organisms: Pneumococcal infections of the middle ear; Streptococcal otitis media and sinusitis; Streptococcal pharyngitis caused by *Streptococcus pyogenes*; mild to moderate pulmonary and periodontal anaerobic infections; gingivostomatitis; early Lyme disease. Prophylactic: Recurrence of rheumatic fever.

CONTRA-INDICATIONS:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL is contra-indicated in:

- Patients known to be allergic to phenoxymethylpenicillin, other penicillins or betalactam antibiotics, or any other ingredients of **PEN VK 250 AUSTELL**. It should be given with care to patients with a history of allergy to cephalosporins as cases of cross sensitivity have been reported.
- Babies, in the neonatal period, born of hypersensitive mothers.
- Chronic, severe or deep-seated infections such as subacute bacterial endocarditis, meningitis or syphilis.

WARNINGS AND SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS:

Penicillin sensitivity and anaphylactic shock may occur with administration of PEN VK 250 AUSTELL. Epinephrine, adrenaline, corticosteroids and antihistamines should be used to treat anaphylaxis.

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL should be used with caution in persons with a history of allergies especially to medicines. Late reactions of hypersensitivity may include serum sickness-like reactions and haemolytic anaemia.

Superinfection by resistant species, such as Pseudomonas, Candida, or Clostridium difficile which do not respond to penicillin therapy, may occur.

Care should be taken when treating patients with syphilis, as the Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction may occur shortly after initiating treatment. This reaction, manifesting as fever, chills, headache and reactions at the site of the lesion, can be dangerous in cardiovascular syphilis or where there is a serious risk of increased local damage such as with optic atrophy.

Care should be taken when high doses are given to patients with renal impairment (because of the risk of neurotoxicity) or congestive heart failure.

Renal and haematological systems should be monitored during prolonged and high dose therapy.

Convulsions and other signs of toxicity to the CNS may occur particularly in patients with renal failure.

Skin contact with penicillins should be avoided since sensitisation may occur.

Disturbances of blood electrolytes may follow the administrations of large doses of **PEN VK 250 AUSTELL**. High doses should be used with caution in patients receiving potassium containing medicines or potassium-sparing diuretics, especially in patients with renal impairment or heart failure.

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL contains lactose. It should be administered with caution to patients with rare heredity problems of galactose intolerance, the Lapp lactase deficiency or glucose-galactose malabsorption.

EFFECTS ON ABILITY TO DRIVE AND USE MACHINES:

Patients should be warned to be cautious until they know how **PEN VK 250 AUSTELL** will affect their ability to drive or use machines.

INTERACTIONS:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL may interact with bacteriostatic antimicrobials such as chloramphenicol and tetracyclines.

Guar gum may reduce the absorption of phenoxymethylpenicillin in **PEN VK 250 AUSTELL**.

Reduced absorption has also been reported when phenoxymethylpenicillin such as in **PEN VK 250 AUSTELL** was given following a course of aminoglycosides such as neomycin by mouth.

Probenecid prolongs the half-life of phenoxymethylpenicillin (in **PEN VK 250 AUSTELL**) by competing with it for renal tubular excretion.

Interaction with laboratory tests:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL may interfere with some diagnostic tests such as those for urinary glucose using copper sulphate, direct antiglobulin (Coombs') tests, and some tests for urinary or serum proteins. It may also interfere with tests that use bacteria, for example the Guthrie test for phenylketonuria using *Bacillus subtilis* organisms.

PREGNANCY AND LACTATION:

Safety during pregnancy and lactation has not been established.

DOSAGE AND DIRECTIONS FOR USE:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL should be taken 1 hour before or at least 2 hours after meals.

Prophylactic use: 125-250 mg twice a day.

Adult therapeutic dose: 250 mg-500 mg every six hours, depending on the severity of the infection.

Streptococcal pharyngitis must be treated for a minimum of 10 days.

SIDE-EFFECTS

All these side-effects have been reported but the frequency is unknown:

Gastrointestinal disorders:

Diarrhoea, nausea and heartburn**.**

Hepato-biliary disorders:

Increase in liver enzyme values.

Immune system disorders:

Allergic reactions which may include anaphylaxis, angioedema, exfoliative dermatitis, maculopapular rashes, other skin rashes, interstitial nephritis and vasculitis.

Metabolism and nutrition disorders:

Sore mouth and a black hairy tongue.

Nervous system disorders:

Convulsions and other central nervous system toxicities.

Renal and urinary system disorders:

Neuropathy and interstitial nephritis.

Blood and the lymphatic system disorders:

Neutropenia, haemolytic anaemia and leucopenia, prolongation of bleeding time and defective platelet function.

General disorders:

A generalised sensitivity reaction with urticaria, fever, joint pains and eosinophilia can develop within a few hours to several weeks after starting treatment.

KNOWN SYMPTOMS OF OVERDOSAGE AND PARTICULARS OF ITS TREATMENT:

Treatment is symptomatic and supportive.

IDENTIFICATION:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL: Shiny, white, flat tablet with breakline on one side and plain on the other side.

PRESENTATION:

PEN VK 250 AUSTELL: Packed in a semi-transparent polypropylene bag, which is then sealed. The sealed bag is packed into a white, round HDPE container together with the package insert & a desiccant (silica bag).

The HDPE container is sealed with a plain aluminium tagger and is then capped with a white screw type HDPE lid. Pack size: 1000 tablets.

Aluminium foil and clear PVC blister strips containing 10 tablets. 4 or 10 blister strips are packed in an outer carton.

STORAGE INSTRUCTIONS:

Store at or below 30 ºC.

Store in a cool, dry place.

Keep the container well closed.

Keep blister packs in carton until required for use.

KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN.

REGISTRATION NUMBER:

45/20.1.2/0349

NAME AND BUSINESS ADDRESS OF THE HOLDER OF THE CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION:

Austell Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd

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