

Penthrox[®] advice leaflet

Information for patients, parents and carers



Penthrox[®]?

Penthrox (methoxyflurane) is a strong medicine for pain that you breathe in using an inhaler. People sometimes call it the "green whistle." It helps a lot with painful injuries or when you have a procedure done that might hurt.

This medicine is like some used by doctors when they put people to sleep for operations, but it's not as strong. In the UK, it isn't officially approved for children yet, but it has been used safely in other countries for over 30 years.

Good things about Pentrox[®]

- It works quickly but doesn't last very long.
- The child can control the inhaler themselves.
- It means children don't need needles or injections for strong pain medicine.

How to help your child use Pentrox[®]

Your child will hold the inhaler in their teeth and close their lips around it. They will breathe in and out through their mouth. It's important they breathe out through their mouth and not their nose. This helps keep the medicine from going into the air. The medicine has a strong fruity taste and smell, and the first few breaths might make them cough.

The medicine starts to work after 6-10 breaths. After that, they can take more if they feel they need it. The inhaler works for about an hour. Pentrox can also help during painful procedures, like putting on a cast or dressing a burn. For this, your child will breathe in and out the whole time until it's done, which can last up to 20 minutes. The pain relief will last for a little while after they stop using Pentrox.

This leaflet is to help you learn about Pentrox, but it shouldn't be the only information you get. You should also talk to a doctor or nurse about it before starting.

Children should not use Pentrox[®] if:

- They have had a bad reaction to any medicine given through a mask as an anaesthetic
- Anyone in the family has had a problem called 'malignant hyperthermia' (a reaction which makes you get a very high fever after some medicines).
- Your child has serious kidney, liver or heart problems.
- Your child is taking certain medicines (like strong painkillers, some antibiotics, antiviral or anti-epileptic medicines).
- If you are worried about any of these, please tell a doctor or nurse before using the inhaler.

Most common side effects

Headache	Seeing double	Tingling skin
Dry mouth	Sleepiness	Skin flushing or irritation
Feeling sick	Dizziness	

Serious side effects are very rare but can include allergic reactions or problems with the liver and kidneys. If your child feels unwell after using Pentrox, return to the hospital & tell the staff they have used Pentrox. Show them the safety card

These should stop minutes after stopping the inhaler. If your child gets too sleepy, they will not be able to hold the mouthpiece, which means they can't breathe in more medicine. The sleepiness should then go away. Please tell a doctor/nurse if they stay sleepy or they don't wake up when you speak to them.