



“ATNAA”
(ANTIDOTE TREATMENT – NERVE AGENT, AUTO-INJECTOR)
ATROPINE INJECTION, 2.1 mg/0.7 mL
PRALIDOXIME CHLORIDE INJECTION, 600 mg/2 mL
FOR USE IN NERVE AGENT POISONING ONLY
STERILE SOLUTIONS FOR INTRAMUSCULAR USE ONLY

DESCRIPTION

The Antidote Treatment - Nerve Agent, Auto-Injector (ATNAA) provides Atropine Injection and Pralidoxime Chloride Injection in separate chambers as sterile, pyrogen-free solutions for intramuscular injection.

The ATNAA is a specially designed unit for automatic self- or buddy-administration by military personnel. When activated, the ATNAA sequentially administers atropine and pralidoxime chloride through a single needle. The recommended procedure (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**) is to inject the contents of the auto-injector into the muscles of an outer thigh or into the buttocks.

When activated, each ATNAA dispenses:

2.1 mg atropine in 0.7 mL of a sterile, pyrogen-free solution containing 12.47 mg glycerin and not more than 2.8 mg phenol, citrate buffer, and Water for Injection. The pH range is 4.0 – 5.0.

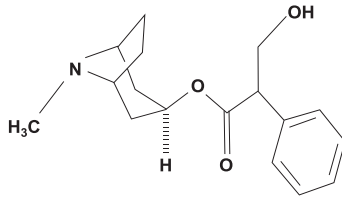
And

600 mg of pralidoxime chloride in 2 mL of a sterile, pyrogen-free solution containing 40 mg benzyl alcohol, 22.5 mg glycine, and Water for Injection. The pH is adjusted with hydrochloric acid. The pH range is 2.0 – 3.0.

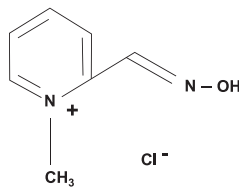
After an ATNAA has been activated, the empty container should be disposed of properly (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**). It cannot be refilled, nor can the protruding needle be retracted.

Atropine, an anticholinergic agent (muscarinic antagonist), occurs as white crystals, usually needle-like, or as a white, crystalline powder. It is slightly soluble in water, soluble in glycerin and ether, and freely soluble in alcohol and chloroform with a molecular weight of 289.38. Atropine, a naturally occurring belladonna alkaloid, is a racemic mixture of equal parts of d- and l- hyoscyamine, whose activity is due almost entirely to the levo isomer of the drug. Chemically, atropine is designated as

1 α H,5 α H-Tropan-3 α -ol (\pm)-tropate. Its empirical formula is C₁₇H₂₃NO₃ and its structural formula is:



Pralidoxime chloride, a cholinesterase reactivator, is an odorless, white to pale-yellow crystalline powder, freely soluble in water, with a molecular weight of 172.61. Chemically, pralidoxime chloride is designated as 2-formyl-1-methylpyridinium chloride oxime. Its empirical formula is C₇H₉ClN₂O and its structural formula is:



The specific activity of the drug resides in the 2-formyl-1-methylpyridinium ion and is independent of the particular salt employed. The chloride salt is preferred because of physiologic compatibility, excellent water solubility at all temperatures, and high potency per gram, due to its low molecular weight.

CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

Mechanism of Action:

Atropine

Atropine is commonly classified as an anticholinergic or antiparasymphathetic (parasympatholytic) drug. More precisely, however, it is termed an antimuscarinic agent since it antagonizes the muscarine-like actions of acetylcholine and other choline esters.

Atropine inhibits the muscarinic actions of acetylcholine on structures innervated by postganglionic cholinergic nerves, and on smooth muscles which respond to endogenous acetylcholine but are not so innervated. As with other antimuscarinic agents, the major action of atropine is a competitive or surmountable antagonism which can be overcome by increasing the concentration of acetylcholine at receptor sites of the effector organ (e.g., by using anticholinesterase agents which inhibit the enzymatic destruction of acetylcholine). The receptors antagonized by atropine are the peripheral structures that are stimulated or inhibited by muscarine, (*i.e.*, exocrine glands and smooth and

cardiac muscle). Responses to postganglionic cholinergic nerve stimulation may also be inhibited by atropine but this occurs less readily than with responses to injected (exogenous) choline esters.

Pralidoxime Chloride

The principal action of pralidoxime is to reactivate cholinesterase (mainly outside the central nervous system) which has been inactivated by phosphorylation due to an organophosphorous nerve agent or related compound, although pralidoxime does not reactivate cholinesterase inactivated by all organophosphate nerve agents (e.g. soman). The destruction of accumulated acetylcholine can then proceed and neuromuscular junctions will again function normally. Pralidoxime also slows the process of "aging" of phosphorylated cholinesterase to a non-reactivable form and detoxifies certain organophosphates by direct chemical reaction.

Pharmacodynamics:

Atropine

Atropine reduces secretions in the mouth and respiratory passages, relieves the constriction and spasm of the respiratory passages, and may reduce the paralysis of respiration which results from actions of the toxic agent on the central nervous system. Atropine-induced parasympathetic inhibition may be preceded by a transient phase of stimulation, especially on the heart where small doses first slow the rate before characteristic tachycardia develops due to paralysis of vagal control. Although mild vagal excitation occurs, the increased respiratory rate and occasionally increased depth of respiration produced by atropine are more probably the result of bronchiolar dilatation. Accordingly, atropine is an unreliable respiratory stimulant and large or repeated doses may depress respiration.

Adequate doses of atropine abolish various types of reflex vagal cardiac slowing or asystole. The drug also prevents or abolishes bradycardia or asystole produced by injection of choline esters, anticholinesterase agents or other parasympathomimetic drugs, and cardiac arrest produced by stimulation of the vagus. Atropine may also lessen the degree of partial heart block when vagal activity is an etiologic factor. In some patients with complete heart block, the idioventricular rate may be accelerated by atropine; in others, the rate is stabilized. Occasionally, a large dose may cause atrioventricular (A-V) block and nodal rhythm.

Atropine in clinical doses counteracts the peripheral dilatation and abrupt decrease in blood pressure produced by choline esters. However, when given by itself, atropine does not exert a striking or uniform effect on blood vessels or blood pressure. Systemic doses slightly raise systolic and lower diastolic pressures and can produce significant postural hypotension. Such doses also slightly increase cardiac output and decrease central venous pressure. Occasionally, therapeutic doses dilate cutaneous blood vessels, particularly in the "blush" area (atropine flush), and may cause atropine "fever" due to suppression of sweat gland activity in infants and small children.

Pralidoxime Chloride

Pralidoxime chloride has its most critical effect in relieving paralysis of the muscles of respiration. Because pralidoxime is less effective in relieving depression of the respiratory center, atropine is always required concomitantly to block the effect of accumulated acetylcholine at this site. Pralidoxime relieves muscarinic signs and symptoms, salivation, bronchospasm, etc., but this action is relatively unimportant since atropine is adequate for this purpose.

Published reports have established the safety and efficacy of atropine and pralidoxime chloride used separately, as well as the safety and increased efficacy of atropine and pralidoxime chloride when administered concomitantly in the treatment of nerve agent poisoning in humans³.

Pharmacokinetics:

Atropine

Atropine is rapidly and well absorbed after intramuscular administration. Atropine disappears rapidly from the blood and is distributed throughout the various body tissues and fluids. Much of the drug is destroyed by enzymatic hydrolysis, particularly in the liver; from 13 to 50% is excreted unchanged in the urine. Traces are found in various secretions, including milk. Atropine readily crosses the placental barrier and enters the fetal circulation.

The C_{max} , T_{max} , and $T_{1/2}$ of atropine following 2.09 mg atropine given intramuscularly by multi-chambered delivery system was 13 ± 3 ng/mL, 31 ± 30 minutes, and 2.4 ± 0.3 hours, respectively. The protein binding of atropine is 14 to 22% in plasma. There are gender differences in the pharmacokinetics of atropine. The $AUC_{(0-inf)}$ and C_{max} were 15% higher in females than males. The half-life of atropine is slightly shorter (approximately 20 minutes) in females than males.

Pralidoxime Chloride

Pralidoxime is distributed throughout the extracellular water; it is not bound to plasma protein. The drug is rapidly excreted in the urine partly unchanged, and partly as a metabolite produced by the liver. Consequently, pralidoxime is relatively short acting and repeated doses may be needed, especially where there is any evidence of continuing absorption of the poison.

The C_{max} , T_{max} , and $T_{1/2}$ of pralidoxime following 600 mg pralidoxime given intramuscularly by multi-chambered delivery system was 7 ± 3 mcg/mL, 28 ± 15 minutes, and 2 ± 1 hour, respectively. The C_{max} of pralidoxime was about 36% higher in females than males but the AUC was comparable between the two genders.

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

The ATNAA is indicated for the treatment of poisoning by susceptible organophosphorous nerve agents having anticholinesterase activity.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

In the face of life-threatening poisoning by organophosphorous nerve agents, there are no absolute contraindications for the use of the ATNAA (see **WARNINGS**).

WARNINGS

While ATNAA can be administered to all individuals with a life-threatening exposure to organophosphorous nerve agents, it should be administered with extreme caution to individuals with the following disorders when the symptoms of nerve agent poisoning are less severe: individuals who are hypersensitive to any component of the product, disorders of heart rhythm such as atrial flutter, severe narrow angle glaucoma, pyloric stenosis, or prostatic hypertrophy.

More than one dose of ATNAA, to a maximum of three doses, may be necessary, especially when exposure is massive or symptoms are severe (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION**). Children are more susceptible than adults to the toxic effects of anticholinergic agents.

Severe difficulty in breathing requires artificial respiration in addition to the use of the ATNAA.

Pralidoxime is not effective in the treatment of poisoning due to phosphorus, inorganic phosphates, or organophosphates not having anticholinesterase activity.

PRECAUTIONS

General: The desperate condition of the organophosphorous-poisoned patient will generally mask such minor signs and symptoms of atropine and pralidoxime treatment as have been noted in normal subjects.

Because pralidoxime is excreted in the urine, a decrease in renal function will result in increased blood levels of the drug.

The ATNAA should be used with caution in all individuals over 40 years of age. Conventional systemic doses may precipitate acute glaucoma in susceptible patients, convert partial organic pyloric stenosis into complete pyloric obstruction, precipitate urinary retention in patients with prostatic hypertrophy, or cause inspersion of bronchial secretions and formation of dangerous viscid plugs in patients with chronic lung disease.

Information for Patients: Appropriate steps must be taken to insure that personnel understand the indications for, and use of, the ATNAA, including review of symptoms of poisoning and operation of the ATNAA (see **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION** and Patient Instruction Sheet).

Drug Interactions: When atropine and pralidoxime are used together, the signs of atropinization (flushing, mydriasis, tachycardia, dryness of the mouth and nose) may occur earlier than might be expected when atropine is used alone because pralidoxime may potentiate the effect of atropine.^{2,3,4}

The following precautions should be kept in mind in the treatment of anticholinesterase poisoning, although they do not bear directly on the use of atropine and pralidoxime. Since barbiturates are potentiated by the anticholinesterases, they should be used cautiously in the treatment of convulsions. Morphine, theophylline, aminophylline, succinylcholine, reserpine, and phenothiazine-type tranquilizers should be avoided in treating personnel with organophosphorous poisoning.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility: No reports regarding the potential of atropine or pralidoxime chloride for carcinogenesis, mutagenesis, or impairment of fertility have been published in the literature. Since the ATNAA is indicated for short-term emergency use only, no investigations of these aspects have been conducted.

Pregnancy: Teratogenic Effects - Pregnancy Category C: Adequate animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with atropine, pralidoxime, or the combination. It is not known whether pralidoxime or atropine can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or if these agents can affect reproductive capacity. The ATNAA should be administered to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers: It is not known whether these drugs are excreted in human milk. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when the ATNAA is administered to a nursing woman.

Pediatric Use: Safety and effectiveness in pediatric patients have not been established.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

Mild to moderate pain may be experienced at the site of injection.

Atropine

The major side effects of atropine can be attributed to antimuscarinic action. These include dryness of the mouth, blurred vision, photophobia, confusion, headache, dizziness, tachycardia, palpitations, flushing, urinary hesitance or retention, constipation, abdominal distention, nausea, vomiting, loss of libido, and impotency. Anhidrosis may produce heat intolerance and impairment of temperature regulation in a hot environment. Larger or toxic doses may produce such central effects as restlessness, tremor, fatigue, locomotor difficulties, delirium, followed by hallucinations, depression,

and ultimately, medullary paralysis and death. Large doses can also lead to circulatory collapse. In such cases, blood pressure declines and death due to respiratory failure may ensue following paralysis and coma. Hypersensitivity reactions will occasionally occur with atropine; these are usually seen as skin rashes, on occasion progressing to exfoliation.

Pralidoxime Chloride

Pralidoxime may cause blurred vision, diplopia and impaired accommodation, dizziness, headache, drowsiness, nausea, tachycardia, increased systolic and diastolic blood pressure, hyperventilation, decreased renal function, and muscular weakness when given parenterally to normal volunteers who have not been exposed to anticholinesterase poisons. In actual cases of poisoning, it is very difficult to differentiate some of the toxic effects produced by atropine or the organophosphate compound from those of pralidoxime chloride.

Excitement and manic behavior immediately following recovery of consciousness after organophosphorous poisoning treated with pralidoxime chloride have been reported in several cases. However, similar behavior has occurred in cases that were not treated with pralidoxime.^{3,5,6}

Elevations in SGOT and/or SGPT enzyme levels were observed in one of six normal volunteers given 1200 mg of pralidoxime chloride intramuscularly, and in 4 of 6 volunteers given 1800 mg intramuscularly. Levels returned to normal in about two weeks.

Transient elevations in creatine phosphokinase were observed in all normal volunteers given the drug. A single intramuscular injection of 330 mg in 1 mL in rabbits caused myonecrosis, inflammation, and hemorrhage.

Atropine and Pralidoxime Chloride

When atropine and pralidoxime are used together, the signs of atropinization may occur earlier than might be expected when atropine is used alone.

DRUG ABUSE AND DEPENDENCE

Atropine and pralidoxime chloride are not subject to abuse and possess no known potential for dependence.

OVERDOSAGE

Symptoms:

Atropine

Serious overdosage with atropine is characterized by widespread paralysis of parasympathetically innervated organs. Dry mucous membranes, widely dilated and nonresponsive pupils, tachycardia, fever, and cutaneous flush are especially prominent, as are mental and neurological symptoms. Disorientation, mania, hallucinations, gait disturbances, and symptoms may last 48 hours or longer. In instances of severe intoxication, respiratory depression, coma, circulatory collapse, and death may occur.

The fatal dose of atropine is not known. In the treatment of organophosphorous poisoning, 200 mg doses have been used and doses as high as 1000 mg have been given.

In children, 10 mg or less may be fatal. With a dose as low as 0.5 mg, undesirable minimal symptoms or responses of overdosage may occur. These increase in severity and extent with larger doses of the drug (excitement, hallucinations, delirium, and coma with a dose of 10 mg or more). However, in the presence of organophosphate poisoning, higher doses of atropine may be tolerated.

Pralidoxime Chloride

Symptoms of pralidoxime chloride overdose have been observed in normal subjects only: dizziness, blurred vision, diplopia, headache, impaired accommodation, nausea, slight tachycardia. In therapy it has been difficult to differentiate side effects due to the drug from those due to effects of the poison.

Treatment:

Supportive treatment should be administered as indicated. If respiration is depressed, artificial respiration with oxygen is necessary. Ice bags, alcohol sponges or a hypothermia blanket may be required to reduce fever, especially in children. Catheterization may be necessary if urinary retention occurs. Since atropine elimination takes place through the kidney, urinary output must be maintained and increased if possible; intravenous fluids may be indicated. Because of the affected person's photophobia, the room should be darkened.

In the event of toxic overdosage, a short acting barbiturate or diazepam may be given as needed to control marked excitement and convulsions. Large doses for sedation should be avoided because central depressant action may coincide with the depression occurring late in atropine poisoning. Central stimulants are not recommended. Physostigmine, given as an atropine antidote by slow intravenous injection of 1 to 4 mg (0.5 to 1.0 mg in children), rapidly abolishes delirium and coma caused by large doses of atropine. Since physostigmine has a short duration of action, the patient may again lapse into coma after one or two hours and repeated doses are likely to be required.

Neostigmine, pilocarpine, and methacholine are of little real benefit, since they do not penetrate the blood-brain barrier.

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

For optimal reactivation of organophosphorous-inhibited cholinesterase, the ATNAA should be administered as soon as possible after appearance of symptoms of nerve agent poisoning (see below).

The ATNAA should be self- or buddy-administered by military personnel after donning protective mask and hood at the first sign of a chemical attack, and only if some or all of the following mild symptoms of nerve agent exposure are present:

- Unexplained runny nose
- Unexplained sudden headache
- Sudden drooling
- Difficulty in seeing (dimness of vision and miosis)
- Tightness of chest or difficulty in breathing
- Wheezing and coughing
- Localized sweating and muscular twitching in the area of contaminated skin
- Stomach cramps
- Nausea, with or without vomiting
- Tachycardia followed by bradycardia

The following are the instructions that should be given to military personnel.

Self-Aid

1. Administer one (1) ATNAA into your lateral thigh muscle or buttocks as follows:
 - a. Remove gray safety cap from back end.
 - b. Place front end on outer thigh and push hard until injector functions. Hold firmly in place for ten seconds.
 - c. Using a hard surface, bend needle into hook. Push ejected needle through a pocket flap (or other thick and conspicuous part of outer clothing).
2. Wait 10 to 15 minutes for the antidote to take effect. If you are able to ambulate, know who you are, and where you are, you will **NOT** need a second injection. **Warning: Giving yourself a second set of injections may cause an overdose of the ATNAA which could result in incapacitation.**
3. If symptoms of nerve agent poisoning are not relieved after administering one injection, seek someone else to check your symptoms. A buddy must administer the second and third injections, if needed.

Buddy-Aid

1. Casualties with severe symptoms may experience most or all of the mild symptoms described above, plus most or all of the following:

- Strange or confused behavior
- Increased wheezing and increased difficulty in breathing
- Severely pinpointed pupils
- Red eyes with tearing
- Vomiting
- Severe muscular twitching and general weakness
- Involuntary urination and defecation
- Convulsions
- Unconsciousness
- Respiratory failure
- Bradycardia

2. If you encounter a service member suffering from severe signs of nerve agent poisoning, render the following aid:

- a. Mask the casualty, if necessary. Do not fasten the hood.
- b. If self-aid (one ATNAA) **has been** administered, administer in rapid succession two (2) additional ATNAAs into the casualty's lateral thigh muscle or buttocks.
Note: Use the casualty's own ATNAAs when providing aid. Do not use your own injectors on a casualty. If you do, you may not have any antidote available when needed for self-aid.
- c. If self-aid (one ATNAA) **has not been** administered, administer in rapid succession three (3) ATNAAs into the casualty's lateral thigh muscle or buttocks.

IMPORTANT: PHYSICIANS AND/OR MEDICAL PERSONNEL ASSISTING EVACUATED VICTIMS OF NERVE AGENTS, SHOULD AVOID EXPOSING THEMSELVES TO CONTAMINATION BY THE VICTIM'S CLOTHING.

HOW SUPPLIED

The Antidote Treatment – Nerve Agent, Auto-Injector (ATNAA) provides Atropine Injection (atropine, 2.1 mg/0.7 mL) and Pralidoxime Chloride Injection (pralidoxime chloride, 600 mg/2 mL) in sterile solutions for intramuscular injection. The ATNAA is a self-contained unit designed for automatic self- or buddy-administration by military personnel. ATNAAs are supplied through the Directorate of Medical Materiel, Defense Supply Center, Philadelphia.

Store at 25°C (77°F); excursions permitted to 15 - 30°C (59 - 86°F)

[see USP Controlled Room Temperature]

Keep from Freezing. Protect from Light.

Manufactured by:

MERIDIAN MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIES[®], INC.
A wholly-owned subsidiary of King Pharmaceuticals[®], Inc.

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Rx only.

REFERENCES

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 - ² Moller, K.O., Jensen-Holm, J. and Lausen, H.H.: *Ugeskr Laeg.* 123: 501, 1961.
 - ³ Namba, T., Nolte, C.T., Jackrel, J. and Grob, D.: Poisoning due to organophosphate insecticides. Acute and chronic manifestations. *Amer. J. Med.* 50: 475 (Apr), 1971.
 - ⁴ Arena, J.M.: Poisoning, Toxicology Symptoms, Treatments, ed. 4, Springfield, IL, Charles C. Thomas, 1979, p. 133.
 - ⁵ Brachfeld, J., and Zavon, M.R.: Organic phosphate (Phosdrin[®]) Intoxication. Report of a case and the results of treatment with 2-PAM, *Arch. Environ. Health* 11:859, 1965.
 - ⁶ Hayes, W.J., Jr.: Toxicology of Pesticides. Baltimore, The Williams & Wilkins Company, 1975, p. 416.
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BUDDY-AID LIST

- Use your buddy's own ATNAAs to give your buddy injections.
- If self-aid (one ATNAA) **has been** administered, give your buddy a second or third injection in rapid succession **OR** if self-aid has not been administered, give three (3) ATNAAs in rapid succession, if most or all of the following symptoms occur:
 - **severe** symptoms from the Self-Aid List
 - strange or confused behavior
 - pinpoint pupils
 - red, watery eyes
 - very weak feeling
 - loss of bladder or bowel control
 - seizures (fits)
 - unconsciousness
 - not breathing
 - slow heart rate
- Hook the used ATNAAs to your buddy's pocket flap

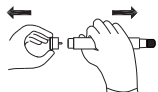
SELF-AID LIST

- Put on protective mask and hood.
- If you have any of the following symptoms, inject yourself with one (1) ATNAA right away:
 - runny nose
 - headache
 - drooling
 - vision problems
 - tight feeling in chest
 - breathing problems
 - wheezing or coughing
 - sweating
 - muscle twitching
 - stomach cramps
 - nausea or vomiting
 - heart rate changes from fast to slow
- **Do not give yourself more than one (1) ATNAA.**
- If you are able to move around and know who and where you are, you will **NOT** need a second ATNAA. If you still have symptoms, have a buddy check your symptoms to decide if you need another injection.

How to Use the Antidote Treatment Nerve Agent Auto-Injector

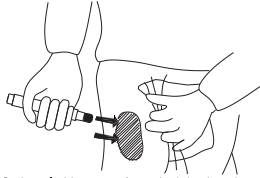
(Delivers 2.1 mg atropine and 600 mg pralidoxime chloride)

1



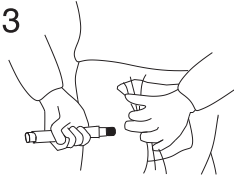
Pull gray safety cap off of the injector. Do not touch the green end.

2



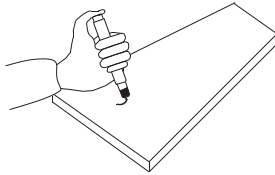
Gather clothing away from the injection site (the meaty part of the thigh). Push the injector firmly against the thigh.

3



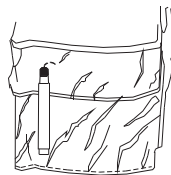
Hold in place for 10 seconds.

4



Bend needle into a hook by pushing it against a hard surface.

5



Hook bent needle onto pocket flap.