

Exparel Injections

Bupivacaine liposomal

This handout explains a medicine called Exparel, a local anesthetic that is used to prevent or treat pain from some procedures.

What is Exparel?

Exparel is the brand name for a drug called *bupivacaine liposomal* (pronounced bue-PIV-a-kane LIP-oh-som-al). This drug is a *local anesthetic* (numbing medicine). It causes loss of feeling in the skin or other tissues.

How is it used?

Exparel is used to numb an area of your body before or after minor procedures. It is given by injection by a healthcare provider in a hospital or clinic.

If this medicine will be given to a child, talk with your pediatrician first. Special care may be needed.

How do I prepare for this injection?

Tell your provider if you have:

- Heart disease
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- An unusual or allergic reaction to bupivacaine, other medicines, foods, dyes, or preservatives

Women

Tell your provider if you are:

- Pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- Breastfeeding



Talk with your nurse or doctor if you have any questions about Exparel.

Does Exparel have side effects?

Tell your doctor or other provider **right away** if you have any of these side effects after your Exparel injection:

- Allergic reactions such as:
 - A rash, itching or hives
 - Swelling of your face, lips, or tongue
- Breathing problems
- Changes in vision
- Feeling dizzy
- Fast or slow, irregular heartbeat
- Joint pain, stiffness, or loss of motion
- Seizures

These side effects can be bothersome, but do not usually require a visit to the doctor:

- Constipation
- Irritation at site where injected
- Nausea or vomiting
- Feeling very tired

Call your provider if any of your symptoms are causing you concern.

What else do I need to know?

- Your condition will be monitored carefully while you are receiving Exparel.
- Be careful to avoid injury while the injected area is numb. You will not feel pain, so you can easily hurt yourself.
- For 96 hours after receiving Exparel:
 - Do not use another medicine that contains bupivacaine. You may have more side effects.
 - Do not have other anesthetics.

Talk with your doctor if you have any questions or concerns.

Questions?

Your questions are important. Talk with your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions or concerns.