

Benztropine (Cogentin®)

ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Client's Name _____ Date _____

Initial Medication Instructions _____

What does this medication help to treat?

- Muscle side effects (stiffness, shakiness, restlessness) caused by antipsychotic medications called Extrapyramidal Symptoms or EPS
- Prevention of muscle side effects when on medications like antipsychotics and some mood stabilizers

Benztropine is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your prescriber for more information.

Other Information

- You should start to notice some benefits from this medication within an hour of initiating therapy.
- Tell your prescriber if you have these conditions: glaucoma, bowel or stomach problems, enlarged prostate, heart disease, heart rhythm problems, history of memory problems, or a disease that affects your nervous system.
- May be needed for long periods of time if muscle side effects are caused by a psychotropic medication persist.

Side Effects and Management

Unspecified Frequency

Nausea	Take with food. Consult with prescriber if it becomes bothersome.
Dry mouth	Suck on sugarless gum or candy or melt bits of ice in your mouth. Call your prescriber if your mouth feels dry for more than 2 weeks.
Confusion, disorientation, memory disturbance, visual hallucinations	Notify your prescriber immediately.
Constipation	Drink plenty of water and increase fiber in your diet. Consult with your prescriber or pharmacist about other treatments.
Sedation	Should improve over time, can adjust timing of medicine to late in the day if sedation persists.
Fast, irregular heart beat	Consult with your prescriber.
Blurred Vision	Consult with your prescriber.
Urinary Retention	Consult with your prescriber.
Heat stroke	Drink plenty of fluids. Wear protective clothing and sunscreen when out in the sun.

References: Clinical Pharmacology, LexiComp 2011

Note: This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions or adverse effects for this medication. If you have further questions about the medications you are taking check with your health care professional.