

SUMMARY OF PRODUCT CHARACTERISTICS

1. Name of the medicinal product: CANEM-500 MG (Meropenem for Injection USP)

2. Qualitative and quantitative composition:

Each vial contains:

Sterile Meropenem Trihydrate USP

Equivalent to Meropenem.....500mg

Added 45.1mg Sodium as Sodium Carbonate USP (Sterile) as buffering agent.

3. Pharmaceutical form: Powder for Injection, white crystalline powder.

4. Clinical particulars:

4.1 Therapeutic indications:

Meropenem is indicated for the treatment of the following infections in adults and children over 3 months of age:

- Pneumonia, including community acquired pneumonia and nosocomial pneumonia.
- Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis
- Complicated urinary tract infections
- Complicated intra-abdominal infections
- Intra- and post-partum infections
- Complicated skin and soft tissue infections
- Acute bacterial meningitis

Meropenem may be used in the management of neutropenic patients with fever that is suspected to be due to a bacterial infection.

Consideration should be given to official guidance on the appropriate use of antibacterial agents.

4.2 Posology and method of administration:

Posology

The tables below provide general recommendations for dosing.

The dose of meropenem administered and the duration of treatment should take into account the type of infection to be treated, including its severity, and the clinical response.

A dose of up to 2 g three times daily in adults and adolescents and a dose of

up to 40 mg/kg three times daily in children may be particularly appropriate when treating some types of infections, such as nosocomial infections due to *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* or *Acinetobacter* spp.

Additional considerations for dosing are needed when treating patients with renal insufficiency (see further below)

Adults and adolescents

Infection	Dose to be administered every 8 hours
Pneumonia including community-acquired pneumonia and nosocomial pneumonia.	500 mg or 1 g
Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis	2 g
Complicated urinary tract infections	500 mg or 1 g
Complicated intra-abdominal infections	500 mg or 1 g
Intra- and post-partum infections	500 mg or 1 g
Complicated skin and soft tissue infections	500 mg or 1 g
Acute bacterial meningitis	2 g
Management of febrile neutropenic patients	1 g

Meropenem is usually given by intravenous infusion over approximately 15 to 30 minutes. Alternatively, doses up to 1 g can be given as an intravenous bolus injection over approximately 5 minutes. There are limited safety data available to support the administration of a 2 g dose in adults as an intravenous bolus injection.

Renal impairment

The dose for adults and adolescents should be adjusted when creatinine clearance is less than 51 ml/min, as shown below. There are limited data to support the application of these dose adjustments for a unit dose.

Creatinine clearance (ml/min)	Dose (based on “unit” dose range of 500 mg or 1 g or 2 g, see table above)	Frequency
26-50	one unit dose	every 12 hours
10-25	half of one unit dose	every 12 hours
< 10	half of one unit dose	every 24 hours

Meropenem is cleared by hemodialysis and hemofiltration. The required dose should be administered after completion of the hemodialysis cycle.

There are no established dose recommendations for patients receiving peritoneal dialysis. Hepatic impairment

No dose adjustment is necessary in patients with hepatic impairment (see section 4.4). Dose in older people

No dose adjustment is required for the older people with normal renal function or creatinine clearance values above 50 ml/min.

Paediatric population

Children under 3 months of age

The safety and efficacy of meropenem in children under 3 months of age have not been established and the optimal dose regimen has not been identified. However, limited pharmacokinetic data suggest that 20 mg/kg every 8 hours may be an appropriate regimen (see section 5.2).

Children from 3 months to 11 years of age and up to 50 kg body weight The recommended dose regimens are shown in the table below:

Infection	Dose to be administered every 8 hours
Pneumonia including community-acquired pneumonia and nosocomial pneumonia	10 or 20 mg/kg
Broncho-pulmonary infections in cystic fibrosis	40 mg/kg
Complicated urinary tract infections	10 or 20 mg/kg
Complicated intra-abdominal infections	10 or 20 mg/kg
Complicated skin and soft tissue infections	10 or 20 mg/kg
Acute bacterial meningitis	40 mg/kg
Management of febrile neutropenic patients	20 mg/kg

Children over 50 kg body weight

The adult dose should be administered.

There is no experience in children with renal impairment. Method of administration

Meropenem is usually given by intravenous infusion over approximately 15 to

30 minutes. Alternatively, meropenem doses of up to 20 mg/kg may be given as an intravenous bolus over approximately 5 minutes. There are limited safety data available to support the administration of a 40 mg/kg dose in children as an intravenous bolus injection.

4.3 Contraindications

Hypersensitivity to the active substance or to any of the excipients. Hypersensitivity to any other carbapenem antibacterial agent. Severe hypersensitivity (e.g. anaphylactic reaction, severe skin reaction) to any other type of betalactam antibacterial agent (e.g. penicillin's or cephalosporin's).

4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

The selection of meropenem to treat an individual patient should take into account the appropriateness of using a carbapenem antibacterial agent based on factors such as severity of the infection, the prevalence of resistance to other suitable antibacterial agents and the risk of selecting for carbapenem-resistant bacteria.

As with all beta-lactam antibiotics, serious and occasionally fatal hypersensitivity reactions have been reported.

Patients who have a history of hypersensitivity to carbapenems, penicillins or other beta-lactam antibiotics may also be hypersensitive to meropenem. Before initiating therapy with meropenem, careful inquiry should be made concerning previous hypersensitivity reactions to beta-lactam antibiotics.

If a severe allergic reaction occurs, the medicinal product should be discontinued and appropriate measures taken.

Antibiotic-associated colitis and pseudomembranous colitis have been reported with nearly all anti-bacterial agents, including meropenem, and may range in severity from mild to life threatening. Therefore, it is important to consider this diagnosis in patients who present with diarrhoea during or subsequent to the administration of meropenem. Discontinuation of therapy with meropenem and the administration of specific treatment for *Clostridium difficile* should be considered. Medicinal products that inhibit peristalsis should not be given. Seizures have infrequently been reported during treatment with carbapenems, including meropenem.

Hepatic function should be closely monitored during treatment with

meropenem due to the risk of hepatic toxicity (hepatic dysfunction with cholestasis and cytolysis).

Use in patients with liver disease: patients with pre-existing liver disorders should have liver function monitored during treatment with meropenem. There is no dose adjustment necessary.

A positive direct or indirect Coombs test may develop during treatment with meropenem.

The concomitant use of meropenem and valproic acid/sodium valproate is not recommended. Meropenem 1 g, powder for solution for injection contains sodium.

This medicinal product contains approximately 4.0 mEq of sodium per 1.0 g dose which should be taken into consideration by patients on a controlled sodium diet.

4.5 Interaction with other medicinal products and other forms of interaction

No specific medicinal product interaction studies other than probenecid were conducted. Probenecid competes with meropenem for active tubular secretion and thus inhibits the renal excretion of meropenem with the effect of increasing the elimination half-life and plasma concentration of meropenem. Caution is required if probenecid is co-administered with meropenem.

The potential effect of meropenem on the protein binding of other medicinal products or metabolism has not been studied. However, the protein binding is so low that no interactions with other compounds would be expected on the basis of this mechanism.

Decreases in blood levels of valproic acid have been reported when it is co-administered with carbapenem agents resulting in a 60-100 % decrease in valproic acid levels in about two days. Due to the rapid onset and the extent of the decrease, co-administration of valproic acid with carbapenem agents is not considered to be manageable and therefore should be avoided.

Oral anti-coagulants

Simultaneous administration of antibiotics with warfarin may augment its anti-coagulant effects. There have been many reports of increases in the anti-coagulant effects of orally administered anti-coagulant agents, including warfarin in patients who are concomitantly receiving antibacterial agents. The

risk may vary with the underlying infection, age and general status of the patient so that the contribution of the antibiotic to the increase in INR (international normalised ratio) is difficult to assess. It is recommended that the INR should be monitored frequently during and shortly after co-administration of antibiotics with an oral anti-coagulant agent.

4.6 Fertility, pregnancy and lactation

Pregnancy

There are no or limited amount of data from the use of meropenem in pregnant women. Animal studies do not indicate direct or indirect harmful effects with respect to reproductive toxicity.

As a precautionary measure, it is preferable to avoid the use of meropenem during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

It is unknown whether meropenem is excreted in human milk. Meropenem is detectable at very low concentrations in animal breast milk. A decision must be made whether to discontinue breast-feeding or to discontinue/abstain from meropenem therapy taking into account the benefit of therapy for the woman.

4.7 Effects on ability to drive and use machines

No studies on the effect on the ability to drive and use machines have been performed.

4.8 Undesirable effects

Meropenem-related adverse reactions most frequently reported were diarrhoea (2.3%), rash (1.4%), nausea/vomiting (1.4%) and injection site inflammation (1.1%). The most commonly reported meropenem-related laboratory adverse events were thrombocytosis (1.6%) and increased hepatic enzymes (1.5-4.3 %).

Reporting of suspected adverse reactions:

Healthcare professionals are requested to report any suspected adverse reactions to the National Regulatory Agents.

4.9 Overdose

Relative overdose may be possible in patients with renal impairment if the dose is not adjusted as described in section 4.2. Limited post-marketing

experience indicates that if adverse reactions occur following overdose, they are consistent with the adverse reaction profile described in section 4.8, are generally mild in severity and resolve on withdrawal or dose reduction. Symptomatic treatments should be considered.

In individuals with normal renal function, rapid renal elimination will occur. Hemodialysis will remove meropenem and its metabolite.

5. Pharmacological properties

5.1 Pharmacodynamic properties

Pharmacotherapeutic group:

systemic use,

carbapenems, ATC code:

J01DH02

Mode mechanism of action

Meropenem exerts its bactericidal activity by inhibiting bacterial cell wall synthesis in Gram- positive and Gram-negative bacteria through binding to penicillin-binding proteins (PBPs).

Pharmacokinetic/Pharmacodynamic (PK/PD) relationship

Similar to other beta-lactam antibacterial agents, the time that meropenem concentrations exceed the MIC ($T > MIC$) has been shown to best correlate with efficacy. In preclinical models meropenem demonstrated activity when plasma concentrations exceeded the MIC of the infecting organisms for approximately 40 % of the dosing interval. This target has not been established clinically.

Mechanism of resistance

Bacterial resistance to meropenem may result from:

- (1) decreased permeability of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria (due to diminished production of porins)
- (2) reduced affinity of the target PBPs
- (3) increased expression of efflux pump components, and
- (4) production of beta-lactamases that can hydrolyze carbapenems.

5.2 Pharmacokinetic properties

In healthy subjects the mean plasma half-life is approximately 1 hour; the

mean volume of distribution is approximately 0.25 l/kg (11-27 l) and the mean clearance is 287 ml/min at 250 mg falling to 205 ml/min at 2 g. Doses of 500, 1000 and 2000 mg doses infused over 30 minutes give mean C_{max} values of approximately 23, 49 and 115 µg/ml respectively, corresponding AUC values were 39.3, 62.3 and 153 µg.h/ml. After infusion over 5 minutes C_{max} values are 52 and 112 µg/ml after 500 and 1000 mg doses respectively. When multiple doses are administered 8-hourly to subjects with normal renal function, accumulation of meropenem does not occur.

A study of 12 patients administered meropenem 1000 mg 8 hourly post-surgically for intra- abdominal infections showed a comparable C_{max} and half-life to normal subjects but a greater volume of distribution 27 l.

Distribution

The average plasma protein binding of meropenem was approximately 2 % and was independent of concentration. After rapid administration (5 minutes or less) the pharmacokinetics are biexponential but this is much less evident after 30 minutes infusion. Meropenem has been shown to penetrate well into several body fluids and tissues: including lung, bronchial secretions, bile, cerebrospinal fluid, gynaecological tissues, skin, fascia, muscle, and peritoneal exudates.

Metabolism

Meropenem is metabolised by hydrolysis of the beta-lactam ring generating a microbiologically inactive metabolite. In vitro meropenem shows reduced susceptibility to hydrolysis by human dehydropeptidase-I (DHP-I) compared to imipenem and there is no requirement to co-administer a DHP-I inhibitor.

Elimination

Meropenem is primarily excreted unchanged by the kidneys; approximately 70 % (50 –75 %) of the dose is excreted unchanged within 12 hours. A further 28% is recovered as the microbiologically inactive metabolite. Faecal elimination represents only approximately 2% of the dose. The measured renal clearance and the effect of probenecid show that meropenem undergoes both filtration and tubular secretion.

Renal insufficiency

Renal impairment results in higher plasma AUC and longer half-life for

meropenem. There were AUC increases of 2.4 fold in patients with moderate impairment (CrCL 33-74 ml/min), 5 fold in severe impairment (CrCL 4-23 ml/min) and 10 fold in haemodialysis patients (CrCL <2 ml/min) when compared to healthy subjects (CrCL >80 ml/min). The AUC of the microbiologically inactive ring opened metabolite was also considerably increased in patients with renal impairment. Dose adjustment is recommended for patients with moderate and severe renal impairment (see section 4.2).

Meropenem is cleared by haemodialysis with clearance during haemodialysis being approximately 4 times higher than in anuric patients.

Hepatic insufficiency

A study in patients with alcoholic cirrhosis shows no effect of liver disease on the pharmacokinetics of meropenem after repeated doses.

Adult patients

Pharmacokinetic studies performed in patients have not shown significant pharmacokinetic differences versus healthy subjects with equivalent renal function. A population model developed from data in 79 patients with intra-abdominal infection or pneumonia, showed a dependence of the central volume on weight and the clearance on creatinine clearance and age.

Paediatrics

The pharmacokinetics in infants and children with infection at doses of 10, 20 and 40 mg/kg showed C_{max} values approximating to those in adults following 500, 1000 and 2000 mg doses, respectively. Comparison showed consistent pharmacokinetics between the doses and half-lives similar to those observed in adults in all but the youngest subjects (<6 months t_{1/2} 1.6 hours). The mean meropenem clearance values were 5.8 ml/min/kg (6-12 years), 6.2

ml/min/kg (2-5 years), 5.3 ml/min/kg (6-23 months) and 4.3 ml/min/kg (2-5 months).

Approximately 60 % of the dose is excreted in urine over 12 hours as meropenem with a further 12 % as metabolite. Meropenem concentrations in the CSF of children with meningitis are approximately 20 % of concurrent plasma levels although there is significant inter-individual variability.

The pharmacokinetics of meropenem in neonates requiring anti-infective treatment showed greater clearance in neonates with higher chronological or

gestational age with an overall average half-life of 2.9 hours. Monte Carlo simulation based on a population PK model showed that a dose regimen of 20 mg/kg 8 hourly achieved 60 %T>MIC for *P. aeruginosa* in 95 % of pre-term and 91 % of full term neonates.

Older people

Pharmacokinetic studies in healthy elderly subjects (65-80 years) have shown a reduction in plasma clearance, which correlated with age-associated reduction in creatinine clearance, and a smaller reduction in non-renal clearance. No dose adjustment is required in elderly patients, except in cases of moderate to severe renal impairment (see section 4.2).

5.3 Preclinical safety data

Animal studies indicate that meropenem is well tolerated by the kidney. Histological evidence of renal tubular damage was seen in mice and dogs only at doses of 2000 mg/kg and above after a single administration and above and in monkeys at 500 mg/kg in a 7-day study. Meropenem is generally well tolerated by the central nervous system. Effects were seen in acute toxicity studies in rodent at doses exceeding 1000 mg/kg.

The IV LD50 of meropenem in rodents is greater than 2000 mg/kg.

In repeat dose studies of up to 6 months duration only minor effects were seen including a decrease in red cell parameters in dogs.

There was no evidence of mutagenic potential in a conventional test battery and no evidence of reproductive toxicity including teratogenic potential in studies in rats up to 750 mg/kg and in monkeys up to 360 mg/kg.

There was increased evidence of abortions at 500 mg/kg in a preliminary study in monkeys. There was no evidence of increased sensitivity to meropenem in juveniles compared to adult animals. The intravenous formulation was well tolerated in animal studies.

The sole metabolite of meropenem had a similar profile of toxicity in animal studies.

6. Pharmaceutical particulars

6.1 List of excipients

Not Applicable

6.2 Incompatibilities

Not Applicable

6.3 Shelf life

24 months

6.4 Special precautions for storage

Store in a dry place, below 30°C. Protect from light. Keep out of reach of children.

6.5 Nature and contents of container

Packed in 20 ml flint glass vial USP type I closed with grey bromo butyl rubber stopper and sealed with aluminium flip-off seal, along with a pack insert in mono carton.

6.6 Special precautions for disposal and other handling

Not Applicable

7. Marketing

authorization holder Cachet

Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd

415, Shah Nahar, Worli, Mumbai 400 018. India.

8. Marketing authorisation number(s)

92/R1

9.Date of first authorisation/renewal of the authorisation

2026 September 02

10. Date of revision of the text

2026 September 02