

Penicillin G Benzathine (Bicillin L-A) Injections

For Professional Reference Only

Applicable to: Nurses, Physicians and Healthcare Professionals

The preferred treatment recommendation for infectious syphilis in a non-pregnant adult is **Long-acting benzathine penicillin G 2.4 million units (Bicillin L-A) as a single dose.**

Consult the *Alberta Treatment Guidelines for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI) in Adolescents and Adults (2018)* for further guidance.

This medication is dispensed as two separate, preloaded 1.2 million unit syringes, administered in each ventrogluteal muscle, for a total of 2.4 million units.

Bicillin L-A must be refrigerated between (2-8°C).¹

Prior to administration of this drug, carefully read the product insert for warnings, adverse reactions, dosage and administration.

Locating the Ventrogluteal Site²

- Position patient lateral (side-lying) with the upper leg flexed and slightly in front of the lower leg.
- Place the heel of your hand over the greater trochanter of the femur. Use whichever hand so your thumb is pointing to the client's front.
- Palpate anterior superior iliac spine with index finger, then move your middle finger across the iliac crest to form a "V". (Figure 1).
- The center of the formed triangle or "V" is the ventrogluteal site.
- The needle is to be inserted at an almost 90° angle to the muscle but pointed slightly up toward the iliac crest.
- Move the hand that made the V before injecting.
- Inject medication **slowly and steadily** (about 1 ml per ten seconds to allow muscle to accommodate the fluid).

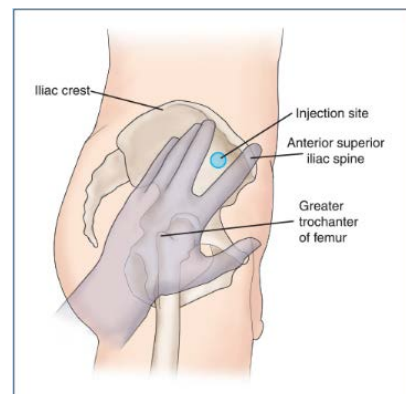


Figure 1: Locating the Ventrogluteal Site³

¹Pfizer Canada. (2017). Product Monograph: Bicillin L-A. Retrieved from: https://www.pfizer.ca/sites/default/files/201710/Bicillin_PM.pdf

²Province-wide Immunization program Standards and Quality. (2013). Alberta Health Services Vaccine Administration Standards.

³Intramuscular injection. (2020). In Lippincott Procedures. Retrieved from <http://procedures.lww.com>