

PRUSSIAN BLUE FACT SHEET

What is Prussian blue?

It is a blue dye substance that can help remove certain radioactive materials from people's bodies. It must be taken under the guidance of a doctor.

How does Prussian blue works?

When radioactive cesium and thallium is swallowed or breathed, they will end up in the intestines. Prussian blue traps these materials in the intestines and keeps them from being absorbed by the body. The Prussian blue reduces the time that radioactive cesium and thallium stay in the body; it helps limit the amount of time the body is exposed to radiation.

Who can take Prussian blue?

The drug is safe for most adults, including pregnant women, and children (ages 2-12 years). Dosing for infants (ages 0-2 years) has not been determined yet. Women who are breastfeeding their babies should stop breast feeding if they think they are contaminated with radioactive materials and consult their doctors. Before taking Prussian blue, tell your doctor if you have had constipation, certain stomach problems or you are taking any other medicine.

How is Prussian blue given?

It is given in 500-milligram capsules that can be swallowed whole. If you cannot swallow pills, you can take the Prussian blue by breaking the capsules and mixing the contents in food or liquid.

The dose of Prussian blue depends on the person's age and the amount of contamination in the body. Prussian blue usually is given 3 times a day for a minimum of 30 days, depending on the extent of the contamination.

What are the side effects?

The most common side effects are an upset stomach and constipation. These side effects can be easily treated with other medications. Persons taking Prussian blue may excrete blue feces during treatment.

What you should do if you have a reaction to Prussian blue?

If you have a reaction to the drug, call your **doctor** or **911** immediately for medical attention. Do not drive yourself to the hospital as you may become very ill on your way.

Where you can get more information on Prussian blue?

http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/Prussian_blue/Q&A.htm#2

www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/druginfo/uspdi/202737.html

www.bt.cdc.gov

Source of Information

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

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