



HYALURONIC ACID INJECTION

Even mild to osteoarthritis pain can stop you in your tracks. A healthy joint has thick and elastic synovial fluid that lubricates and cushions the joint, protecting it from damage. Joints affected by osteoarthritis no longer benefit from the properties of healthy synovial fluid.

Hyaluronic acid injection is used to treat knee pain caused by osteoarthritis (OA) in patients who have already been treated with pain relievers (e.g., acetaminophen) and other treatments that did not work well.

Hyaluronic acid is similar to a substance that occurs naturally in the joints. It works by acting like a lubricant and shock absorber in the joints and helps the joints to work properly.

How Do Hyaluronic Acid Injections Work?

When osteoarthritis occurs, the quality and quantity of hyaluronic acid in the synovial joint fluid becomes depleted, reducing the fluid's lubrication and shock absorbing properties. Hyaluronic acid injections can help restore the viscoelastic properties of the synovial fluid.

Injected directly into the affected joint, hyaluronic acid treatments can relieve osteoarthritis pain longer than steroid injections. Hyaluronic acid treatment is administered by the doctor and the entire procedure takes only a few minutes. Most patients say they feel little or no discomfort.

Hyaluronic acid also may do more than relieve osteoarthritis pain longer. A 2015 clinical study has shown that hyaluronic acid treatments can substantially delay the need for knee replacement surgery. Findings also show a further delay in knee replacement surgery with each additional course of treatment.

Other Medical Problems

The presence of other medical problems may affect the use of this medicine. Make sure you tell your doctor if you have any other medical problems, especially:

- Allergy to bacterial proteins, gram positive or
- Allergy to hyaluronate preparations or
- Skin or knee joint infections or other problems at the place where the injection is to be given—should not be given in patients with these conditions.

Precautions

Your doctor will check your progress closely while you are receiving this medicine. This will allow your doctor to see if the medicine is working properly and to decide if you should continue to receive it.

Do not strain your knee joint for two days after receiving this medicine. Avoid activities such as jogging, soccer, tennis, heavy lifting, or standing on your feet for a long time.

Temporary pain or swelling in the knee joint may occur after receiving hyaluronic acid injection. Call your doctor if the pain or swelling in the knee persists or becomes worse after receiving this medicine.

Do not use this medicine with disinfectants containing quaternary ammonium salts (e.g., benzalkonium chloride). This may prevent hyaluronic acid injection from working properly.

Side Effects

Along with its needed effects, a medicine may cause some unwanted effects. Although not all of these side effects may occur, if they do occur they may need medical attention.

Check with your doctor immediately if any of the following side effects occur:

More common

- Difficulty with moving
- muscle pain or stiffness
- pain in the joints

Less common

- Swelling or redness in the joints

Some side effects may occur that usually do not need medical attention. These side effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. Also, the doctor may be able to tell you about ways to prevent or reduce some of these side effects. Check with your doctor if any of the following side effects continue or are bothersome or if you have any questions about them:

Less common

- Bleeding, blistering, burning, coldness, discoloration of the skin, feeling of pressure, hives, infection, inflammation, itching, lumps, numbness, pain, rash, redness, scarring, soreness, stinging, swelling, tenderness, tingling, ulceration, or warmth at the injection site

Other side effects not listed may also occur in some patients. If you notice any other effects, check with your doctor.

Call your doctor for medical advice about side effects.