

# INSTRUCTIONS AND DOSAGE SCHEDULE FOR ALLERGENIC EXTRACTS HYMENOPTERA VENOM PRODUCTS

## Multidose 13.0 mL (Honey Bee, Yellow Jacket, Wasp, and Mixed Vespid)



**HollisterStier**  
Allergy

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### WARNINGS

This product is intended for use only by licensed medical personnel experienced in administering allergenic extracts and trained to provide immediate emergency treatment in the event of a life-threatening reaction. Hymenoptera Venom products are prescribed by and intended for use under the guidance and supervision of a physician and/or other prescribing practitioner.

Hymenoptera Venom extracts may potentially elicit a severe life-threatening systemic reaction, rarely resulting in death.<sup>1</sup> Therefore, emergency measures and personnel trained in their use must be available immediately in the event of such a reaction. Patients should be instructed to recognize adverse reaction symptoms, observed in the office for at least 30 minutes after skin testing or treatment, and cautioned to contact the physician's office if symptoms occur. See ADVERSE REACTION, Section 3, of this instruction for information regarding adverse event reporting.

All patients should have available an Emergency Anaphylaxis Kit containing epinephrine and be instructed in its use for emergency treatment of possible systemic reactions occurring at times after the patient has departed the testing or treatment premises.

Patients with cardiovascular diseases and/or pulmonary diseases such as symptomatic unstable, steroid-dependent asthma, and/or those who are receiving cardiovascular drugs such as beta blockers, may be at higher risk for severe adverse reactions. These patients may also be more refractory to the normal allergy treatment regimen. Patients should be treated only if the benefit of treatment outweighs the risks.<sup>1</sup>

Patients on beta blockers may be more reactive to allergens given for testing or treatment and may be unresponsive to the usual doses of epinephrine used to treat allergic reactions.<sup>2</sup>

Immunotherapy for insect sting allergy should be given to those patients who have experienced significant systemic reactions (for detailed description of symptoms see INDICATIONS AND USAGE AND ADVERSE REACTIONS) from insect stings and who demonstrate hypersensitivity by skin testing with these products. The only approved method for diagnosing insect sting allergic patients for immunization is by skin testing.

This product must never be injected intravenously.

Refer also to CONTRAINDICATIONS, WARNINGS, PRECAUTIONS, ADVERSE REACTIONS and OVERDOSAGE for further discussion.

### DESCRIPTION

Hymenoptera Venom Products available are sterile freeze-dried venom of Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) and venom protein of Yellow Jacket (*Vespaula sp*) and Wasp (*Polistes sp.*). Mixed Vespid venom protein (Yellow Jacket, Yellow Hornet and White-Faced Hornet) is also available.

The reconstituted single venom products are intended for subcutaneous injection for immunotherapy and percutaneous use for diagnosis. The Mixed Vespid venom protein is for immunotherapy only, not for diagnosis. Diagnosis should be based on individual venoms.

Because of the difficulty in collecting all species of Yellow Jacket and Wasp, the venom raw materials for these two insects may vary in species composition from lot to lot. A listing of the exact species content for any particular lot of Yellow Jacket or Wasp venom protein may be obtained by calling Customer Technical Services at Jubilant HollisterStier, 1-(800)-495-7437.

Final containers of sterile freeze-dried venom products are sealed under vacuum. This will result in the diluting fluid being forcibly drawn into the sealed vial when the syringe needle penetrates the seal during reconstitution. See PRECAUTIONS.

### Venom Products Labeled for Reconstitution to 13.0 mL (Multidose 13.0 mL)

When the Multidose 13.0 mL Freeze-Dried Honey Bee venom is reconstituted with 13.0 mL of fluid, the resulting solution will contain 100 micrograms of venom protein per mL (100 µg/mL) plus 7.7 milligrams of mannitol per mL and trace amounts of sodium chloride. When Multidose 13.0 mL Freeze-Dried Yellow Jacket and Wasp venom proteins are reconstituted with 13.0 mL of fluid, the resulting solution will contain 100 micrograms of venom protein per mL (100 µg/mL) plus 7.7 milligrams of mannitol per mL and trace amounts of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, acetic acid and beta-alanine. When the Multidose 13.0 mL Mixed Vespid protein is reconstituted with 13.0 mL of fluid, the resulting solution contains 300 micrograms of venom protein per mL (300 µg/mL) plus 23.1 milligrams of mannitol per mL and trace amounts of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, acetic acid and beta-alanine. Mannitol is used as an excipient.

These freeze-dried products can be reconstituted in Sterile Albumin Saline with Phenol [which contains 0.9% NaCl, 0.4% phenol and 0.03% Normal Human Serum Albumin to a concentration of 100 µg/mL (300 µg/mL for Mixed Vespid venom protein)]. Dilutions of this concentration should be made only with Sterile Albumin-Saline with Phenol (0.4%). See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION for details of dilutions for diagnosis and treatment.

Space is provided on the container label to record the date (month, day, year) venom is reconstituted. Refer to dating period shown under PRECAUTIONS. At the time of reconstitution, write the calculated reconstituted product expiration date (month, day, year) on the vial label in the space provided.

### CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY

#### Diagnosis

Diluted solutions of stinging insect venom injected intradermally will produce wheal and erythema reactions in patients who have significant IgE-mediated, Type I immediate hypersensitivity to stings of these insects.

#### Treatment

Repeated injections of increasing doses of insect venom extracts have been shown to ameliorate the intensity of allergic symptoms upon subsequent insect stings.<sup>3,4</sup>

The mechanism by which hyposensitization is achieved is not known completely. IgE antibodies (blocking antibodies) appear in the serum of patients treated with injected venom. No direct relationship has been identified between the level of blocking antibody (or the ratio of blocking antibody to IgE antibody directed to the same venom antigens) and the degree of hyposensitization. However, patients who show protection from symptoms after stings have been found to have significant levels of specific blocking antibody.<sup>3,4</sup>

Initially, after a period of immunotherapy with specific venom antigens, levels of IgE antibody may increase.<sup>5</sup> However, from studies carried out with other venom preparations, these levels are reported to decline after a time.<sup>3</sup> After maintenance level has been reached and maintained, symptoms after stings have been shown to decrease considerably.<sup>3,4</sup> It is not known if skin-sensitizing antibody can be eradicated or if the patient can be entirely cured, nor is it known how long immunotherapy must be continued.

In a clinical study with Jubilant HollisterStier venom products, injections (using the Suggested Dose Schedule under DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION) were given once per week at one study center, and twice or more per week at another center.<sup>6</sup> (For further discussion, see below). It must be considered important to achieve the 100 µg per venom maintenance dose (the maintenance dose for Mixed Vespid venom protein is 300 µg), since there are no data on effectiveness of maintenance levels below 100 µg per venom.

In the clinical trial, 57% of patients at the maintenance dosage (100 µg per venom) showed no systemic reaction following an insect sting challenge.<sup>6</sup> The remaining 3% had a milder reaction than noted prior to treatment. The patients in this study reached maintenance (100 µg per venom) usually within 2 1/2-3 1/2 months after beginning therapy.<sup>6</sup> Whether efficacy of therapy is influenced by the time required to reach maintenance has not yet been determined.

Large local reactions occurred in approximately 60% of the patients given immunotherapy. Some form of systemic response occurred, often repeatedly, in one-third of the patients treated in the clinical trial.<sup>4</sup> Only one systemic response occurred on the first dose. The rest occurred at various times in the course of immunotherapy. Some systemic manifestations may have occurred because of the patient's apprehension, and did not require treatment. Approximately one-fourth of the patients experiencing systemic responses were given some form of specific therapy (epinephrine, theophylline, or metoprolol), some on several occasions.<sup>1</sup>

In deciding the criteria for proceeding from dose to dose of the Suggested Dose Schedule (see DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION), the results of the clinical study<sup>6</sup> should be considered. A study center "A" reporting the least number of systemic reactions during pre-maintenance treatment held the dose constant in most of the cases where significant local reactions occurred. With the systemic reactions reported, this center held the dose the same in approximately 80% of the incidences. The treatment injections were given at this center usually once per week, and if a patient missed an appointment, the next dose was often the same as the preceding dose (depending on the previous reactivity of the patient). Patients treated at this center reached maintenance in an average of 17-19 visits.

Another study center "B", reporting a higher incidence of systemic reactions, was more regimented in following the Suggested Dose Schedule. This center reduced or held the dose the same in less than 10% of the cases reporting significant local reactions. With the systemic reactions reported, this center held the dose the same or reduced the dosage in approximately 20% of the cases. At this center, more than one injection per week was given at the outset as circumstances and sensitivity allowed. Patients treated at this center reached maintenance in an average of 14 visits.

Following the achievement of maintenance level (100 µg per venom), approximately 80% or more patients were given a second maintenance injection at a 1-week interval. The third maintenance injection was usually (in approximately 60% of the patients) at a 2-week interval. The next injection was usually within 3 weeks, and thereafter, the patients were injected for ongoing maintenance at approximately monthly intervals.<sup>6</sup>

### INDICATIONS AND USAGE

Insect stings may induce a wide range of allergic symptoms in sensitive patients. A normal sting response is initial burning or stinging pain that may be intense and last several minutes to an hour or more. There is usually some local swelling coming on immediately and persisting for several days. The location of the sting has considerable influence on the intensity of the pain and extent of swelling. Stings on the fingers or feet produce much pain, but less swelling; whereas a sting on the head or face produces extensive swelling with variable pain.

Local reactions coming on rapidly and larger than the usual local reaction, particularly if the swelling spans both adjacent joints on the extremities, can indicate hypersensitivity. Systemic symptoms come on shortly after the sting, often within seconds to minutes. Symptoms may range from generalized flushing, itching, redness, diffuse swelling of the skin or urticarial wheals, abdominal cramps, nausea, vomiting, or incontinence of urine or stool, to faintness, blurring or loss of vision, unconsciousness, seizures, respiratory or cardiac arrest, or death. Later reactions may consist of fever, achiness, malaise, joint swelling, urticaria or other signs of vascular damage typical of serum sickness, a Type III reaction. Typical delayed Type IV reactions may also occur.<sup>4</sup>

Rarely, other types of severe reactions to insect stings have been reported.<sup>4</sup> These include serum sickness, hematologic abnormalities, and neurological disorders commencing some time after a sting, and not associated with anaphylactoid reactions. These patients are not candidates for immunotherapy using insect venoms.

#### (1) Diagnosis

Skin testing with insect venoms is useful to demonstrate the presence of IgE antibodies which account for the patient's symptoms.<sup>2</sup> Patients are seldom able to identify the insect which stung them, so skin testing is used to determine the insect culprit. Dilutions of these venom products will help judge the sensitivity of the patient and whether the patient should be treated.<sup>7</sup>

It is not absolutely known what levels (micrograms) of venom, that elicit positive skin tests, are diagnostic of clinical sensitivity. However, patients with a history of reactions (any of three types: generalized urticaria or angioedema; respiratory difficulty due either to laryngeal edema or to bronchospasm; or vascular collapse, with or without loss of consciousness) to previous stings and a positive skin test to a venom intradermal injection of approximately 1 µg/mL had about a 60% chance of reacting again when stung by the same insect. These patients should receive venom immunotherapy.<sup>7</sup>

Patients with a history of reaction (any of the three reaction types described above) to previous stings, but who did not demonstrate a positive skin test reaction to venom, were considered in a previous study not to be clinically sensitive, and were not treated.<sup>3</sup>

Another study demonstrated false positive reactions when skin testing with venom concentrations of 10 µg/mL and 100 µg/mL was carried out.<sup>8</sup> Thus there can be a nonspecific skin test reaction potentially due to the pharmacological action of the venom at higher concentrations.

The best statement that can be made, at present, is that patients with significant positive history (reactions of the three types described above) following an insect sting, and who do react with a positive skin test to a venom concentration of 1 µg/mL or less, are recommended for treatment. Patients who have the history described above, but who do not react to a 1 µg/mL intradermal venom skin test, cannot be recommended for treatment. At present, the data does not exist, to determine whether a patient who might react to a higher concentration, e.g., 2-10 µg/mL, is at risk from a subsequent sting or not. Since it is not known if sting-sensitive patients who subsequently lose their IgE anti-venom antibody can be resensitized by further stings, it is advisable to retest these patients after any subsequent stings.<sup>2</sup> However, since the level of venom-specific IgE may fall to low levels briefly after a sting, patients should not be re-tested until 2 to 4 weeks after any sting.

#### (2) Treatment

Immunotherapy is indicated for those patients diagnosed as sensitive (see Diagnosis above) and is accomplished by using graduated dilutions of the appropriate insect venom or venoms to control the severity of the patient's symptoms from subsequent stings.

Increasing doses of venom are given at intervals, dependent on the patient's ability to tolerate the venoms, until a maintenance dosage (100 µg per venom is recommended – 300 µg in the case of the Mixed Vespid venom protein) is reached and maintained.

Venom sensitivity differs for individual patients, thus it is not possible to provide a dosage schedule that is universally suited to all patients. The dosage schedule shown under DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION is a summary of the schedule used in clinical trials of our product and found suitable for the majority of patients.

In highly sensitive patients, the physician may be required to use a modified dose schedule, based on the patient's sensitivity to and tolerance of the injections. Lower initial doses and smaller dosage increments than shown under DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION may be necessary.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

There are no known absolute contraindications to immunotherapy using Hymenoptera Venom Products. See also PRECAUTIONS and WARNINGS.

Patients showing negative intradermal skin tests to specific venoms at 1 µg/mL are not recommended for venom treatment.

Any injections, including immunotherapy, should be avoided in patients with a bleeding tendency.

Patients with cardiovascular diseases and/or pulmonary diseases such as symptomatic unstable, steroid-dependent asthma, and/or those who are receiving cardiovascular drugs such as beta blockers, may be at higher risk for severe adverse reactions. These patients may also be more refractory to the normal allergy treatment regimen. Patients should be treated only if the benefit of treatment outweighs the risks.<sup>1</sup>

Patients on beta blockers may be more reactive to allergens given for testing or treatment and may be unresponsive to the usual doses of epinephrine used to treat systemic reactions.<sup>2</sup>

Since there are differences of opinion concerning the possibility of routine immunizations exacerbating autoimmune diseases, immunotherapy should be given cautiously to patients with other immunologic diseases and only if the risk from insect stings is greater than the risk of exacerbating the underlying disorder.

### WARNINGS

See WARNINGS box at the beginning of this Instruction Sheet. See also PRECAUTIONS.

Venom extract must be temporarily withheld from patients or the dose adjusted downward if any of the following conditions exist: (1) severe symptoms of rhinitis and/or asthma; (2) infection or flu accompanied by fever; (3) any evidence of an excessively large local or any generalized reaction during the initial stages of immunotherapy, or during maintenance therapy; and/or (4) insect sting prior to a scheduled injection. Do not administer venom injections during a period of symptoms following an insect sting or on the day the patient received an insect sting, since this could result in an allergen load that exceeds the patient's tolerance.

THE CONCENTRATE MUST NOT BE INJECTED AT ANY TIME UNLESS TOLERANCE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. DILUTE CONCENTRATED EXTRACTS WITH STERILE ALBUMIN SALINE WITH PHENOL (0.4%) FOR SKIN TESTING AND IMMUNOTHERAPY.

INJECTIONS MUST NEVER BE GIVEN INTRAVENOUSLY. Subcutaneous injection is recommended. Intracutaneous or intramuscular injections may produce large local reactions or be excessively painful. AFTER INSERTING NEEDLE SUBCUTANEOUSLY, BUT BEFORE INJECTING, ALWAYS WITHDRAW THE PLUNGER SLIGHTLY, IF BLOOD APPEARS IN THE SYRINGE, CHANGE NEEDLE AND GIVE THE INJECTION IN ANOTHER SITE.

Patients with hypersensitivity to insect venom who undergo desensitization treatment while under concomitant therapy with ACE (angiotensin-converting enzyme) inhibitors, may have an increased risk of life-threatening anaphylactic reactions.<sup>9</sup> Patients without insect venom hypersensitivity, who take ACE inhibitors, and are stung by insects, such as bees or wasp, can show such reactions as well.<sup>10</sup>

Two patients undergoing desensitization treatment with Hymenoptera Venom while receiving ACE inhibitors sustained life-threatening anaphylactoid reactions. In the same patients, these reactions were avoided when ACE inhibitors were temporarily withheld, but they reappeared upon inadvertent rechallenge.<sup>11</sup>

IF CHANGING TO A DIFFERENT LOT OR A FRESHLY RECONSTITUTED VIAL OF VENOM EXTRACT: All extracts lose potency over time, and a fresh extract could have an effective potency that is substantially greater than that of the old extract. The first dose from the new vial should not exceed 50% of the previous dose.

IF THE VENOM EXTRACT PREVIOUSLY USED WAS FROM ANOTHER MANUFACTURER: Since manufacturing processes and sources of raw materials differ among manufacturers, the interchangeability of extracts from different manufacturers cannot be ensured. The starting dose of the venom extract therefore should be greatly decreased even though the extract is the same formula and dilution. In general, a dose reduction to 50% of the previous product dose should be adequate, but each situation must be evaluated separately considering the patient's history of sensitivity, tolerance of previous injections, and other factors. If the patient tolerates a 50% decrease, the next dose could be raised to the previous dose amount. If the decrease is greater than 50%, the next dose would need to be determined by the allergist, depending on the situation. Dose intervals should not exceed one week when rebuilding dose. See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.

IF A PROLONGED PERIOD OF TIME HAS ELAPSED SINCE THE LAST INJECTION: Patients may lose tolerance for allergen injections during prolonged periods between doses. The duration of tolerance is an individual characteristic and varies from patient to patient. In general, the longer the lapse in the injection schedule, the greater dose reduction required. If the interval since last dose is over four weeks, perform skin tests to determine starting dose. See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.

IF THE PREVIOUS EXTRACT WAS OUTDATED: The dating period for allergenic extracts indicates the time that they can be expected to remain potent under refrigerated storage conditions (2° - 8°C). During the storage of extracts, even under ideal conditions, some loss of potency occurs. For this reason, extracts should not be used beyond their expiration date. If a patient has been receiving injections of an outdated extract, s/he may experience excessive local or systemic reactions when changed to a new, and possibly more potent extract. In general, the longer the material has been outdated, the greater the dose reduction necessary when starting the fresh extract.

Proper selection of the dose and careful injection should prevent most systemic reactions. It must be remembered, however, that allergenic extracts are highly potent in sensitive individuals and that systemic reactions of varying degrees of severity may occur, ranging from mild to life-threatening anaphylaxis, or even death, as described under INDICATIONS AND USAGE and ADVERSE REACTIONS. Patients should be informed of this, and the warnings and precautions should be discussed prior to immunotherapy. See PRECAUTIONS below. Systemic reactions should be treated as indicated in ADVERSE REACTIONS.

## PRECAUTIONS

### (1) General

The presence of asthmatic signs and symptoms appear to be an indicator for severe reactions following allergy injections. An assessment of airway obstruction either by measurement of peak flow or an alternate procedure may provide a useful indicator as to the advisability of administering an allergy injection.<sup>1, 12-14</sup>

Concentrated extracts must not be injected unless tolerance has been established.

Diluting fluid should be forcibly drawn into the sealed vial when the syringe needle penetrates the seal during reconstitution. Failure of this to occur for a particular vial indicates possible loss of vacuum. Vials without vacuum should be returned to the manufacturer.

Record date of reconstitution and expiration date of reconstituted product in the space provided on the product label. Date of expiration after reconstitution must not exceed the Final Expiration Date indicated on the container label. (See table below for expiration dates, including dilutions).

Store freeze-dried and reconstituted venom stock solutions and dilutions constantly at 2° - 8°C.

Venom Concentration	Diluent	Recommended Expiration Date*
100 µg/mL	Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%)	12 months
10 µg/mL	Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%)	1 month
1 µg/mL	Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%)	1 month
0.1 µg/mL	Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%)	14 days
Less than 0.1 µg/mL	Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%)	Prepare fresh daily

\*But not to exceed Final Expiration Date indicated on the container label.

Sterile solutions, vials, syringes, etc., should be used and aseptic precautions observed in making dilutions.

To avoid cross-contamination, do not use the same needle to withdraw materials from vials of more than one extract, or extract followed by diluent.

A sterile tuberculin syringe, with a needle at least 5/8" long and graduated in 0.01 mL units, should be used to measure carefully each dose from the appropriate dilution. Aseptic techniques should always be employed when injections are being administered.

A separate sterile syringe should be used for each patient to prevent transmission of hepatitis and other infectious agents from one person to another.

Patient reactions to previous injections should be reviewed before each new injection so that dose can be adjusted accordingly. See ADVERSE REACTIONS and WARNINGS.

Rarely, a patient is encountered who develops systemic reactions to minute doses of allergen and does not demonstrate increasing tolerance to injections after several months of treatment. It is suggested that if systemic reactions or excessive local responses occur persistently at very small doses, efforts at immunotherapy should be stopped.

PATIENTS SHOULD BE OBSERVED IN THE OFFICE FOR AT LEAST 30 MINUTES AFTER SKIN TESTING AND AFTER EACH TREATMENT INJECTION. Most severe reactions will occur within this time period, and rapid treatment measures should be instituted. See ADVERSE REACTIONS for such treatment measures.

### (2) Information for Patients

Patients should be instructed in the recognition of adverse reactions to immunotherapy, and in particular, to the symptoms of shock. (See WARNINGS box at the beginning of this instruction Sheet). Patients should be made to understand the importance of a 30 minute observation period following skin testing or therapeutic injections, and be cautioned to return to the office promptly if symptoms occur after leaving. Patients should be instructed in the use of, and have available, an Emergency Anaphylaxis Kit for self-administration of epinephrine.

Patients must be instructed to report any insect stings that have occurred, since a venom injection should not be given on the same day as the sting, nor during a time when the patient is still experiencing symptoms from the sting.

### (3) Drug Interactions

Patients with cardiovascular diseases and/or pulmonary diseases such as symptomatic, unstable, steroid-dependent asthma, and/or those who are receiving cardiovascular drugs such as beta blockers, may be at higher risk for severe adverse reactions. These patients may also be more refractory to the normal allergy treatment regimen. Patients should be treated only if the benefit of treatment outweighs the risks.\*

Patients on beta blockers may be more reactive to allergens given for testing or treatment and may be unresponsive to the usual doses of epinephrine used to treat allergic reactions.\* See WARNINGS section regarding concurrent treatment with ACE inhibitors.

Certain medications may lessen the skin test wheal and erythema responses elicited by allergens and histamine for varying time periods. Conventional antihistamines should be discontinued at least 5 days before skin testing. Long acting antihistamines should be discontinued for at least 3 weeks prior to skin testing.\* Topical steroids should be discontinued at the skin test site for at least 2-3 weeks before skin testing.<sup>11,13</sup>

Tricyclic antidepressants such as doxepin, should be withheld for at least 7 days before skin testing.<sup>13</sup> Topical local anesthetics may suppress the flare responses and should be avoided on skin test sites.<sup>28</sup>

When using other drugs in patients receiving allergenic extracts, always consult the product labeling of the other drugs to determine any possible interaction with use of allergenic extracts, and specifically with stinging insect (Hymenoptera) venom extracts.

### (4) Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility

Long-term studies in animals have not been conducted with allergenic extracts to determine their potential for carcinogenicity, mutagenicity or impairment of fertility.

### (5) Pregnancy<sup>12, 21</sup>

Animal reproduction studies have not been conducted with Hymenoptera Venom Products. It is also not known whether Hymenoptera Venom Products can cause fetal harm when administered to a pregnant woman or can affect reproduction capacity. Hymenoptera Venom Products should be given to a pregnant woman only if clearly needed.

On the basis of histamine's known ability to contract uterine muscle, theoretically, a systemic reaction, whether occurring from insect sting or from venom skin testing or treatment dose, should be avoided.\* Therefore, the physician must carefully consider the benefit-to-risk ratio, to both patient and fetus, of continuing venom immunotherapy during pregnancy, or performing venom skin testing, and especially of initiating a venom immunotherapy program where there is a possibility that the patient may not be able to reach the recommended maintenance dose without significant risk of a systemic reaction.

### (6) Nursing Mothers

There are no current studies on secretion of the allergenic extract components in human milk or effect on the nursing infant. Because many drugs are excreted in human milk, caution should be exercised when allergenic extracts are administered to a nursing woman.

### (7) Pediatric Use

Since dosage for the pediatric population is the same as for adults, the larger volumes of solution may produce excessive discomfort. Therefore, in order to achieve the total dose required, the volume of the dose may need to be divided into more than one injection per visit. A study done in children ages 4 to 17 showed no special problems with venom immunotherapy in this population.<sup>22</sup>

### (8) Geriatric Use

The reactions from immunotherapy can be expected to be the same in elderly patients as in younger ones. Elderly patients may be more likely to be on medication that could block the effect of epinephrine which could be used to treat serious reactions, or they could be more sensitive to the cardiovascular side effect of epinephrine because of pre-existing cardiovascular disease.<sup>23</sup>

## ADVERSE REACTIONS

Physicians administering Hymenoptera Venom testing or treatment materials should be experienced in the treatment of severe systemic reactions (see WARNINGS box at the beginning of this instruction Sheet).

### (1) Local Reactions

Some erythema, swelling or pruritis at the site of injection are common, the extent varying with the patient. Excessively large, painful or persistent local reactions can occur from skin tests or immunotherapy. Frequent application of cold, wet dressings to the area and/or the use of oral antihistamines will ameliorate the discomfort. Reactions usually subside in 24-36 hours. Large local reactions occurred in approximately 60% of the patients given immunotherapy in a clinical study. None of the local reactions required specific treatment; however, subsequent injections in many instances were held to the previous dose or a reduced dose. Some patients had repeated large local reactions that slowed the increase in the immunotherapy dose.\*

See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION Sections.

A mild burning immediately after the injection is to be expected. This usually leaves in 10 to 20 seconds. See also WARNINGS and PRECAUTIONS regarding proper method and route of injection.

### (2) Systemic Reactions

Most severe systemic reactions usually will begin within a 30-minute time period, but systemic reactions may occur at any time after skin tests or immunotherapy. Symptoms may range from mild to life-threatening from anaphylaxis as described under INDICATIONS AND USAGE.

With careful attention to dosage and administration, severe systemic reactions occur infrequently, but it cannot be overemphasized that in sensitive individuals, any injection could result in anaphylactic shock. Therefore, it is imperative that physicians administering allergenic extracts understand and be prepared for the treatment of severe reactions. See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY for clinical incidence of systemic reactions and course of action following these reactions.

If a systemic or anaphylactic reaction does occur, inject 1:1000 epinephrine-hydrochloride intramuscularly or subcutaneously.

### EPINEPHRINE DOSAGE

ADULT: 0.3 to 0.5 mL should be injected. Repeat in 5 to 10 minutes if necessary.

PEDIATRIC: The usual initial dose is 0.01 mg (mL) per kg body weight or 0.3 mg (mL) per square meter of body surface area. Suggested dosage for infants to 2 years of age is 0.05 mL to 0.1 mL; for children 2 to 6 years, 0.15 mL; and children 6 to 12 years, 0.2 mL. Single pediatric doses should not exceed 0.3 mg (mL). Doses may be repeated as frequently as every 20 minutes, depending on the severity of the condition and the response of the patient.

After administration of epinephrine, profound shock or vasomotor collapse should be treated with intravenous fluids, and possibly vasoactive drugs. Airway patency should be ensured. Oxygen should be given by mask. Intravenous antihistamines, inhaled bronchodilators, theophylline and/or corticosteroids may be used if necessary after adequate epinephrine and circulatory support have been given.

Emergency resuscitation measures and personnel trained in their use must be available immediately in the event of a serious systemic or anaphylactic reaction not responsive to the above measures [Ref. J. Allergy and Clinical Immunology, 77(2): p.271-273, 1986].

Rarely are all of the above measures necessary; epinephrine usually produces a prompt response. However, the physician should be prepared in advance for all contingencies. Promptness in beginning emergency treatment measures is of utmost importance.

For recommendations regarding how to proceed with venom extract dose following systemic reactions, see WARNINGS, PRECAUTIONS and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION.

### (3) Adverse Event Reporting

To report SUSPECTED ADVERSE REACTIONS, contact Jubilant HollisterStier LLC at 1-800-495-7437, Or Adverse.Reactions@jubli.com; or the FDA at 1-800-FDA-1088 or www.fda.gov/medwatch-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program.

## OVERDOSAGE

## DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

### (1) General

Parenteral drug products should be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration, whenever solution and container permit.

Reconstitute and dilute the freeze-dried venom as directed below. Sterile Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%) must be used to reconstitute and dilute the venoms for skin testing and treatment.

Reconstitute the freeze-dried venoms by adding 13.0 mL Sterile Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%) to the vial using a sterile syringe. Swirl or rock the container to dissolve the venom completely. DO NOT SHAKE, since shaking can cause foaming.

Dilutions (see table below) must be made in Sterile Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%). They must be made accurately and aseptically, using sterile solutions, vials, syringes, etc., and thoroughly mixed by rocking or swirling. DO NOT SHAKE. Store freeze-dried and reconstituted venom product, and venom dilutions constantly at 2° - 8°C.

Extract Volume	Extract Concentration	Diluent Volume	Dilution Concentration
1 part of	100 µg/mL	+ 9 parts =	10 µg/mL
1 part of	10 µg/mL	+ 9 parts =	1 µg/mL
1 part of	1 µg/mL	+ 9 parts =	0.1 µg/mL
1 part of	0.1 µg/mL	+ 9 parts =	0.01 µg/mL
1 part of	0.01 µg/mL	+ 9 parts =	0.001 µg/mL
1 part of	0.001 µg/mL	+ 9 parts =	0.0001 µg/mL

As an example of the preceding dilution table:

Extract Volume	Extract Concentration	Diluent Volume	Dilution Concentration
0.2 mL of	100 µg/mL	+ 1.8 mL =	10 µg/mL
0.2 mL of	10 µg/mL	+ 1.8 mL =	1 µg/mL
0.2 mL of	1 µg/mL	+ 1.8 mL =	0.1 µg/mL
0.2 mL of	0.1 µg/mL	+ 1.8 mL =	0.01 µg/mL
0.2 mL of	0.01 µg/mL	+ 1.8 mL =	0.001 µg/mL
0.2 mL of	0.001 µg/mL	+ 1.8 mL =	0.0001 µg/mL

NOTE: Mixed Vespid venom protein concentrations will be three times that shown above.

### (2) Diagnosis

Since the level of insect venom specific IgE may fall to low levels briefly after a reaction to a sting, patients should not be tested 2 to 4 weeks after any sting.

Skin testing should be carried out with all five individual venoms, since many patients have multiple sensitivities.\* Mixed Vespid venom protein should be used only for therapy – not for diagnosis.

Prick testing should be done before intradermal testing to determine appropriate concentration for intradermal testing. See Intradermal Tests below. Skin testing (prick and intradermal) provides information to assist in identifying those patients who are to be classified as extremely sensitive and who may not tolerate the Suggested Dose Schedule. See DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Immunotherapy CAUTION.

In both the prick and intradermal tests, a negative control test with diluent alone must be performed. A histamine positive control test is also recommended.

The flexor surface of the forearm is the usual location for skin testing. It is important that a separate sterile syringe and needle be used for each extract and each patient.

Prick Tests: Prick tests are accomplished by applying one drop of the 1 µg/mL venom protein solution to the forearm, and by pricking the skin through the surface of the drop with a sterile 27 gauge needle. The prick is superficial and should not draw blood.

Skin response should be assessed after approximately 15-20 minutes.

For prick tests, a positive reaction (reaction greater than diluent control) at the 1 µg/mL concentration indicates a high level of sensitivity to the test venom.

**Intradermal Tests:** Patients showing a positive reaction to the prick test at the 1 µg/mL concentration should begin intradermal tests at concentrations of not more than 0.001 to 0.001 µg/mL. Patients with negative prick tests may begin intradermal tests at a concentration of 0.01 µg/mL.

A 1 mL tuberculin syringe with a short 27-gauge needle should be used to deliver a volume of 0.05 mL for intradermal testing. Introduce the needle into the superficial skin layers, bevel down, until the bevel is completely buried, then slowly inject a 0.05 mL aliquot of the venom dilution, making a small bleb.

Start intradermal tests with the most dilute solution. If after 20 minutes no skin reaction is obtained, continue the intradermal testing using ten-fold increments in the concentration until a reaction of 5-10 mm wheal and 11-20 mm erythema is obtained, or until a concentration of 1 µg/mL has been tested, whichever occurs first.

A patient should be considered sensitive to the test venom when a skin response of 5-10 mm wheal and 11-20 mm erythema (or greater) occurs at a concentration of 1 µg/mL or less,\* providing that this reaction is greater than that of the diluent control.

### (3) Immunotherapy:

For proper method and route of injection, see WARNINGS, PRECAUTIONS and ADVERSE REACTIONS. The most common site of injection is the lateral aspect of the upper arm. Patients who have multiple venom sensitivities should be given each specific venom injection in a separate site. (Except, if the patient has sensitivities to Yellow Jacket, Yellow Hornet, and White-Faced Hornet venoms concurrently, s/he can be injected with Mixed Vespid venom protein, an equal mixture of these three vespid venoms). Note which venom preparation is injected at a specific site, so that dosage of that venom preparation can be adjusted if an excessive local reaction occurs. In patients receiving more than one venom, there is theoretically a greater risk of systemic reactions.

**CAUTION:** Sensitivity to venom differs from patient to patient. Thus, it is not possible to provide a dosage schedule suitable for all patients. The Suggested Dose Schedule shown below was used in clinical trials\* and should be suitable for a majority of patients.

IN EXTREMELY SENSITIVE PATIENTS, however, an individualized dose schedule must be employed which will be dictated by the patient's sensitivity. This individualized schedule will probably include weaker dilutions and smaller increments between doses in progressing to the maintenance level (100 µg per venom).

In identifying those patients to be classified as extremely sensitive, individuals reacting with significant skin test (wheal greater than 5 mm and erythema greater than 20 mm) at intradermal skin test concentrations of 0.01 µg/mL or less, or those patients experiencing a systemic reaction to any venom skin test concentration, should be considered highly sensitive.

### Suggested Dose Schedule for a Single Venom:

Dose No.	*Volume of 1 µg/mL	Dose No.	Volume of 10 µg/mL	Dose No.	Volume of 100 µg/mL
1	0.05 mL	5	0.05 mL	9	0.05 mL
2	0.10 mL	6	0.10 mL	10	0.10 mL
3	0.20 mL	7	0.20 mL	11	0.20 mL
4	0.40 mL	8	0.40 mL	12	0.40 mL
Mixed Vespid venom will contain three times the venom protein per mL shown in this table.				13	0.60 mL
				14	0.80 mL
*See preceding CAUTION Section.				15	1.00 mL

In proceeding with the Suggested Dose Schedule, or modified schedules (for highly sensitive patients) it is recommended that injections be given at least once per week, as in the clinical studies. (See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY and INDICATIONS AND USAGE). When building the dose, it is important that dose intervals not exceed one week since longer intervals may decrease the patient's tolerance of the extract.

Based on the clinical studies,\* it is suggested that if a systemic, extremely large local (10 cm or more in duration, or other severe local symptoms), or persistent and severe delayed local reaction occurs during the dose building phase, the dose at the next visit be held constant (or reduced, depending on judgment of the severity of the reaction) as was done at Study Center "A," which reported the least number of systemic reactions during the course of therapy.

It must be considered important to achieve the 100 µg per venom maintenance dose (the maintenance dose for Mixed Vespid venom protein is 300 µg), since there are no data on effectiveness of maintenance levels below 100 µg per venom. Following the achievement of maintenance level (100 µg per venom), it is recommended that a second maintenance injection be given at a 1-week interval, and a third maintenance injection at a 2-week interval. Administer the next injection at a 3-week interval, and then monthly for ongoing maintenance.

See CLINICAL PHARMACOLOGY and INDICATIONS AND USAGE for further information regarding clinical studies on which the above recommendations are based.

The optimum duration for immunotherapy is not known, so current recommendations are that maintenance injections be continued indefinitely, year around, particularly in patients experiencing life-threatening anaphylaxis after insect stings.

### Pediatric Use

The dose for the pediatric population is the same as for adults. (See PRECAUTIONS).

### Geriatric Use

The dose for elderly patients is the same as for adult patients under 65.<sup>21</sup> (See PRECAUTIONS).

### HOW SUPPLIED

Jubilant HollisterStier sterile freeze-dried Hymenoptera Venom Products are supplied in vacuum-sealed 20 mL vials containing 1300 micrograms (1300 µg) for the single venoms, and 3900 micrograms (3900 µg) per 20 mL vial for the Mixed Vespid venom protein product. Reconstituting fluid [Sterile Albumin Saline with Phenol (0.4%)] is available separately.

**Storage: Store freeze-dried and reconstituted venom product, and venom dilutions, at 2° - 8°C, and keep at this temperature range during office use.**

### LIMITED WARRANTY

A number of factors beyond our control could reduce the efficacy of this product or even result in an effect following its use. These include storage and handling of the product after it leaves our hands, diagnosis, dosage, method of administration and biological differences in individual patients. Because of these factors, it is important that this product be stored properly and that the directions be followed carefully during use.

No warranty, express or implied, including any warranty of merchantability or fitness, is made. Representatives of the Company are not authorized to vary the terms or the contents of any printed labeling, including the package insert, for this product except by printed notice from the Company's headquarters. The prescriber and user of this product must accept the terms hereof.

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**SUGGESTED DOSAGE CHART  
FOR HYMENOPTERA VENOM PRODUCTS**

*Schedule for Immunotherapy*

Dr.	Patient		Venom Product		Lot No.
Dose No.	*Volume of 1 µg/mL	Dose No.	Volume of 10 µg/mL	Dose No.	Volume of 100 µg/mL
1.....	0.05 mL	5.....	0.05 mL	9.....	0.05 mL
2.....	0.10 mL	6.....	0.10 mL	10.....	0.10 mL
3.....	0.20 mL	7.....	0.20 mL	11.....	0.20 mL
4.....	0.40 mL	8.....	0.40 mL	12.....	0.40 mL
Mixed Vespids will contain three times the venom protein per mL shown in this table.				13.....	0.60 mL
*See CAUTION Section in DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION, Immunotherapy.				14.....	0.80 mL
				15.....	1.00 mL

**CAUTION**  
See INDICATIONS AND USAGE, TREATMENT, and DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION in this Instruction Sheet.

DOSE NO.	DILUTION	mL	DATE	REMARKS
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				

PLEASE NOTE: Minor leakage of vial contents may occur after stopper is punctured several times if excessive amounts of air are injected into the vial. To prevent leakage, avoid buildup of air pressure, or store vial in upright position.

To reorder Venom Product, cut on dotted line and send to Spokane address.

Dr. Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 (Dr. Signature)

5 Dose  
 12 Dose  
 Venomix®

Honey Bee \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yellow Jacket \_\_\_\_\_  
 Yellow Hornet \_\_\_\_\_  
 White Faced Hornet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Wasp \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mixed Vespids \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diluent \_\_\_\_\_





**Hollister Stier**  
Allergy

**Jubilant HollisterStier LLC**  
 P.O. Box 3145  
 Spokane, WA 99220 USA  
 www.hsallergy.com  
**U.S. License No. 1272**





SI CAMBIA A UN LOTE DIFERENTE O A UN VIAL DE EXTRACTO DE VENENO RECIENTEMENTE RECONSTITUIDO: Todos los extractos pierden potencia con el tiempo, y un extracto fresco podría tener una potencia efectiva sustancialmente mayor que la del extracto anterior. La primera dosis del nuevo vial no debe exceder el 50 % de la dosis anterior.

SI EL EXTRACTO DE VENENO QUE SE UTILIZÓ PREVIAMENTE ERA DE OTRO FABRICANTE: Dado que los procesos de fabricación y las fuentes de materias primas difieren entre los fabricantes, no se puede asegurar la intercambiabilidad de extractos de diferentes fabricantes, por lo tanto, la dosis inicial del extracto de veneno debe reducirse considerablemente aunque tenga la misma fórmula y dilución. En general, una reducción al 50 % de la dosis del producto anterior debería ser adecuada, pero cada situación debe evaluarse por separado teniendo en cuenta el historial de sensibilidad del paciente, la tolerancia a las inyecciones anteriores y otros factores. Si el paciente tolera una disminución del 50 %, la siguiente dosis podría elevarse a la cantidad previa. Si la disminución es superior al 50 %, el alergólogo deberá determinar la siguiente dosis, según la situación. Los intervalos de dosis no deben exceder una semana al reconstruir la dosis. Véase DOSIS Y ADMINISTRACIÓN.

SI HA PASADO UN PERÍODO PROLONGADO DESDE LA ÚLTIMA INYECCIÓN: Los pacientes pueden perder tolerancia a las inyecciones de alérgenos durante períodos prolongados entre las dosis. La duración de la tolerancia es una característica individual y varía de paciente a paciente. En general, cuanto más largo sea el lapso en el programa de inyecciones, se requiere una mayor reducción de la dosis. Si el intervalo desde la última dosis es de más de cuatro semanas, realice pruebas cutáneas para determinar la dosis inicial. Véase DOSIFICACIÓN Y ADMINISTRACIÓN.

SI EL EXTRACTO ANTERIOR ESTABA VENCIDO: El período de validez para los extractos alérgenos indica el tiempo que se espera que continúen teniendo potencia en condiciones de almacenamiento refrigerado (2° - 8°C). Durante el almacenamiento de extractos, incluso en condiciones ideales, se produce una pérdida de potencia. Por esta razón, los extractos no deben usarse transcurrida la fecha de vencimiento. Si un paciente ha estado recibiendo inyecciones de un extracto caducado, puede experimentar reacciones locales o sistémicas excesivas al cambiar a un extracto nuevo y posiblemente más potente. En general, cuanto más tiempo haya estado vencido el material, mayor será la reducción de dosis necesaria al comenzar el extracto nuevo.

La selección adecuada de la dosis y la debida aplicación deberían prevenir la mayoría de las reacciones sistémicas. Sin embargo, debe recordarse que los extractos alérgenos son muy potentes en individuos sensibles y que pueden producirse reacciones sistémicas de diversos grados de gravedad, que van desde anafilaxia leve a potencialmente mortal, o incluso el deceso como se describe en INDICACIONES Y USO Y REACCIONES ADVERSAS. Los pacientes deben ser informados y las advertencias y precauciones deben discutirse antes de la inmunoterapia. Véase PRECAUCIONES a continuación. Las reacciones sistémicas deben tratarse como se indica en REACCIONES ADVERSAS.

## PRECAUCIONES

### (1) Generales

La presencia de signos y síntomas asmáticos parece ser un indicador de reacciones graves posterior a las inyecciones de alergia. Una evaluación de la obstrucción de las vías respiratorias, ya sea mediante la medición del flujo máximo o un procedimiento alternativo, puede proporcionar un indicador útil para la conveniencia de administrar estas inyecciones.<sup>1,18-19</sup>

Los extractos concentrados no deben inyectarse a menos que se haya establecido la tolerancia.

Se debe forzar la introducción del diluyente en el vial sellado cuando la aguja de la jeringa penetra el sello durante la reconstitución. Si esto no ocurre en un vial en particular, indica una posible pérdida de vacío. Los viales sin vacío deben devolverse al fabricante.

Registre la fecha de reconstitución y la fecha de vencimiento del producto reconstituido en el espacio provisto en la etiqueta del producto. La fecha de vencimiento después de la reconstitución no debe exceder la fecha de vencimiento final indicada en la etiqueta del envase. (Consulte la tabla a continuación para conocer las fechas de vencimiento, incluyendo las diluciones).

Mantenga las soluciones de reserva y las diluciones constantemente a 2° - 8°C.

Concentración del veneno	Diluyente	Fecha de vencimiento recomendada*
100 µg/mL	Solución salina de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %)	6 meses
10 µg/mL	Solución salina de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %)	1 mes
1 µg/mL	Solución salina de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %)	1 mes
0,1 µg/mL	Solución salina de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %)	14 días
Menos de 0,1 µg/mL	Solución salina de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %)	Preparar una mezcla nueva cada día

\*No debe superar la fecha de vencimiento indicada en la etiqueta del envase.

Al hacer las diluciones, deben usarse soluciones, viales, jeringas, etc., estériles y deben observarse precauciones asépticas.

Para evitar la contaminación cruzada, no use la misma aguja para extraer materiales de viales de más de un extracto, ni en un extracto seguido de diluyente.

Se debe usar una jeringa de tuberculina estéril, con una aguja de al menos 5/8" de largo y graduada en unidades de 0,01 mL, para medir cuidadosamente cada dosis de la dilución apropiada. Siempre se deben emplear técnicas asépticas cuando se administran inyecciones.

Se debe utilizar una jeringa estéril por cada paciente para prevenir la transmisión de hepatitis y otros agentes infecciosos de una persona a otra.

Las reacciones de los pacientes a las inyecciones anteriores deben revisarse antes de cada nueva inyección para ajustar la dosis en consecuencia. Véase REACCIONES ADVERSAS Y ADVERTENCIAS.

En raras ocasiones, se encuentra un paciente que desarrolla reacciones sistémicas a dosis mínimas de alérgenos y no demuestra un aumento en la tolerancia a las inyecciones después de varios meses de tratamiento. Se sugiere que si las reacciones sistémicas o las respuestas locales excesivas ocurren de manera persistente a dosis muy bajas, se detenga la inmunoterapia.

LOS PACIENTES DEBEN OBSERVARSE EN EL CONSULTORIO POR LO MENOS 30 MINUTOS DESPUÉS DE LA PRUEBA CUTÁNEA Y DESPUÉS DE CADA INYECCIÓN DE TRATAMIENTO. Las reacciones más severas ocurrirán dentro de este período, y se deben indicar medidas de tratamiento rápido. Véase REACCIONES ADVERSAS para tales medidas de tratamiento.

### (2) Información para los pacientes

Se debe instruir a los pacientes para que reconozcan las reacciones adversas a la inmunoterapia y, en particular, a los síntomas de shock. (Consulte el recuadro de ADVERTENCIAS al comienzo de esta hoja de instrucciones). Los pacientes deben comprender la importancia de un período de observación de 30 minutos después de las pruebas cutáneas o de las inyecciones terapéuticas, y se les debe advertir que regresen al consultorio de inmediato si presentan síntomas después de irse. Se debe indicar a los pacientes que lleven un kit de anafilaxia de emergencia para la autoadministración de epinefrina.

Se debe indicar a los pacientes que notifiquen cualquier picadura de insecto que haya ocurrido, ya que no se debe administrar una inyección de veneno el mismo día de la picadura, ni durante el tiempo en que el paciente experimente síntomas de la picadura.

### (3) Interacciones farmacológicas

Los pacientes con enfermedades cardiovasculares o pulmonares, como asma sintomática, inestable, dependientes de esteroides, y/o aquellos que toman medicamentos cardiovasculares como betabloqueadores, pueden tener un mayor riesgo de reacciones adversas graves. Estos pacientes también pueden ser más resistentes al régimen normal de tratamiento de alergias. Los pacientes deben ser tratados solo si el beneficio del tratamiento supera los riesgos.<sup>7</sup>

Los pacientes que toman betabloqueadores pueden ser más reactivos a los alérgenos administrados para las pruebas o para el tratamiento y pueden no responder a las dosis habituales de epinefrina utilizadas para tratar las reacciones alérgicas.<sup>7</sup>

Consulte la sección de ADVERTENCIAS sobre el tratamiento concomitante con inhibidores de la ECA.

Ciertos medicamentos pueden disminuir la aparición de ronchas y eritemas como respuesta a las pruebas cutáneas provocada por alérgenos e histamina durante períodos variables. Los antihistamínicos convencionales deben suspenderse al menos 5 días antes de la prueba cutánea. Los antihistamínicos de acción prolongada deben suspenderse durante al menos 3 semanas antes de la prueba cutánea.<sup>17</sup> Los esteroides tópicos deben suspenderse en el sitio de la prueba cutánea o una anterioridad de al menos 2-3 semanas.<sup>18,19</sup>

Los antidepresivos tricíclicos, como la doxepina, deben suspenderse durante al menos 7 días antes de la prueba cutánea.<sup>20</sup> Los anestésicos locales tópicos pueden suprimir las respuestas de brotes y deben evitarse en los sitios de la prueba cutánea.<sup>20</sup>

Cuando utilice otros medicamentos en pacientes que reciben extractos alérgenos, siempre consulte la etiqueta del producto para determinar cualquier posible interacción con el uso de extractos alérgenos, y específicamente con extractos de veneno (himenópteros) de insectos que pican.

### (4) Carcinogénesis, mutagénesis, deterioro de la fertilidad

No se han realizado estudios a largo plazo en animales con extractos alérgenos para determinar su potencial de carcinogenicidad, mutagenicidad o deterioro de la fertilidad.

### (5) Embarazo<sup>12, 21</sup>

No se han realizado estudios de reproducción en animales con productos con veneno de himenópteros. También se desconoce si los productos con veneno de himenópteros pueden provocar daño fetal cuando se los administra a una mujer embarazada o si pueden afectar la capacidad reproductiva. Los productos con veneno de himenópteros se deben administrar a mujeres embarazadas únicamente si es claramente necesario.

En función de la capacidad conocida de la histamina para contraer el músculo uterino, en teoría, debe evitarse una reacción sistémica, ya sea que se produzca por la prueba cutánea o por la prueba cutánea de veneno o el tratamiento. Por lo tanto, el médico debe considerar cuidadosamente la relación riesgo-beneficio, tanto para la madre como para el feto, de continuar con la inmunoterapia con veneno durante el embarazo o realizar pruebas cutáneas con veneno, y especialmente de iniciar un programa de inmunoterapia con veneno cuando existe la posibilidad de que la paciente no alcance la dosis de mantenimiento recomendada sin un riesgo significativo de una reacción sistémica.

### (6) Madres en periodo de lactancia

No hay estudios actuales sobre la secreción de los componentes del extracto alérgico en la leche humana o el efecto en el lactante. Debido a que muchos medicamentos se excretan en la leche humana, se debe tener precaución cuando se administran extractos alérgicos a una mujer en período de lactancia.

### (7) Uso pediátrico

Dado que la dosis para la población pediátrica es la misma que para los adultos, volúmenes mayores de solución pueden producir molestias excesivas. Por lo tanto, para lograr la dosis total requerida, posiblemente se deba dividir el volumen de la dosis en más de una inyección por visita. Un estudio realizado en niños de 4 a 17 años no mostró problemas especiales con la inmunoterapia con veneno en esta población.<sup>22</sup>

### (8) Uso geriátrico

Se puede esperar que las reacciones de la inmunoterapia sean las mismas en pacientes de edad avanzada que en pacientes más jóvenes. Los pacientes de edad avanzada pueden ser más propensos a tomar medicamentos que podrían bloquear el efecto de la epinefrina que podría usarse para tratar reacciones graves, o podrían ser más sensibles al efecto secundario cardiovascular de la epinefrina debido a una enfermedad cardiovascular preexistente.<sup>23</sup>

## REACCIONES ADVERSAS

### REACCIONES ADVERSAS

Los médicos que administran materiales de prueba o tratamiento con veneno de himenópteros deben tener experiencia en el tratamiento de reacciones sistémicas graves (consulte el recuadro de ADVERTENCIAS al comienzo de esta hoja de instrucciones).

### (1) Reacciones locales

Eritema, hinchazón o prurito en el sitio de inyección son comunes, la extensión varía de paciente a paciente. Las reacciones locales excesivamente grandes, dolorosas o persistentes pueden ocurrir por pruebas cutáneas o por inmunoterapia. La aplicación frecuente de apósitos fríos y húmedos en el área y/o el uso de antihistamínicos orales mejorarán las molestias. Las reacciones generalmente disminuyen en 24-36 horas. Reacciones locales grandes ocurrirán en aproximadamente 60 % de los pacientes que recibieron inmunoterapia en un estudio clínico. Ninguna de las reacciones locales requirió tratamiento específico; sin embargo, las inyecciones posteriores en muchos casos se mantuvieron en la dosis previa o en una dosis reducida. Algunos pacientes tuvieron reacciones locales de magnitud, de manera repetida; lo que desaceleró el aumento de la dosis de inmunoterapia.<sup>4</sup>

Véanse las secciones FARMACOLOGÍA CLÍNICA Y DOSIFICACIÓN Y ADMINISTRACIÓN.

Se espera un ardor leve inmediatamente después de la inyección. Esto generalmente desaparece en 10 a 20 segundos. Consulte también ADVERTENCIAS Y PRECAUCIONES con respecto al método y la vía de inyección adecuados.

### (2) Reacciones sistémicas

Las reacciones sistémicas más graves, generalmente comenzarán en un período de 30 minutos, pero las reacciones sistémicas pueden ocurrir en cualquier momento después de las pruebas cutáneas o de la inmunoterapia. Los síntomas pueden variar de leves a potencialmente mortales por anafilaxia como se describe en INDICACIONES Y USO.

Si se presta atención a la dosificación y la administración, las reacciones sistémicas graves ocurren con poca frecuencia, pero nunca se instaurará lo suficiente en que, en individuos sensibles, cualquier inyección podría provocar un shock anafiláctico. Por lo tanto, es imperativo que los médicos que administran extractos alérgenos comprendan y estén preparados para el tratamiento de reacciones graves.

Véase FARMACOLOGÍA CLÍNICA para conocer la incidencia clínica de reacciones sistémicas y el curso de acción posterior.

En caso de que se produzca una reacción sistémica o anafiláctica, aplique un torniquete sobre el sitio de inyección e inyecte 1:1000 de clorhidrato de epinefrina vía intramuscular o subcutánea.

DOSIFICACIÓN DE EPINEFRINA

ADULTO: Se debe inyectar de 0,3 a 0,5 mL. Repita en 5 a 10 minutos si es necesario.  
PEDIÁTRICO: La dosis inicial habitual es de 0,01 mg (mL) por kg de peso corporal o 0,3 mg (mL) por metro cuadrado de superficie corporal. La dosis sugerida para bebés de hasta 2 años es de 0,05 mL a 0,1 mL; para niños de 2 a 6 años, 0,15 mL; y niños de 6 a 12 años, 0,2 mL. Las dosis pediátricas únicas no deben exceder los 0,3 mg (mL). Las dosis pueden repetirse cada 20 minutos, según la gravedad de la afección y la respuesta del paciente.

Después de la administración de epinefrina, un shock profundo o un colapso vasomotor deben tratarse con líquidos intravenosos y, posiblemente, fármacos vasoactivos. Se debe garantizar la apertura de las vías respiratorias. El oxígeno debe administrarse mediante máscara. Pueden usarse antihistamínicos intravenosos, broncodilatadores inhalables, teofilina o corticosteroides si es necesario después de que se hayan administrado una cantidad adecuada de epinefrina y asistencia circulatoria.

Las medidas de reanimación de emergencia y el personal capacitado en su uso, deben estar disponibles de inmediato en caso de una reacción sistémica o anafiláctica grave que no responde a las medidas anteriores (Ref. J Allergy and Clinical Immunology, «Alergia e Inmunología Clínica»: 77 (2): p. 271-273, 1986).

En raras ocasiones son necesarias todas las medidas anteriores; el torniquete y la epinefrina generalmente producen respuestas rápidas. Sin embargo, el médico debe estar preparado de antemano para todas las contingencias. La rapidez en el inicio de las medidas de tratamiento de emergencia es de suma importancia.

Para obtener recomendaciones sobre cómo proceder con la dosis de extracto de veneno después de reacciones sistémicas, consulte las secciones ADVERTENCIAS, PRECAUCIONES Y DOSIFICACIÓN Y ADMINISTRACIÓN.

### (3) Notificación de eventos adversos

Informe de eventos adversos en los EE.UU.:

Para informar POSIBLES REACCIONES ADVERSAS, comuníquese con Jubilant HollisterStier LLC, al 1-800-495-7437 o en Adverse.Reactions@jubil.com; o la FDA al 1-800-FDA-1088 o [fda.gov/safety/medwatch](http://fda.gov/safety/medwatch)-fda-safety-information-and-adverse-event-reporting-program.

Informe de eventos adversos en México:

Teléfono de Proalsa: (55)51619900 o email de Proalsa: [ventas@proalsa.mx](mailto:ventas@proalsa.mx).

Para reportar SOSPESCHAS DE REACCIONES ADVERSAS en México comuníquese con: Sospecha de reacciones adversas al correo: [farmacovigilancia@cofepris.gob.mx](mailto:farmacovigilancia@cofepris.gob.mx).

## SOBREDOSIS

## DOSIFICACIÓN Y ADMINISTRACIÓN

### (1) General

Los productos farmacéuticos parenterales deben inspeccionarse en forma visual para detectar la presencia de partículas y manchas antes de su administración, siempre que la solución y el envase lo permitan.

Reconstituir y diluir el veneno liofilizado según se indica a continuación. Se debe usar solución salina estéril de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %) para reconstituir y diluir los venenos para pruebas cutáneas y tratamiento.

Reconstituya los venenos liofilizados agregando 13,0 mL de solución salina estéril de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %) al vial, con una jeringa estéril. Mueva el recipiente para disolver el veneno por completo. NO LO AGITE, ya que puede producir espuma.

Las diluciones (véase la tabla a continuación) deben realizarse en solución salina estéril de albúmina con fenol (0,4 %). Deben realizarse en forma precisa y aseptica, con soluciones, viales, jeringas, etc. que sean estériles, y deben mezclarse bien con movimientos circulares. NO AGITAR. Mantener las soluciones madre y las diluciones constantemente a temperaturas de 2° a 8°C.

Volumen del extracto	Concentración del extracto	Volumen del diluyente	Concentración de la dilución
1 parte de	100 µg/mL	+ 9 partes	= 10 µg/mL
1 parte de	10 µg/mL	+ 9 partes	= 1 µg/mL
1 parte de	1 µg/mL	+ 9 partes	= 0,1 µg/mL
1 parte de	0,1 µg/mL	+ 9 partes	= 0,01 µg/mL
1 parte de	0,01 µg/mL	+ 9 partes	= 0,001 µg/mL
1 parte de	0,001 µg/mL	+ 9 partes	= 0,0001 µg/mL

Como ejemplo de la tabla de dilución precedente:

Volumen del extracto	Concentración del extracto	Volumen del diluyente	Concentración de la dilución
0,2 mL de	100 µg/mL	+ 1,8 mL	= 10 µg/mL
0,2 mL de	10 µg/mL	+ 1,8 mL	= 1 µg/mL
0,2 mL de	1 µg/mL	+ 1,8 mL	= 0,1 µg/mL
0,2 mL de	0,1 µg/mL	+ 1,8 mL	= 0,01 µg/mL
0,2 mL de	0,01 µg/mL	+ 1,8 mL	= 0,001 µg/mL
0,2 mL de	0,001 µg/mL	+ 1,8 mL	= 0,0001 µg/mL

NOTA: Las concentraciones de proteína mixta de veneno de vespídidos deberán ser tres veces mayores que las que se muestran arriba.

## (2) Diagnóstico

Dado que el nivel de IgE contra el veneno de insecto específico puede bajar brevemente después de una reacción a una picadura, los pacientes no deben realizarse pruebas hasta 2 a 4 semanas después de cualquier picadura.

Deben realizarse pruebas cutáneas con los cinco venenos individuales, dado que muchos pacientes tienen sensibilidades múltiples.\* Se debe usar proteína mixta de veneno de vespídidos únicamente para tratamiento, no para diagnóstico.

Se deben realizar pruebas de punción antes de las pruebas intradérmicas a fin de determinar la concentración adecuada para las pruebas intradérmicas. Consulte Pruebas intradérmicas. Las pruebas cutáneas (de punción e intradérmica) proporcionan información que ayuda a identificar a los pacientes que deben clasificarse como extremadamente sensibles y que podrían no tolerar la posología sugerida.

Véase DOSIFICACIÓN Y ADMINISTRACIÓN, y PRECAUCIONES de inmunoterapia.

Tanto en las pruebas de punción como en las intradérmicas, se debe realizar una prueba de control negativo con diluyente solo. También se recomienda una prueba de control positivo de histamina.

La superficie florea del antebrazo suele ser la ubicación habitual para las pruebas cutáneas. Es importante que se usen una jeringa y una aguja estériles independientes para cada extracto y para cada paciente.

**Pruebas de punción:** Para realizar las pruebas de punción, se aplica una solución de 1 µg/mL de proteína de veneno en el antebrazo, y se pincha la piel a través de la superficie de la gota con una aguja estéril calibre 27. El pinchazo es superficial y no debería extraer sangre.

Se debe evaluar la respuesta cutánea después de aproximadamente 15 a 20 minutos.

En las pruebas de punción, una reacción positiva (reacción mayor que el control con el diluyente) con una concentración de 1 µg/mL indica un nivel alto de sensibilidad al veneno de prueba.

**Pruebas intradérmicas:** Los pacientes que muestran una reacción positiva a la prueba de punción a una concentración de 1 µg/mL deben comenzar las pruebas intradérmicas a concentraciones de no más de 0,0001 a 0,001 µg/mL. Los pacientes con pruebas de punción negativas pueden comenzar las pruebas intradérmicas a una concentración de 0,001 µg/mL.

Se debe usar una jeringa de tuberculina de 1 mL con una aguja corta calibre 27 para administrar un volumen de 0,05 mL para las pruebas intradérmicas. Introduzca la aguja en las capas superficiales de la piel, incline bien hacia abajo, hasta que esté completamente hundida, luego inyecte lentamente una cantidad de 0,05 mL de la dilución de veneno, formando una pequeña ampolla.

Indicar las pruebas intradérmicas con la solución más diluida. Si después de 20 minutos no se manifiesta ninguna reacción cutánea, continuar las pruebas intradérmicas aumentando la concentración de a diez hasta que aparezca una reacción de roncha de 5 a 10 mm y eritema de 11 a 20 mm, o hasta que se haya probado una concentración de 1 µg/mL, lo que ocurra primero.

Un paciente debe considerarse sensible al veneno de prueba cuando se produce una respuesta cutánea con ronchas de 5 a 10 mm y eritemas de 11 a 20 mm (o mayor) a una concentración de 1 µg/mL o menos\*, siempre que esta reacción sea mayor que la del control diluyente.

## (3) Inmunoterapia:

Para conocer el método y la vía de inyección adecuados, consulte ADVERTENCIAS, PRECAUCIONES y REACCIONES ADVERSAS. El sitio más común de inyección es la cara lateral de la parte superior del brazo. Los pacientes que tienen sensibilidades a varios venenos deben recibir cada inyección de veneno específico en un sitio separado. (Excepto, en el caso de que el paciente tenga sensibilidad al veneno de avispa, avispa amarilla y avispa cariblanco al mismo tiempo, en cuyo caso se le puede inyectar proteína mixta de veneno de vespídidos, una mezcla igual de los venenos de estos tres vespídidos). Tome en cuenta qué preparación de veneno se inyecta en un sitio específico, de modo que la dosis de esa preparación de veneno se pueda ajustar si se produce una reacción local excesiva. En teoría, en pacientes que reciben más de un veneno, existe un mayor riesgo de reacciones sistémicas.

**PRECAUCIÓN:** La sensibilidad al veneno difiere según el paciente. Por lo tanto, no es posible proporcionar una posología adecuada para todos los pacientes. La posología sugerida que se presenta a continuación se usó en estudios clínicos\* y debería ser adecuado para la mayoría de los pacientes.

NO EXISTE EN PACIENTES EXTREMADAMENTE SENSIBLES se debe emplear una posología individualizada que dependerá la sensibilidad del paciente. Este programa individualizado probablemente incluirá diluciones más suaves y aumentos más bajos entre dosis al avanzar hacia el nivel de mantenimiento (100 µg por veneno).

En la identificación de tales pacientes para clasificarlos como extremadamente sensibles, se considerará muy sensibles a las personas que reaccionen con pruebas cutáneas significativas (ronchas mayores de 5 mm y eritema mayor de 20 mm) con concentraciones de pruebas cutáneas intradérmicas de 0,01 µg/mL o menos, o a los pacientes que experimenten una reacción sistémica a cualquier concentración de veneno en la prueba cutánea.

## Posología sugerida para un solo veneno:

Dosis N.º	*Volumen de 1 µg/mL	Dosis N.º	*Volumen de 10 µg/mL	Dosis N.º	*Volumen de 100 µg/mL
1	0,05 mL	5	0,05 mL	9	0,05 mL
2	0,10 mL	6	0,10 mL	10	0,10 mL
3	0,20 mL	7	0,20 mL	11	0,20 mL
4	0,40 mL	8	0,40 mL	12	0,40 mL
				13	0,60 mL
				14	0,80 mL
				15	1,00 mL

Al avanzar con la posología sugerida o con programas modificados (para pacientes muy sensibles) se recomienda que se administren las inyecciones al menos una vez por semana, como en los estudios clínicos. (Véase FARMACOLOGÍA CLÍNICA e INDICACIONES Y USO). Al ir aumentando la dosis, es importante que los intervalos entre estas no superen una semana, dado que si son más largos pueden disminuir la tolerancia del paciente al extracto.

Según los estudios clínicos\*, se sugiere que, si se produce una reacción local sistémica, extremadamente extensa (10 cm o más mientras dura la reacción u otros síntomas locales graves), o una reacción local retardada persistente y grave durante la fase de desarrollo de la dosis, la dosis en la próxima visita debe mantenerse constante (o reducirse, según el criterio de la gravedad de la reacción) como se hizo en el centro de estudios "A", que informó el menor número de reacciones sistémicas durante el curso de la terapia.

Es importante alcanzar la dosis de mantenimiento de 100 µg por veneno (la dosis de mantenimiento para la proteína mixta de veneno de vespídidos es de 300 µg), ya que no hay datos sobre la efectividad de los niveles de mantenimiento por debajo de 100 µg por veneno. Después de alcanzar el nivel de mantenimiento (100 µg por veneno), se recomienda administrar una segunda inyección de mantenimiento en un intervalo de 1 semana y una tercera en un intervalo de 2 semanas. Para continuar con el mantenimiento, administre la siguiente inyección en un intervalo de 3 semanas, y luego mensualmente.

Consulte FARMACOLOGÍA CLÍNICA e INDICACIONES Y USO para obtener más información sobre los estudios clínicos en los que se basan las recomendaciones anteriores.

La duración óptima de la inmunoterapia se desconoce, por lo que las recomendaciones actuales indican que se continúen las inyecciones de mantenimiento en forma indefinida, todo el año, particularmente en pacientes que experimenten anafilaxia con riesgo de muerte después de picaduras de insecto.

## Uso pediátrico

La dosis para la población pediátrica es la misma que para los adultos. (Véase PRECAUCIONES).

## Uso geriátrico

La dosis para pacientes de edad avanzada es la misma que para pacientes adultos menores de 65 años.<sup>21</sup> (Véase PRECAUCIONES).

## PRESENTACIÓN

Los productos con veneno de himenópteros de Jubilant HollisterStier estériles y liofilizados se suministran en viales de 20 mL sellados al vacío que contienen 1300 microgramos (1300 µg) de proteína de veneno por vial para los venenos individuales y 3900 microgramos (3900 µg) por vial de 20 mL para la proteína mixta de veneno de vespídidos. El líquido reconstituyente [solución salina estéril de albúmina con feno] (0.4 %) está disponible por separado.

**Almacenamiento:** Almacene el producto de veneno liofilizado y reconstituido, y las diluciones de veneno, a 2° - 8°C, y manténgalo a esta temperatura durante el uso en el consultorio.

## GARANTÍA LIMITADA

Una cantidad de factores fuera de nuestro control podría reducir la eficacia de este producto o, incluso, provocar un efecto negativo después de su uso. Entre ellos, se incluye el almacenamiento y la manipulación después de haber sido entregado, el diagnóstico, la administración de la dosis, el modo de administración y las diferencias biológicas entre los pacientes en particular. Debido a estos factores, es importante que este producto se conserve en forma adecuada y que se sigan las instrucciones atentamente durante el uso.

No se otorga ninguna garantía, expresa o implícita, incluyendo cualquier garantía de comerciabilidad o idoneidad. Los representantes de la Compañía no están autorizados a modificar los términos o el contenido de ninguna etiqueta impresa del producto, incluyendo el prospecto, excepto mediante un aviso impreso de la sede de la Compañía. El médico prescriptor y el usuario de este producto deben aceptar los términos del presente.

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**TABLA DE DOSIFICACIÓN SUGERIDA  
PARA PRODUCTOS CON VENENO DE HIMENÓPTEROS**

*Posología para inmunoterapia*

Dr.	Paciente		Producto con veneno		N.º lote:
Dosis N.º	*Volumen de 1 µg/mL	Dosis N.º	*Volumen de 10 µg/mL	Dosis N.º	*Volumen de 100 µg/mL
1.....	0,05 mL	5.....	0,05 mL	9.....	0,05 mL
2.....	0,10 mL	6.....	0,10 mL	10.....	0,10 mL
3.....	0,20 mL	7.....	0,20 mL	11.....	0,20 mL
4.....	0,40 mL	8.....	0,40 mL	12.....	0,40 mL
				13.....	0,60 mL
				14.....	0,80 mL
				15.....	1,00 mL

El veneno mixto de vespídos contiene tres veces la proteína de veneno por mL que se muestra en esta tabla.  
\*Véase la sección anterior PRECAUCIÓN.

**PRECAUCIÓN**  
Véase INDICACIONES Y USO, Tratamiento, y DOSIFICACIÓN Y ADMINISTRACIÓN en esta Hoja de INSTRUCCIONES.

DOSIS N.º	DILUCIÓN	mL	FECHA	OBSERVACIONES
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				
21				
22				
23				
24				
25				
26				
27				
28				
29				

NOTA: Se puede producir una pérdida mínima del contenido del vial después de haber pinchado varias veces el tapón si se inyecta una cantidad excesiva de aire en el vial. Para prevenir pérdidas, evite la acumulación de presión de aire o conserve el vial vertical.

Para volver a solicitar el producto con veneno, corte por la línea punteada y envíe a la dirección de Spokane indicada.

Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Domicilio \_\_\_\_\_

Tel. \_\_\_\_\_

Firma del médico

Abeja \_\_\_\_\_  
 Avispa \_\_\_\_\_  
 Avispón amarillo \_\_\_\_\_  
 Avispón cariblanco \_\_\_\_\_  
 Avispa común \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mezcla de vespídos \_\_\_\_\_  
 Diluyente \_\_\_\_\_

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Agosto 2022