

# Alphen®



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### Composition

Melphalan .....50 mg

### Indications

Breast carcinoma, multiple myeloma, advanced ovarian carcinoma, other neoplasms in combination with surgery. Malignant melanoma, polycythaemia vera.

### Description

Melphalan also known as L-phenylalanine mustard, phenylalanine mustard, L-PAM or L-sarcolysin, is a phenylalanine derivative of nitrogen mustard. Melphalan is a bifunctional alkylating agent which is active against selective human neoplastic diseases. It is known chemically as 4-[bis(2-chloroethyl) amino]-L-phenylalanine. The molecular formula is C<sub>13</sub>H<sub>18</sub>Cl<sub>2</sub>N<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> and the molecular weight is 305.20. Melphalan is the active L-isomer of the compound and was first synthesized in 1953 by Bergel and Stock; the D isomer, known as medphalan, is less active against certain animal tumors, and the dose needed to produce effects on chromosomes is larger than that required with the L-isomer.

### CONTRAINDICATIONS

ALPHEN should not be used in patients whose disease has demonstrated a prior resistance to this agent. Patients who have demonstrated hypersensitivity to melphalan should not be given the drug.

### Dosage

Adults: Multiple myeloma: Usual oral dose 6mg/day. Maintenance dose 2mg/day.

Children: Multiple myeloma: 0.15mg/kg/day for 7 days. Maintenance dose 0.05mg/kg/day when WBC/platelets count are rising. Ovarian carcinoma: 0.2mg/kg/day for 5 days. Repeat course after 4-5 weeks.

