

# DHE

## Neurology

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### What is DHE?

DHE (dihydroergotamine) is the injectable form of the nasal spray, Migranal (My-grah-nol), which is used to treating migraine headaches. DHE is given by IV for relief of difficult to control or daily headaches. These headaches have not respond to outpatient medications.

### How is it given?

DHE, is usually given under a doctors care in the clinic or hospital. The patient is placed in a dark quiet room without a TV, MP3 player, radio or video games.

The patient is given medication to prevent the nausea that can occur with DHE. He is then given a small test dose to be sure he does not have a reaction. The blood pressure and heart rate are monitored.

The patient is given several doses over the next few hours. If DHE is given in the clinic, the patient goes home at the end of the day. It usually takes two or three days of treatment.

### What are possible side effects?

- runny nose
- dizziness
- nausea
- tingling
- drowsiness
- vomiting
- sore throat
- diarrhea
- altered sense of taste

### Tell us if the patient:

- smokes
- has high blood pressure
- has high cholesterol
- has peripheral artery disease
- has history of heart disease, angina or a heart attack
- is or is trying to get pregnant
- has had a reaction to ergotamines like Cafergot or Ergostat
- takes an SRI like Paxil, Prozac, Zoloft, Luvo or Celexa
- takes Biaxin, erythromycin or Zythromax
- takes AIDS medication
- takes cold medications

### Who should not take DHE?

DHE should not be used in patients with hemiplegic or basilar migraines. **It should not be used if the patient is pregnant.**

DHE should not be used in patients taking protease inhibitors (AIDS medication), erythromycin, Zythromax or Biaxin.

### What about my daily medication?

Do not take caffeine products, herbals or cold medication before the DHE procedure. **Ask your doctor if you should or should not take any of your medications.** This includes medicines prescribed by other doctors such as antibiotics.