

Bicillin L-A® Injections for Syphilis Treatment

ONLY INJECT INTO THE VENTROGLUTEAL SITE.

- Injection into smaller muscles increases the risk of an abscess.
- Injection near nerves may cause permanent nerve damage and it is considerably more painful, potentially leading to refusal of the second injection or subsequent treatment.

This medication (penicillin G benzathine) is dispensed as two separate preloaded 1.2-million-unit syringes, administered in each ventrogluteal muscle, for a total of 2.4 million units.

A complete dose of 2.4 million units IM requires TWO syringes.

FIGURE 1

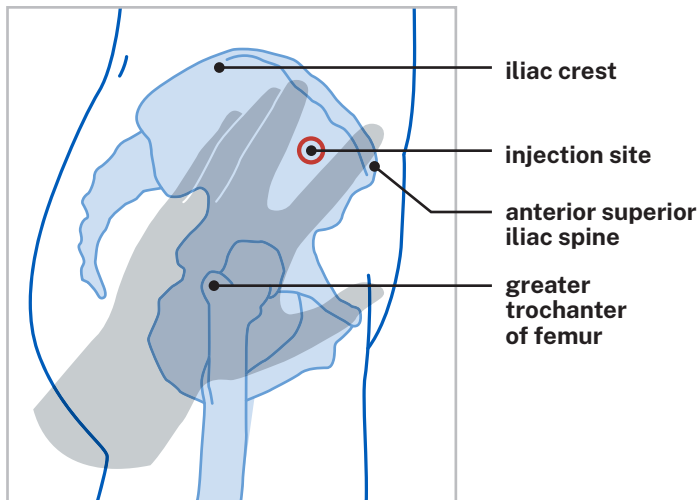
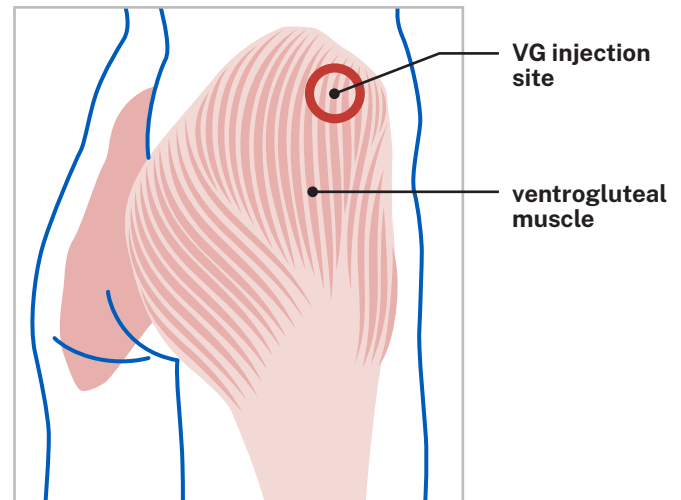


FIGURE 2



1. Position patient either:

- prone (face down);** this will facilitate the healthcare provider quickly switching sides to administer the second injection and decrease discomfort for the client by not having to switch sides and rest on newly injected Bicillin L-A®. If a second provider is available both needles may be given at the same time. This muscle is on the SIDE of the client's hip area.
- lateral (side-lying)** with the upper leg flexed and slightly in front of the lower leg.

2. Place the heel of your hand over the greater trochanter of the femur. Use whichever hand so your thumb is pointing to the client's anterior (front). (E.g. provider's left hand on client's right hip).

- Palpate anterior superior iliac spine** with index finger, then move your middle finger across the **iliac crest** to form a "V". (Figure 1). The center of the formed triangle or "V" is the **ventrogluteal site**.
- Clean injection site** in outward concentric circles. Leave alcohol swab on skin with corner pointing to area where injection will be given.
- Move the hand** that made the "V" before injecting and pull the skin taut, in one direction (Z-track method).
- Insert the needle at a right angle** to the skin (90°) and inject medication **slowly and steadily** (about 1 ml per ten seconds to allow muscle to accommodate the fluid)
- Withdraw the needle slowly at a 90° angle. Release the skin to trap the medication in the muscle.
- Repeat on other side** with second syringe.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Syphilis Outbreak Information
for Health Professionals

