Veterinary Nembutal

- Packaging
- Taking a sample for testing
- Testing the sample
- Opening the bottle
- Using the drug for a peaceful death

Packaging

The preferred form of veterinary Nembutal used to obtain a peaceful reliable death is the sterile solution of pentobarbital sodium marketed as an anaesthetic agent for animals. The solution is designed to be administered intravenously in animals to provide anaesthesia for surgery and needs to be sterile so that infection will not compromise the animal's recovery. This is a clear liquid with a concentration of 60 mg/ml of sodium pentobarbital in alkaline buffered solution with 10% methyl alcohol and ethylene glycol. The usual packaging is a glass 100ml bottle (clear or tinted glass), sealed with a rubber stopper and metal seal.

Fig 13.9: Sealed bottle of sterile Nembutal

Taking a sample of veterinary Nembutal for testing

This form of packaging is designed so that variable amounts of the drug can be withdrawn from the 100 ml bottle without breaking the sterile seal. This is so that the correct amount needed for anaesthesia of a particular weight animal can be withdrawn with a sterile hypodermic needle without contaminating the remainder of the drug in the bottle.

Although there is no need for the Nembutal to be sterile when used to provide a peaceful death, the drug keeps longer if the seal is not damaged and the solution of Nembutal remains sterile. The bottle should only be opened by breaking the seal and removing the rubber stopper when the drug is either to be used or discarded.

Fig 13.10: Removing a sample of Nembutal

To remove a small sample for testing, the seal should not be broken. To do this, first one needs to remove the plastic cap from the tip of the bottle (if present) and then use a small knife or screwdriver to remove the small central circular metal covering the rubber stopper (Fig 13.10). This exposes the rubber seal and the needle of the hypodermic can be pushed through into the bottle. Use the empty hypodermic 0.5 ml syringe in the Exit Nembutal Test Kit (or an equivalent). Invert the bottle and then carefully withdraw the syringe plunger till there is liquid in the syringe. Only a very small amount (0.01 ml) is needed for the Exit Test Kit, but withdraw more than this. Tap the syringe to remove air bubbles, then carefully push in the plunger till exactly 0.1ml of withdrawn liquid remains in the syringe. (Fig 13.10)

Testing Nembutal – The Exit Nembutal Test Kit

There is an increasing need to have available a test that will enable someone who has acquired Nembutal from uncertain source, or someone who has a bottle of the drug well past its expiry date, to be able to establish the efficacy of the drug.

The question of reliability is of paramount importance. People do not want to take a substance to provide than with a peaceful death if there is any question as to the outcome. Establishing that the drug one has is actually the barbiturate Nembutal, and ensuring it is of sufficient strength to provide a peaceful death is the goal of the Exit Nembutal Test Kit

The Kit (pictured) consists of two 0.5 ml hypodermic syringes (A & B), a red topped container of reagent (D), and a purple topped reaction chamber (C). (Fig 13.11)

Fig 13.11: Exit Nembutal Test Kit

One hypodermic (A) is empty and is used to transfer a fixed amount of the drug for testing to the reaction chamber. The other syringe (B) is preloaded with testing reagent. The purple topped reaction chamber is also preloaded with clear liquid - shake this before use.

To carry out the test, remove a small amount of the liquid to be tested using the empty 0.5 ml syringe (A). Tap the syringe to remove all air bubbles and move the plunger so that there is exactly 0.1 ml in the syringe.

Add this 0.1 ml of the drug for testing to the reaction chamber (C) by pushing the needle through the chamber tubber top.

The colour of the reaction chamber should remain clear.

Add the full amount of the test reagent from syringe 'B' to the purple topped reaction chamber. For the test to be positive there should be an immediate change in colour of the liquid in the reaction vessel to deep – blue, the colour of the reaction vessel plastic top (see fig 13.12).

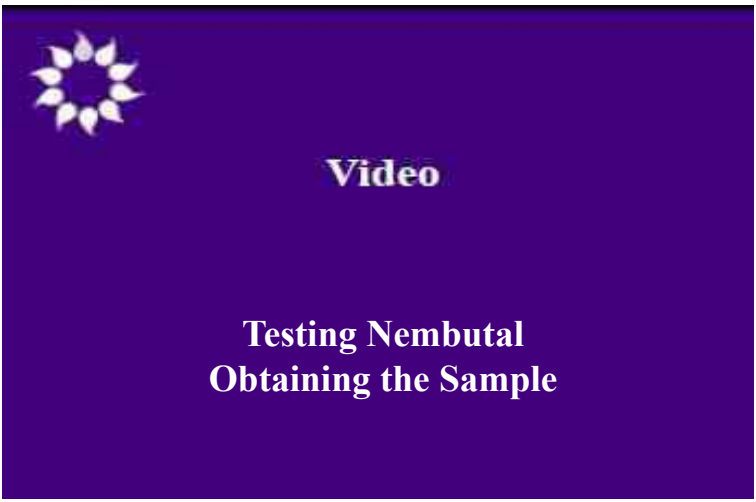
A change is colour to blue establishes that the test liquid is the barbiturate Nembutal. (Fig 13.12 'C')

To now establish the strength of the sample of Nembutal we have, use the syringe 'A' to draw up 0.5ml of the test reagent in container 'D'. Discard this then refill the syringe a second time and ensure there is exactly 0.5 ml in the syringe.

Place the syringe needle into the reaction chamber 'C' and carefully add 0.05 ml to the blue mixture in the reaction chamber. Invert the chamber to mix the contents without removing the syringe needle. Check the colour of the contents in the reaction chamber. Repeat this process in 0.05ml steps till there is a sudden change in colour from blue to colourless in the chamber. Note the total quantity of test reagent needed to bring about this change.

Te calibration chart with each kit can then be used to predict the needed amount of the Nembutal sample to bring about a peaceful death.

Fig 13.12: Using the Exit Nembutal Test Kit


Video
Testing Nembutal
Obtaining the Sample


Video
Testing Nembutal
Using the Test Kit

Opening the Nembutal bottle

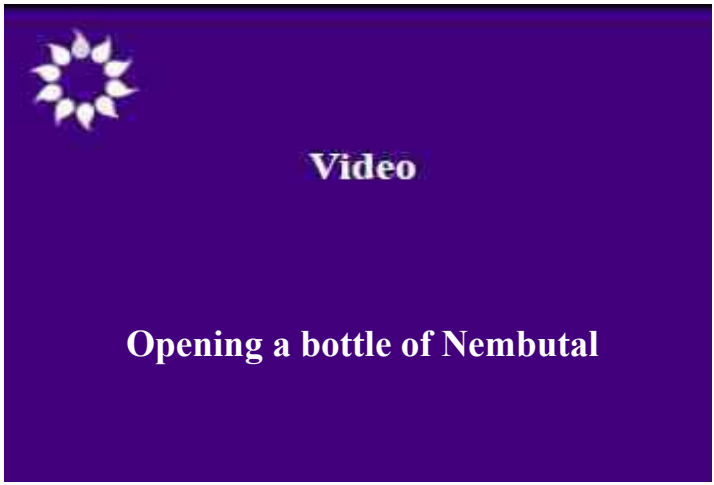
When it is decided that the bottle of veterinary liquid Nembutal is to be used (to bring about a peaceful death) or discarded (if it has been shown by the test to have deteriorated significantly) there is a need to remove all the liquid from the 100 ml bottle.

To do this, first cut the annular metal that holds the rubber seal in place on top of the bottle. This can be done using a sharp small knife, or sharp nail scissors or small side cutters. The metal is thin and once cut through its circumference can be pealed from the bottle. The rubber stopper can then be easily removed from the bottle and the100 ml of liquid poured into a glass.

Drinking liquid Nembutal

The process is very straight forward and has been outlined in other parts of this book (see pp 110 - 113) Usually an anti-emetic (anti vomiting) drug is taken either for 2 days OR as a single stat dose 40 min before the Nembutal is to be taken (see pp 111)

The Nembutal liquid in the glass (100 ml) should be drunk quickly - 2 or 3 swallows. The bitter after taste can then be alleviated by drinking some alcohol - usually spirits or liqueur. The alcohol not only removed the bitter aftertaste of the Nembutal but it speeds its action and there will only be a few minutes of consciousness before sleep. Death will follow, usually within the hour.



Concluding Comments

The Peaceful Pill project represents the most sophisticated strategy ever adopted by a group of elderly and seriously ill people demanding the right to access a peaceful and dignified death at the time of their choosing.

The project has not yet reached a conclusion and development by several groups and individuals continues. Reports on this work will be carried on the Exit website and upgrades of the Peaceful Pill *e*Handbook will be made at regular intervals to keep readers fully informed of developments as they occur.

The biggest problem encountered was the issue of security and legal risk. For those who do not want to be exposed to such potential dangers,lawful end of life options (such as that described in the next chapter) may be the best choice.