

GENTAMICIN INJECTION

gentamicin

Consumer Medicine Information

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Gentamicin Injection. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your healthcare professional.

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Gentamicin Injection against the benefits this medicine is expected to have for you.

This medicine is likely to be used while you are at the clinic or in hospital. If possible, please read this leaflet carefully before this medicine is given to you. In some cases, this leaflet may be given to you after the medicine has been used.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, ask your healthcare professional.

Keep this leaflet.

You may need to read it again.

What Gentamicin Injection is used for

Gentamicin is used to treat serious bacterial infections. It is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called aminoglycoside antibiotics. It works by killing bacteria or preventing their growth.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed gentamicin for another reason.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you are given Gentamicin Injection

When you must not be given it

You must not be given Gentamicin Injection if you have an allergy to:

- any medicine containing gentamicin
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- any other similar medicines such as aminoglycoside antibiotics such as tobramycin, streptomycin, amikacin, netilmicin, or neomycin.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin.

If you are not sure whether any of these apply to you, talk to your healthcare professional.

You must not be given Gentamicin Injection if you have experienced serious reactions (such as hearing loss or kidney problems) to gentamicin, amikacin, tobramycin, or neomycin in the past.

If you are not sure whether you should be given Gentamicin Injection, talk to your healthcare professional.

Before you are given it

Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.

Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:

- kidney disease or any kidney problems
- hearing problems, or if you or your family have a mitochondrial mutation disease, or loss of hearing due to antibiotic medicines; certain mitochondrial mutations may increase your risk of hearing loss with this product
- muscle disorders (e.g. myasthenia gravis, Parkinson's disease (a disease affecting movement)).

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start being given Gentamicin Injection.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines and gentamicin may interfere with each other. These include:

- antibiotics to treat infection such as colistin, vancomycin, clindamycin, cephalosporins and penicillins
- water tablets (diuretics) e.g. frusemide, etacrynic acid, bumetanide
- cisplatin, a medicine used to treat cancer
- amphotericin, an anti-fungal medicine
- ciclosporin, an immunosuppressant
- anaesthetics (e.g. halothane)
- vitamin K
- muscle relaxants (e.g. suxamethonium).
- vitamin K
- neostigmine
- indometacin
- botulinum toxin
- digoxin

These medicines may be affected by gentamicin or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicines, or you may need to take different medicines.

Your healthcare professional will advise you about continuing to take other medicines while you are receiving gentamicin.

How Gentamicin Injection is given

How much is given

Your doctor will decide what dose you will receive. This depends on your condition and other factors, such as your age, weight, and kidney function.

How it is given

Gentamicin Injection must only be given by a doctor, nurse or other trained person. It is given as an injection into a muscle or as a slow injection into a vein (intravenously).

If you are given too much (overdose)

As Gentamicin Injection is usually given to you in hospital under the supervision of your doctor, it is very unlikely that you will receive an overdose.

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much Gentamicin Injection. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of a gentamicin overdose may include the side effects listed below in the 'Side Effects' section, but are usually of a more severe nature.

While you are being given Gentamicin Injection

Things you must do

Tell any other doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who are treating you that you are being given gentamicin.

Things you must not do

Do not take any other medicines, whether they are prescription or over-the-counter medicines, unless they have been approved or recommended by a doctor or pharmacist who knows you are being given gentamicin.

Side effects

Tell your healthcare professional as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being given gentamicin or after the injection.

This medicine helps most people with certain infections, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people.

All medicines can have side effects.

Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

If you are over 65 years of age you may have an increased chance of getting side effects.

Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

Ask your healthcare professional to answer any questions that you may have.

Tell your healthcare professional if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- fever, severe chills, sore throat, mouth ulcers
- nausea or vomiting
- headache
- unusual bleeding or bruising under the skin
- weight loss, loss of appetite
- weakness or tiredness
- increased salivation
- joint pain
- hair loss
- confusion
- depression
- pain at the injection site

These side effects are usually mild.

If any of the following happen, tell your healthcare professional immediately or go to Emergency at the nearest hospital:

- signs of an allergic reaction, such as rash, itching or hives on the skin; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing
- severe headache
- dizziness
- hearing problems or ringing in the ears
- problems with your balance
- decrease in urination
- skin tingling, numbness, or muscle twitching
- fits (convulsion)
- diarrhoea.

The above list includes very serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation.

Tell your healthcare professional if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients.

Some of these side effects can only be found when your healthcare professional does tests from time to time to check your progress.

After being given Gentamicin Injection

Storage

Gentamicin Injection will usually be stored in the pharmacy or ward. It is kept in a cool, dry place, protected from light, where the temperature stays below 25°C.

Product Description

What it looks like

Gentamicin Injection is a clear solution in a plastic ampoule.

Ingredients

Active ingredients:

- Each 2 mL of Gentamicin Injection contains gentamicin (as sulfate) 80 mg.

Other ingredients:

- disodium edetate
- water for injections
- sodium hydroxide.
- sulfuric acid.

It does not contain preservatives.

Sponsor

Gentamicin Injection is supplied in Australia by:

Pfizer Australia Pty Ltd
Sydney NSW

Toll Free Number: 1800 675 229

www.pfizermedinfo.com.au

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Gentamicin Injection is available in the following strength and pack sizes:

- 80 mg/2 mL x 10 ampoules
- 80 mg/2 mL x 50 ampoules.

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