

Pharmacy

Gentamicin

Your Hearing and Balance Information Leaflet

Introduction

This leaflet has been prepared to give you more information about Gentamicin. If you have any questions, or there is anything that is unclear, then ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to explain. There is more information in the manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet. Please ask if you would like to read this.

What is Gentamicin?

Gentamicin is an antibiotic that is used to treat serious bacterial infections. It is usually given into a vein as an injection.

How can Gentamicin affect my hearing and balance?

Like all medicines it can cause side effects but not everybody who has gentamicin gets these effects.

Gentamicin can sometimes cause damage to the hearing and balance mechanism inside your ears. You might get ringing in your ears (tinnitus) or even some loss of hearing. If the balance mechanism is affected this might make you feel dizzy or cause you to lose your balance. These effects may not go away in some patients. The risk of these effects happening is rare and is different for each patient.

What can be done to reduce the chance of gentamicin affecting my hearing or balance?

It is important to tell your nurse or doctor if you already have any ear, hearing or balance problems before you start taking gentamicin. Also tell the doctor if you have taken medicines that have affected your hearing or balance in the past or have a known mitochondrial mutation or a family history of ototoxicity (damage to the ear).

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of treatment with you and may decide to use a different antibiotic.

The amount of gentamicin in your blood will be measured regularly to check that the right blood levels have been achieved. Your doctor will also carry out blood tests to check how well your kidneys are working before and during treatment with gentamicin.

The side effects of gentamicin are more likely to happen if gentamicin levels are too high but very rarely people can get side effects with normal levels of gentamicin.

Taking other medicines

Your doctor should discuss this with you and may ask you to stop taking these temporarily while you are on gentamicin. Your doctor might review any other medicines you are taking which may also affect your hearing or balance.

Remember to tell your doctor if you are taking any medicines you buy for example, at a garage, newsagent, supermarket or chemist, such as medicines for coughs, colds or flu and decongestants and herbal remedies.

Tell a doctor, nurse or pharmacist looking after you straight away if **ANY** of the following happen to you:

- An allergic reaction - shortness of breath, closing of the throat, swelling of the lips, face or tongue, rash, fainting.
- Decreased hearing or ringing in the ears.
- Dizziness or problems with your balance.
- Little or no urine.

Other less serious effects can occur. You should also tell your doctor or nurse if you experience:

- Feeling or being sick.
- A rash.

If you have any comments about this leaflet or the service you have received you can contact :

Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust
Pharmacy Department
Calderdale Royal Hospital, Halifax, HX3 OPW
Telephone: 01422 224355
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary,
Huddersfield, HD3 3EA
Telephone: 01484 347123

Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Medicines Information Department
Duckworth Lane,
Bradford, BD9 6RJ
Telephone: 01274 364598

www.cht.nhs.uk

If you would like this information in another format or language contact the above.

Potřebujete-li tyto informace v jiném formátu nebo jazyce, obraťte se prosím na výše uvedené oddělení

Jeżeli są Państwo zainteresowani otrzymaniem tych informacji w innym formacie lub wersji językowej, prosimy skontaktować się z nami, korzystając z ww. danych kontaktowych

ਬ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪ੍ਰਾਚੂਪ ਜਾਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿੱਚ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ,
ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਉਪਰੋਕਤ ਵਿਭਾਗ ਵਿੱਚ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰੋ।

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور فارمیٹ یا زبان میں درکار ہوں، تو
برائے مہربانی مندرجہ بالا شعبے میں ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

"إذا احتجت الحصول على هذه المعلومة بشكل مغاير أو مترجمة إلى لغة مختلفة فيرجى منك الاتصال بالقسم
المذكور أعلاه"