

Gentamicin

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Na żądanie ta ulotka może zostać udostępniona
w innych językach/formatach.

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What is gentamicin?

Gentamicin is an antibiotic used to treat infections caused by bacteria. Your doctor may decide to give you gentamicin if it is effective against the type of bacteria causing your infection.

How is gentamicin given?

Gentamicin is usually given through a vein once or twice a day by a nurse. It can also be injected into your muscle. The dose of gentamicin you will be given will depend on your weight, your age and how well your kidneys are working.

What are the side effects?

Like all medicines, gentamicin can sometimes cause side effects. Gentamicin can occasionally cause damage to your ears which may be irreversible. This may make you feel dizzy and off balance. You may also hear ringing in your ears or suffer from hearing loss. This is more likely to happen if you suffer from a mitochondrial disease.

Gentamicin is removed from your body through the kidneys and may reduce how well your kidneys work.

What can reduce the risks?

Gentamicin will only be given to you if it is considered to be the best antibiotic to treat your infection.

The amount of gentamicin in your blood and your kidney function will be measured regularly. This will help to reduce the risk of you developing side effects.

What can I do to help?

Before starting gentamicin please tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you have a **mitochondrial disease, myasthenia gravis, a family history of hearing loss or kidney problems**. You should also inform them if you are **pregnant**.

It is very important that you tell your doctor, nurse or ward pharmacist if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- **Dizziness or loss of balance**
- **Ringing in your ears**
- **Hearing loss**
- **Passing less water than is normal for you**

You should drink plenty of water and fluids whilst on gentamicin to help to prevent damage to your kidneys.

It is important to tell your doctors or ward pharmacist about any medications you are taking. This includes any herbal medicines and medicines that you have bought from a supermarket or Pharmacy.

Who can I speak to if I have any questions?

This information leaflet has been designed to give you some information about your treatment. If you would like some further information about gentamicin there is a leaflet written by the manufacturers in every box of gentamicin. You can ask your nurse for a copy of this leaflet. An electronic copy of this leaflet also available at www.medicines.org.uk. Your doctors, ward pharmacist and nurses looking after you are also happy to answer any questions you may have.