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Information for patients and carers

Intravesical Gentamicin

What is Intravesical Gentamicin, why am I being treated with it, and what is it used for?

You have been diagnosed as having recurrent urinary tract infections (UTIs) which have not responded to conventional therapy. Gentamicin is an antibiotic used to treat such bacterial infections. Your Urologist has decided you would benefit from Gentamicin to reduce the number of infections you are experiencing. 'Intravesical' means the antibiotic is administered directly into the bladder through a thin tube called a catheter. Administering Gentamicin directly into the bladder is an unlicensed use of this medication.

What you need to know before starting treatment with Gentamicin

Before starting intravesical gentamicin, you will have given a urine sample to confirm that you have a UTI which will respond to gentamicin treatment.

You will not usually be given gentamicin if:

• You are allergic (hypersensitive) to gentamicin – signs of an allergic reaction include a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, swelling of your lips, face, throat and tongue.

• If you have myasthenia gravis. This is a disease that causes muscle weakness.

• You are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby.

• You are breastfeeding or are planning to breastfeed.

Talk to your doctor from the medical team looking after you as soon as possible, if you think you may have either of these.

Are there any side effects with Intravesical Gentamicin?

As with all medicines, gentamicin can cause side effects, although these are very rare and it is usually well-tolerated. Furthermore, research shows that intravesical gentamicin is not usually absorbed into the rest of the body.

Nevertheless, a minority of patients may develop significant side effects. These include:

• Irritation of the bladder lining. If you notice any blood in your urine after starting treatment, you should contact the Urology specialist nursing team immediately (telephone number at the end of this leaflet).

• Gentamicin when absorbed can affect the kidneys, so we will check how well your kidneys are working by looking at your previous kidney and liver function test results before starting you on treatment

• Gentamicin when absorbed can affect the inner ear, causing hearing and balance problems for some people. If you have a history of hearing loss or balance problems, or if any blood relatives have a history of this, please tell the doctor. If you notice your hearing has become worse, experience tinnitus (ringing or buzzing that comes from inside your ears), find it hard to balance or have dizziness (vertigo), please inform the Urology specialist nursing team as soon as possible.

Treatment Plan

Treatment with Intravesical Gentamicin is completed over a 24-week period, as follows:

- Phase 1 – instilled once daily at night for 2 weeks
- Phase 2 – instilled once daily on alternate nights for 10 weeks
- Phase 3 – instilled twice weekly at night for 12 weeks

Before starting treatment with intravesical Gentamicin, you will be taught by the Urology specialist nurses how to prepare the solution for instillation and how to self-catheterise for administration. The Urology team will only start your treatment once you are confident to self-administer the intravesical gentamicin.

Instructions

Preparing the Gentamicin solution

1. Wash your hands
2. Check the expiry date of the ampoule of gentamicin and the Urotainer sodium chloride bag
3. Screw the blunt filter needle onto the 5ml syringe
4. Break open the ampoule of gentamicin at the snap point. Using a tissue can be useful to protect the fingers from the glass.
5. Draw up all of the contents of the ampoule of gentamicin into the syringe
6. Remove the blunt filter needle from the syringe and place in the sharps box. Replace with the green needle.
7. Remove the outer packaging from the Urotainer bag. Clamp the bag and remove the tear-away closure tab.
8. Insert the needle into the port on the Urotainer bag and inject the contents of the gentamicin syringe.
9. Twist and remove the cap from the Urotainer bag
10. Dispose of the syringe and needle in the sharps bin.

Draining the bladder

1. Wash your hands
2. If you do not have an indwelling catheter, insert the catheter into the urethra as instructed by your specialist nurse
3. If you have an indwelling catheter, ensure the flip-flow valve is attached to the catheter. Clean the valve with an alcohol wipe.
4. Drain the bladder of urine.

Instilling the Gentamicin solution

1. Hold the catheter with one hand and attach the gentamicin solution with the other hand
2. Unclamp the Urotainer bag and gently administer the entire contents of the bag
3. If you do not have an indwelling catheter, this can now be removed
4. If you have an indwelling catheter, remove the Urotainer bag and place a spigot in the conical end of the catheter.
5. Dispose of any sharps in the sharps bin.

The gentamicin solution should be retained in the bladder for at least one hour, but ideally overnight. If you need to empty your bladder sooner, do not be concerned, but try to hold the solution inside for as long as you are able up to a maximum of 8 hours.

Administration Record

Phase 1: Week 1

Administer daily at night:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

Monitoring:

Renal function		Gentamicin level	

Week 2

Administer daily at night:

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5	Day 6	Day 7

Monitoring:

Renal function		Gentamicin level	

Phase 2: Weeks 3-12

Administer once daily on alternate nights

Week 3							
Week 4							
Week 5							
Week 6							
Week 7							
Week 8							
Week 9							
Week 10							
Week 11							
Week 12							

Phase 3: Weeks 13-24

Monitoring:

Renal function	

Administer twice weekly at night for 12 weeks

Week 13							
Week 14							
Week 15							
Week 16							
Week 17							
Week 18							
Week 19							
Week 20							
Week 21							
Week 22							
Week 23							
Week 24							

Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please contact Urology department on 01257 247729

Sources of further information

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk
www.nhs.uk
www.accessable.co.uk
www.patient.co.uk
www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk/veteran-aware
https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/

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If you want to stop smoking, you can also contact Smokefree Lancashire on Freephone **08081962638**

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This information can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and in other languages.

Our patient information group review our leaflets regularly, if you feel you would like to feedback on this information or join our reading group please contact on email address:
patientexperienceandinvolvem@LTHTR.nhs.uk

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