



Information for
patients

Aminoglycosides

What are aminoglycosides?

Aminoglycosides are a group of antibiotics, which include gentamicin, amikacin, neomycin and tobramycin. They are used to treat infections caused by bacteria. This includes infections of the:

- Urinary Tract (including kidneys and bladder)
- Chest (including lungs)
- Blood (sometimes called bacteraemia or septicaemia)
- Other serious infections

How are aminoglycosides given?

Aminoglycosides are usually given into a vein and will normally be given by a nurse once or twice a day. It can also be given by other methods such as into a muscle or into the peritoneal cavity. The dose of an aminoglycoside you receive will depend upon the infection being treated, your age, your weight and how well your kidneys are working.

How can aminoglycosides affect my ears?

Like all medications aminoglycosides can occasionally have side effects. Aminoglycosides can occasionally cause damage to the ears. Aminoglycosides can cause problems keeping your balance, make you feel dizzy, give you ringing in your ears or give you poor hearing. In some cases these effects can be irreversible.

The risk of this occurring depends on a number of factors. The risk increases if you're over 65, your kidneys are not working very well or you're taking certain medications.

What can be done to reduce the risk of this happening?

Aminoglycosides will only be given when it is considered to be the best antibiotic to treat your infection.

The amount of aminoglycoside in your blood will be checked regularly to make sure that it is at the correct level. Your kidney function will also be checked regularly as this can affect the level of aminoglycoside in your blood. Your doctor may also decide to alter some of your medications whilst you are on aminoglycosides.

What can I do to help?

It is extremely important that you report to a doctor, the ward pharmacist or nurse if you experience any of the following symptoms:

- **Difficulty in keeping your balance or dizziness.**
- **A ringing in your ears.**
- **Hearing loss.**
- **If you see any sign of blood in your urine.**
- **If you find you are passing less water than is normal for you.**

You should tell your doctor or ward pharmacist if you are taking any other medications (such as those bought over the counter in a Pharmacy or any herbal medicines). This is because aminoglycosides can affect the actions of these drugs or they may affect the levels of an aminoglycosides in your body.

Before you are given an aminoglycoside you must tell a doctor, the ward pharmacist or a nurse if you have ever had any hearing or kidney problems caused by an aminoglycoside before; or if your mother or grandmother have developed hearing problems before they were 50 years old.

Who can I speak to if I have any questions?

This leaflet has been produced to provide you with some information about some of the side effects that aminoglycosides can have. If you would like further information about some of the side effects of aminoglycosides there is a patient information leaflet available which is produced by the manufacturer and is available in each box of aminoglycoside. You can ask the nursing staff caring for you to give this leaflet to you.

A copy of the patient information leaflets (PILs) produced for aminoglycosides by the manufacturers is available at www.medicines.org.uk – enter the drug name into the search box and click on the relevant patient information leaflet.

The doctors, ward pharmacist or nurses caring for you will also be happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Sources of further information:

www.lancsteachinghospitals.nhs.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.patient.co.uk

Cantonese:

如果你希望以另外一種格式接收該資訊，請和我們聯絡，不必猶豫。

Gujarati:

જો તમને આ માહિતી બીજી રચના કે ફોર્મેટમાં મેળવવાની ઇચ્છા હોય, તો કૃપા કરી અમારો સંપર્ક કરતા અચકાશો નહિ.

Hungarian:

Kérjük, vegye fel velünk a kapcsolatot, ha más formában kéri ezt az információt.

Polish:

Jeżeli chciał(a)by Pan/Pani otrzymać niniejsze informacje w innym formacie, prosimy o kontakt.

Punjabi:

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਫਾਰਮੈਟ ਵਿਚ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਲੈਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਸਾਡੇ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕਰਨ ਤੋਂ ਨਾ ਝਿਜਕੋ।

Urdu:

اگر آپ اس معلومات کو کسی اور صورت میں حاصل کرنا چاہتے ہیں تو برائے مہربانی ہم سے رابطہ کرنے میں ہچکچاہٹ محسوس نہ کریں۔

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Please ask if you would like help in understanding this information. This information can be made available in large print and in other languages.

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If you want to stop smoking you can also contact the Quit Squad Freephone 0800 328 6297.

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