

# GENTAMICIN INJECTION

## 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 doctor or pharmacist.

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 doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet.**

You may need to read it again.

### What Gentamicin Injection is used for

Gentamicin Injection belongs to a group of medicines known as aminoglycoside antibiotics.

Aminoglycoside

antibiotics work by preventing bacteria from growing and by killing them.

Gentamicin Injection is used to treat serious bacterial infections in many different parts of the body such as chest infections, urinary tract

infections and infected wounds or burns.

Gentamicin Injection may be prescribed for other reasons that are not mentioned above. Your doctor will be able to tell you about the specific condition for which you have been prescribed it.

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

### Before you are given Gentamicin Injection

#### *When you must not be given it*

##### **Do not use Gentamicin Injection if:**

- you have an allergy to gentamicin or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet
- you have an allergy to other aminoglycoside antibiotics such as tobramycin, streptomycin, amikacin, netilmicin or neomycin

If you are not sure whether any of these apply to you, check with your doctor.

#### *Before you are given it*

##### **Tell your doctor if:**

###### **1. you have any allergies to:**

- any other medicine
- any other substances, such as foods, preservatives or dyes

###### **2. you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant**

Gentamicin may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy. If it is necessary for you

to be given Gentamicin Injection, your doctor will discuss with you the benefits and risks of using it during pregnancy.

###### **3. you are breast-feeding or plan to breast feed**

your doctor will discuss with you the benefits and risks of being given Gentamicin Injection whilst you are breastfeeding.

###### **4. you have or have had any medical conditions, especially the following:**

- kidney disease or any kidney problems
- hearing problems
- myasthenia gravis (a muscle disease)
- Parkinsons disease (a disease affecting movement)

#### *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
- water tablets (diuretics) such as frusemide
- anticancer drugs such as cisplatin
- vitamin K
- any drug that may cause kidney or hearing problems
- amphotericin, an anti-fungal medicine
- anaesthetics such as halothane

- muscle relaxants such as suxamethonium

These medicines may affect the way gentamicin works or be affected by gentamicin. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take a different medicine. Your doctor will advise you about continuing to take other medicines while you are receiving Gentamicin Injection.

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## How Gentamicin Injection is given

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### ***How it is given***

Gentamicin Injection must only be given by a doctor or nurse. Gentamicin Injection is given by injection into the muscle or as a slow injection (infusion) into a vein.

### ***How much is given***

Your doctor will decide what dose and how long you will receive Gentamicin Injection. This will depend on your age, weight, type of infection and how well your kidneys are working. However, the usual adult dose of Gentamicin Injection is 60-80mg per day for 7-10 days.

### ***If you are given too much (overdose)***

This rarely happens as Gentamicin Injection is administered under the care of a highly trained doctor.

However, if you are given too much gentamicin, you may experience some of the effects listed under "Side Effects" below.

Your doctor has information on how to recognise and treat an overdose. Ask your doctor if you have any concerns.

If you experience severe side effects, tell your doctor immediately, or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

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## Side effects

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**Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are being treated with gentamicin.**

Like other medicines, gentamicin can cause some side effects. If they occur, most are likely to be minor or temporary. However, some may be serious and need medical attention.

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions that you may have.**

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects. You may not experience any of them.

**Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following:**

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

These side effects are usually mild.

**Tell your doctor immediately if you have any of the following:**

- severe headache
- dizziness
- hearing problems, ringing in the ears
- problems with balance
- increase or decrease in urination
- skin tingling, numbness, muscle twitching
- fits (convulsion)

These are serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

**Tell your doctor immediately if you have any of the following:**

- swelling of the lips, face, mouth, throat or limbs
- breathing difficulty, or shortness of breath
- rash, itching, hives

These are symptoms of an allergic reaction to gentamicin.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. If you notice any other effects, check with your doctor. Some side effects may only be seen by your doctor.

### ***Storage***

Gentamicin Injection will be stored in the pharmacy or ward. It is kept below 25°C in a dark place to protect it from light.

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## Product Description

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### ***What it looks like***

Gentamicin Injection is a clear solution in a plastic ampoule.

Gentamicin Injection can be identified by an Australian Registration Number, which is found on the packaging: AUST R 11376.

### ***Ingredients***

Gentamicin Injection contains gentamicin (as Gentamicin Sulfate BP) 80mg/2mL and disodium edetate in Water for Injections. It does not contain preservatives.

### ***Manufacturer***

Pfizer (Perth) Pty Limited  
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15 Brodie Hall Drive,  
Bentley WA 6102 Australia

### ***Distributed in Australia by:***

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This Consumer Medicine

Information was written in March  
2000.

**Date of most recent amendment:****10 March 2011**