Pharmacy

Gentamicin
Your Hearing and Balance Information Leaflet

Introduction

This leaflet has been prepared to give you more information about Gentamicin. Read this alongside the Manufacturers Patient Information Leaflet. If you have any questions, or there is anything that is unclear, then ask your doctor, nurse or pharmacist to explain.

What is Gentamicin?

Gentamicin is an antibiotic. It is used to treat serious bacterial infections including those of the urinary tract (e.g. kidneys or bladder), abdomen (e.g. gall bladder or diverticulitis) and blood (e.g. bacteraemia or septicaemia).

It is usually given into a vein as an injection.

How can Gentamicin affect my hearing and balance?

As with all medicines side effects can occasionally be experienced. Gentamicin can sometimes cause damage to the hearing and balance mechanism inside your ears. This may make you dizzy or cause you to lose your balance. Sometimes it can cause a ringing in your ears (“tinnitus”) or hearing loss. In some patients these effects may be irreversible. The risk of these effects happening is rare and is different for each patient and depends on a number of factors as explained below.

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

It is important to tell your nurse or doctor if you have any current ear or balance problem. Also inform them if you have any kidney problems with gentamicin. 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 correct blood levels have been achieved. Your doctor will also carry out blood tests to check your kidney function before and during treatment with gentamicin.

compassionate care

Taking other medicines

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. Your doctor should discuss this with you and may ask you to stop taking these temporarily while you are on Gentamicin.

Make sure you tell your doctor, pharmacist, dentist or nurse when you see them that you are on Gentamicin.

Tell a doctor, nurse or pharmacist straight away if: You notice any change in your balance; dizziness; blurred vision; inability to focus your eyesight; a ringing in your ears; or hearing loss.

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

Antibiotic Pharmacist
Pharmacy Department
Huddersfield Royal Infirmary
Telephone No: 01484 347123

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, obrat'te 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

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਸ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਪਾਰੂਪ 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
براۓ 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"