

E-MYCIN

Erythromycin ethyl succinate



What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about E-MYCIN. It does not contain all the information available on this medicine. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist. All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of using E-MYCIN against the benefits expected it will have for you. If you have concerns about using this medicine ask your doctor or pharmacist. Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.

What E-MYCIN is used for and how it works

Your E-Mycin is used to:

- treat certain infections caused by bacteria
- prevent infections in patients with a history of rheumatic disease, who are allergic to penicillin antibiotics.

E-Mycin is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called macrolides. These medicines work by killing or stopping the growth of the bacteria which are causing the infection.

E-Mycin will not work against infections caused by viruses, such as colds or flu.

Your doctor may, however have prescribed E-Mycin for another reason. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why E-Mycin has been prescribed for you.

There is no evidence that E-Mycin is addictive.

E-Mycin is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Before you take E-MYCIN

When you must not take it

Do not take E-Mycin if you are allergic to:

- medicines containing erythromycin or any other antibiotic from the macrolide group
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives, swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body, shortness of breath, wheezing or troubled breathing.

Do not take E-Mycin if you have severe liver problems.

Do not take E-Mycin if the packaging shows signs of tampering.

Do not take E-Mycin if the expiry date (EXP.) printed on the label has passed. If you take this medicine after the expiry date, it may not work as well.

Do not use any E-Mycin mixture left in the bottle after 10 days.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking E-Mycin, talk to your doctor.

Before you start to take it

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking E-Mycin during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking E-Mycin when breastfeeding.

Tell your doctor if you have any medical conditions including:

- liver problems
- myasthenia gravis, condition where there is severe muscle weakness.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking E-Mycin.

Taking other medicines

Do not take E-Mycin if you are taking:

- cisapride (a medicine that helps move food through the digestive system)
- pimozide (a medicine to treat certain mental and emotional conditions)
- astemizole or terfenadine (drugs for hayfever).

Taking E-Mycin with any of the medicines above may cause serious side effects.

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may be affected by E-Mycin or may affect how well it works. These medicines include:

- theophylline (medicine used to treat asthma)
- medicines used to treat heart failure and fast irregular heart beats eg digoxin, disopyramide, quinidine
- medicines used to thin your blood such as warfarin
- ergotamine or ergotamine derivatives (medicines used for migraine)
- medicines used to treat sleep problems (e.g. zopiclone, alfentanil, triazolobenzodiazepines and related benzodiazepines (such as triazolam and alprazolam))
- some medication used for epilepsy such as carbamazepine, phenytoin or sodium valproate
- cyclosporine, tacrolimus, (medicines used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat certain problems with the immune system)
- hexobarbital (used as a sedative)
- bromocriptine (a medicine used to treat Parkinson's Disease)
- methylprednisolone (medicine used to suppress inflammation)
- cilostazol (medicine used to help with blood circulation)
- vinblastine (medicine used in the treatment of Hodgkin's Disease)
- sildenafil (viagra) (a medicine used to treat erection problems in men)
- CoA Reductase Inhibitors (medicines used to lower high cholesterol and triglyceride levels in the body such as lovastatin and simvastatin (eg. Lipex, Zocor)).

These medicines may be affected by E-Mycin or may affect how well E-Mycin works. You may need different amounts of your medicines or you may need to take different medicines.

If you are not sure whether you are taking any of these medicines, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking E-Mycin.

How to take E-MYCIN properly

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully. They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the bottle or packet, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

Your doctor will tell you how much E-Mycin you need to take each day. It is important that you take E-Mycin as directed by your doctor. Do not take more than the recommended dose.

The usual adult dose is one E-Mycin tablet (400 mg) every six hours. This will vary from person to person.

Your doctor may advise you to take a different dose. This depends on the infection being treated and how severe it is.

For children, their doctor will work out the dose according to their age, body weight and how severe the infection is.

How to take E-MYCIN

Tablets: Swallow whole with a glass of water.

Mixture: Always shake the bottle well before taking E-Mycin. Use a metric measure to ensure that you measure the correct dose.

When to take E-MYCIN

Space the doses of E-Mycin evenly apart and take them at about the same time each day. This will allow E-Mycin to have its best effect and also help you remember when to take it.

E-Mycin can be taken with or without food. However, taking E-Mycin with food may help reduce the chance of a stomach upset occurring.

How long to take E-MYCIN for

Keep taking E-Mycin until you finish the tablets or mixture, or for as long as your doctor recommends.

Do not stop taking E-Mycin, even if you feel better after a few days, unless advised by your doctor.

If you are being treated for an infection, E-Mycin is usually taken for one to two weeks. Your infection may not clear completely if you stop taking your medicine too soon.

If you forget to take it

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed. This may increase the chance of you getting an unwanted side effect.

If you have any questions or are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Taking your medicine at the same time each day will have the most effect at treating the infection. Taking your medicine at the same time each day may also help you to remember to take it regularly and avoid missing doses. If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.

While you are taking E-MYCIN

Tell all doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking E-Mycin.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking E-Mycin before you start any new medicine.

Tell your doctor if you develop a skin rash or hives while using E-Mycin.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while using E-Mycin.

If you are going to have a surgery, tell the surgeon or anaesthetist that you are taking E-Mycin.

If you are going to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are taking E-Mycin.

Do not stop taking E-Mycin or lower the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not use E-Mycin to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if his or her symptoms seem similar to yours.

E-Mycin may cause dizziness or tiredness in some people. Be careful when driving, operating machinery or performing jobs that need you to be alert, until you are certain that E-Mycin does not affect your performance.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking E-Mycin. E-Mycin is effective in treating most infections, however it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions 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 and they worry you:

- stomach cramps and pains
- feeling sick, vomiting, diarrhoea
- oral thrush (white, furry sore tongue and mouth)
- vaginal thrush (sore and itchy vagina, vaginal discharge).

The above list includes the more common side effects of E-Mycin. Mostly these are mild and short-lived.

Tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- severe stomach cramps
- yellowing of the eyes or skin (jaundice), feeling generally unwell and having poor appetite
- loss/change in hearing
- fast, irregular or pounding heart beat
- chest pain
- dizziness
- confusion, hallucinations
- fits
- in infants, irritability with feeding or severe vomiting.

The above list includes serious side effects that may require medical attention. Serious side effects are rare.

If any of the following happen, stop taking E-Mycin and tell your doctor immediately or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital:

- any type of skin rash, itching, or hives
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- shortness of breath, wheezing, troubled breathing
- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody.

The above list includes very serious side effects. If you have them, you may have had a serious allergic reaction to E-Mycin. You may need urgent medical attention or hospitalisation. These side effects are very rare.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some patients. Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

After you have finished taking E-Mycin

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects, particularly if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with E-Mycin:

- severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps
- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody
- fever, in combination with one or both of the above.

You may have a serious condition affecting your bowel. These are rare but serious side effects. Therefore, you may need urgent medical attention.

Do not take any medicine for diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor.

In case of overdose

You should only take the number of tablets that you have been told.

Immediately contact your doctor or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) or go to the Emergency department at your nearest hospital, if you think that you may have taken too much, or if anyone else has taken any E-MYCIN by mistake. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention. Take the container of E-MYCIN with you if you can.

Keep telephone numbers for these places handy.

Storage conditions

Storage

Keep E-Mycin where children cannot reach it. A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Keep E-Mycin tablets in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 30 degrees C.

Keep E-Mycin mixture in the refrigerator but not in the freezer.

Do not use any mixture left in the bottle after 10 days.

Do not store E-Mycin or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave E-Mycin in the car or on window sills. Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking E-Mycin, or your medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

Product Description

What it looks like

E-Mycin is available as tablets or mixtures.

E-Mycin tablets are flesh pink in colour, oval-shaped, film-coated and marked E-N on one side and "α" on the other.

E-Mycin mixtures come in 2 strengths:

E-Mycin 200 and E-Mycin 400.

Both mixtures are pink, cherry flavoured and sugar-free.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in E-Mycin tablets and mixtures is erythromycin (as erythromycin ethyl succinate).

E-MYCIN tablets

E-Mycin tablets contain 400 mg of erythromycin.

The E-Mycin tablets also contain the following inactive ingredients:

- calcium hydrogen phosphate anhydrous
- maize starch
- sorbic acid
- povidone
- purified talc
- sodium starch glycollate
- magnesium stearate
- Opadry Pink OY-B-34901 (contains the colours titanium dioxide and iron oxide red).

E-Mycin tablets do not contain lactose or gluten.

E-MYCIN mixtures

- each 5 mL of E-Mycin 200 mixture contains 200 mg of erythromycin
- each 5 mL of E-Mycin 400 mixture contains 400 mg of erythromycin.

The mixtures also contain the following inactive ingredients:

- sorbitol
- sodium citrate dihydrate
- aspartame
- propylene glycol alginate
- silicon dioxide, colloidal
- sodium benzoate
- erythrosine CI45430
- Trusil Nature Identical Cherry Flavour (contains preservative 320 and less than 0.011% gluten).

E-Mycin mixtures do not contain lactose.

If you want to know more

Should you have any questions regarding this product, please contact your doctor or pharmacist.

Who supplies this medicine

Distributed in New Zealand by:

Mylan New Zealand Ltd,
PO Box 11183,
Ellerslie,
Auckland.

Telephone: (09) 579 2792

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