

KLAMYCIN

Clarithromycin

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Klamycin. It does not contain all the available information. 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 you taking Klamycin against the benefits expected for you. If you have concerns about using this medicine ask your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine. You may need to read it again.

What KLAMYCIN is used for

Klamycin is used to treat certain bacterial infections, including the following:

- Respiratory tract infections (throat, airways, sinus and lungs)
- Skin and soft tissue infections
- Peptic ulcer

Klamycin is also used to prevent a specific bacterial infection associated with HIV infection.

Klamycin is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called macrolides. These medicines work by killing or stopping the growth of bacteria which cause infections.

Klamycin will not work against infections caused by viruses, such as colds or flu.

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

There is no evidence that Klamycin is addictive.

Klamycin is available only with a doctor's prescription.

Klamycin to treat peptic ulcer

Peptic ulcers are associated with an infection in the intestine and stomach by a bacteria called *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*). Nearly all patients with peptic ulcers are infected with this bacteria.

The *H. pylori* infection can be treated with a combination of Klamycin (clarithromycin), another antibiotic (amoxicillin) and another medicine called omeprazole (used to control the acidity of the stomach).

However, the best combination of tablets to treat *H. pylori* infection is yet to be determined. Your doctor will determine the best combination for you.

If you symptoms return, consult your doctor. It is possible that Klamycin may no longer be effective in killing the *H. pylori* infection and a different antibiotic may be needed.

Before you take KLAMYCIN

When you must not take it

Do not take Klamycin if you are allergic to:

- medicines containing clarithromycin or any other antibiotic from the macrolide group eg. erythromycin, roxithromycin, azithromycin
- 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 or tongue which may cause difficulty swallowing or breathing; wheezing or shortness of breath.

Do not take Klamycin if you are taking the following medicines:

- cisapride, a medicine used to treat stomach disorders
- pimozide, a medicine used to treat psychotic disorders
- ergotamine or dihydroergotamine used for migraines
- terfenadine and astemizole, used to treat hayfever or allergy

Before you take it

Tell your doctor if:

- you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant
- you are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed
- you have, or have ever had, any other health problems or medical conditions, including liver problems or poor kidney function
- you have myasthenia gravis, a condition where there is severe muscle weakness.

Do not take Klamycin if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.

Do not take Klamycin 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.

If you are not sure whether you should start taking Klamycin, talk to your doctor.

Taking other medicines

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

Some medicines may affect the way Klamycin works. These include:

- medicines used to prevent blood clotting, such as warfarin
- some medicines used for epilepsy such as phenytoin, carbamazepine, sodium valproate
- theophylline, a medicine used to treat asthma
- digoxin, a medicine commonly used to treat heart failure
- some medicines used to treat sleeplessness or insomnia such as triazolam or midazolam
- some medicines used to treat HIV infection such as zidovudine, ritonavir, indinavir, saquinavir, rifabutin, nevirapine, efavirenz and atazanavir
- cilostazol, used for poor circulation
- methylprednisolone, a corticosteroid
- vinblastine, a medicine used to treat cancer
- sildenafil, used to treat erectile dysfunction in adult males
- some medicines used to treat an irregular heart beat such as quinidine, disopyramide
- alprazolam, used to treat anxiety
- colchicine, a medicine used to treat gout
- medicines used to lower high cholesterol levels eg. simvastatin, lovastatin
- tacrolimus and cyclosporine, immunosuppressive agents
- fluconazole and itraconazole, used to treat fungal infections
- tolterodine, a medicine used to treat urinary problems

- verapamil, a medicines used to treat high blood pressure and chest pain.

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

Your doctor or pharmacist has more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Klamycin.

How to take KLAMYCIN

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 pack, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

The dose varies from person to person. Your doctor will tell you how many tablets you need to take each day and when to take them. This depends on your condition and the type of infection to be treated.

The usual adult dose is one Klamycin 250 mg tablet twice a day.

For more severe infections, the dose can be increased to two Klamycin 250 mg tablets, or one Klamycin 500 mg tablet twice a day.

Klamycin tablets are not recommended for children younger than 12 years.

How to take it

Swallow the tablets whole with a glass of water.

When to take it

Klamycin can be taken with or without food.

Take your medicine at about the same time each day. This will allow your medicine to have the best effect and also help you to remember when to take it.

How long to take it

Keep taking Klamycin until you finish the pack, or for as long as your doctor recommends. If you are being treated for an infection, Klamycin is usually taken for one or two weeks.

Do not stop taking Klamycin, even if you feel better after a few days, unless advised by your doctor. Your infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return 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.

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

If you take too much (overdose)

Immediately telephone your doctor, or the National Poisons Information Centre (0800 POISON or 0800 764 766) for advice, or go to the Emergency department at your nearest hospital, if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Klamycin.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning. You may need urgent medical attention.

If you take too much Klamycin, you may develop severe gastrointestinal symptoms, liver problems or allergic reactions.

While you are taking KLAMYCIN

Things you must do

If you are taking Klamycin for an infection and your symptoms do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

Tell your doctor if you become pregnant while taking Klamycin.

If you get severe diarrhoea, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after stopping Klamycin. Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any medicine to stop your diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor.

If you have to have any urine tests, tell your doctor you are taking Klamycin as it may affect the results of some laboratory tests.

If you are about to start taking a new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Klamycin.

Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Klamycin.

Things you must not do

Do not use Klamycin to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says so.

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

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Klamycin. Klamycin treats infections in most people, but 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.

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

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

Tell your doctor if you experience any of the following:

- stomach cramps and pains

- feeling sick, vomiting and diarrhoea
- change in taste sensation
- headache
- unusual tiredness or weakness

These are the more common side effects of Klamycin.

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following as you may need urgent medical care:

- yellowing of the eyes or skin (jaundice)
- oral thrush (sore white mouth or tongue) or vaginal thrush (vaginal itching or discharge)
- feeling generally unwell and having poor appetite
- hearing disturbances
- dizziness, confusion, hallucination, depression
- any type of skin rash, itching, hives
- severe diarrhoea, especially if bloody
- severe upper stomach pain, with nausea and vomiting (pancreatitis)
- signs of frequent infections such as fever, severe chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers
- bleeding or bruising more easily than normal

Stop taking Klamycin and tell your doctor immediately or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if any of the following happen:

- swelling of the face, lips, mouth, throat or neck which may cause difficulty in swallowing or breathing or sudden collapse
- chest pain
- convulsions

After you have finished taking Klamycin

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects, even if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with Klamycin:

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

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

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

This is not a complete list of all possible side effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side effects not yet known.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell while you are taking, or soon after you have finished taking Klamycin, even if it is not on this list.

After using Klamycin

Storage

Keep your medicine 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 Klamycin tablets in a cool, dry place where the temperature stays below 25 degrees C.

Do not store Klamycin or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

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

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking Klamycin, 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

Klamycin 250mg tablets are yellow, oval, film coated tablets with "C250" on one side and "G" on the other.

Klamycin 500mg tablets are yellow, oval, film coated tablets with "C500" on one side and "G" on the other.**Ingredients**

Each 250 mg tablet contains 250mg of the active ingredient, clarithromycin.

Each 500 mg tablet contains 500mg of the active ingredient, clarithromycin

Each tablet also contains pregelatinised maize starch, microcrystalline cellulose, croscarmellose sodium, stearic acid, povidone, colloidal silicon dioxide, magnesium stearate and film coat (contains the colours titanium dioxide and quinoline yellow aluminium lake).

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.

Phone: (09) 579 2792

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