

## New Zealand Data Sheet

# Kenacomb Ear Drops

*Gramicidin, neomycin as sulphate,  
triamcinolone acetonide and nystatin*

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## Presentation

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### *Ear Drops:*

0.025% **gramicidin**, 0.25% **neomycin**, 100,000 units **nystatin**, 0.1% **triamcinolone acetonide**; sterile in plastibase.

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## Uses

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### *Actions*

**Triamcinolone acetonide** is a potent fluorinated corticosteroid with rapid anti-inflammatory, antipruritic and anti-allergic actions.

The combined action of the antibiotics **neomycin** and **gramicidin** provides comprehensive antibacterial therapy against a wide range of Gram-positive and Gram-negative bacteria, including those micro-organisms responsible for most bacterial skin infections.

**Nystatin** is an antifungal antibiotic, active against a wide range of yeasts and yeast-like fungi, including *Candida albicans*.

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## Indications

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The topical treatment of superficial bacterial infections, cutaneous candidosis and dermatological conditions known to respond to topical steroid therapy when threatened or complicated by bacterial or candidal superinfections, especially otitis externa.

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## Dosage and Administration

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**Adults and Children:**

After cleaning, apply the nozzle to the aural canal and squeeze small amount into the canal two to four times daily.

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## Contraindications

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In tuberculous and most topical or systemic viral lesions of the skin, particularly herpes simplex, vaccinia and varicella. Also in fungal lesions not susceptible to nystatin. In patients with hypersensitivity to any of the components. Should not be applied to the external auditory canal in patients with perforated eardrums.

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## Warnings and Precautions

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Care is necessary in applying this preparation if perforation of the eardrum is suspected.

If sensitivity or irritation develops, topical use of this medication should be discontinued and appropriate therapy instituted. Hypersensitivity reactions to the anti-infective components may be masked by the presence of a corticosteroid.

Because of the potential hazard of nephrotoxicity and ototoxicity, this medication should not be used in patients with extensive skin damage or other conditions where absorption of neomycin is possible.

As with any antibiotic preparation, prolonged use may result in overgrowth of nonsusceptible organisms, including fungi other than *Candida*. Corticosteroids, furthermore, can enhance microbial infections. Therefore, constant observation of the patient is essential. Should superinfection due to nonsusceptible organisms occur, suitable concomitant antimicrobial therapy must be administered. If a favourable response does not occur promptly, application should be discontinued until the infection is adequately controlled by other anti infective measures.

Systemic absorption of topical corticosteroids has produced reversible hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression, manifestations of Cushing's syndrome, hyperglycemia, and glucosuria in some patients.

Conditions which augment systemic absorption include the application of the more potent steroids, use over large surface areas, and prolonged use. Therefore, patients receiving a large dose of any potent topical steroids under any condition(s) which may enhance systemic absorption, should be evaluated periodically for evidence of HPA axis suppression by using the urinary free cortisol and ACTH stimulation tests, and for impairment of thermal homeostasis.

Adrenal suppression can occur.

Recovery of HPA axis function and thermal homeostasis are generally prompt and complete upon discontinuation of the drug. Infrequently, signs and symptoms of steroid withdrawal may occur, requiring supplemental systemic corticosteroids.

Not for ophthalmic use.

### **Information for Patients:**

Patients using this medication should receive the following information and instructions:

1. This medication is to be used as directed by the physician. It is for skin use only. Avoid contact with eyes.
2. Patients should be advised not to use this medication for any disorder other than that for which it was prescribed.
3. Even if symptomatic relief occurs within the first few days of the treatment, the patient should be advised not to interrupt or discontinue therapy until the prescribed course of treatment is completed.
4. Patients should report any signs of adverse reactions.
5. The treated skin areas should not be bandaged, covered or wrapped unless directed by the physician.
6. Patients should be advised on preventive measures to avoid reinfection.

### ***Laboratory Tests***

If there is a lack of therapeutic response, KOH smears, cultures or other diagnostic methods should be repeated.

A urinary free cortisol test and ACTH stimulation test may be helpful in evaluating hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis suppression due to corticosteroid.

### ***Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis and Impairment of Fertility***

Long-term animal studies have not been performed to evaluate carcinogenic or mutagenic potential, or possible impairment of fertility in males or females.

### ***Pregnancy:***

Topical administration of corticosteroids to pregnant animals can cause abnormalities of foetal development. The relevance of this finding to humans has not been established. However, topical steroids should not be used extensively in pregnancy, ie, in large amounts or for long periods. Topical

corticosteroids should be used during pregnancy only if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk of to the foetus.

### ***Nursing Mothers:***

It is not known whether topical administration of this medication could result in sufficient systemic absorption of the components to produce detectable quantities in breast milk. Nevertheless caution should be executed when this medication is administered to a nursing woman.

### ***Paediatric Use:***

Use of this medication for prolonged periods in paediatric patients could result in sufficient systemic absorption to produce systemic effects. Paediatric patients may demonstrate greater susceptibility to HPA axis suppression and Cushing's syndrome than mature patients.

HPA axis suppression, Cushing's syndrome, and intracranial hypertension have been reported in children receiving topical corticosteroids.

When applied to paediatric patients, this medication should be limited to the least amount for the shortest duration compatible with an effective therapeutic regimen. These patients should be closely monitored for signs and symptoms of systemic effects.

In infants, long-term continuous topical steroid therapy should be avoided.

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## **Adverse Effects**

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**Triamcinolone acetonide** is well tolerated. Where adverse reactions occur they are usually reversible on cessation of therapy.

The following local adverse reactions are reported infrequently with topical corticosteroids (reactions are listed in an approximate decreasing order of occurrence): burning, itching, irritation, dryness, folliculitis, hypertrichosis, acneiform eruptions, hypopigmentation, perioral dermatitis, allergic contact dermatitis, maceration of the skin, secondary infection, skin atrophy, striae, and miliaria.

Signs of systemic toxicity such as oedema and electrolyte imbalance have not been observed even when high topical dosage has been used. The possibility of the systemic effects which are associated with all steroid therapy should be considered.

### **Neomycin:**

Sensitivity reactions may occur especially with prolonged use. Delayed hypersensitivity reactions have been reported. Ototoxicity and nephrotoxicity have been reported. Large amounts of this product should be avoided in the

treatment of skin infections following extensive burns, trophic ulceration and other conditions where absorption of neomycin is possible.

**Gramicidin:**

Sensitivity reactions have been reported.

**Nystatin:**

Nystatin is well tolerated even with prolonged therapy. Irritation and cases of contact dermatitis have been reported.

**Paediatric Patients:**

Manifestations of adrenal suppression in paediatric patients include linear growth retardation, delayed weight gain, low plasma cortisol levels, and absence of response to ACTH stimulation. Manifestations of intracranial hypertension include bulging fontanelles, headaches, and bilateral papiledema.

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## Overdosage

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Topically applied corticosteroids and neomycin can be absorbed in sufficient amounts to produce systemic effects (see **Adverse Effects**).

Treatment: No specific antidote is available, and treatment should be symptomatic.

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## Pharmaceutical Precautions

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**Dilution:**

Not recommended, as this would reduce the concentration of the antibiotics to below therapeutic levels.

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## Medicine Classification

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Prescription Medicine.

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## Package Quantities

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Ear Drops, 7.5mL.

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## **Name and Address**

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## **Date of Preparation**

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12 November 2009