



Patient & Family Guide
2017

Vancomycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis



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Vancomycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis

What is vancomycin?

- Vancomycin is an antibiotic (drug used to treat infections caused by bacteria). It is used to treat peritoneal infections.

Why am I getting vancomycin?

- If you have peritonitis (an infection in your peritoneum), your renal team may tell you to take an antibiotic, such as vancomycin.
- Symptoms of peritonitis include: cloudy bag, abdominal (stomach) pain and fever.
- You will only start taking vancomycin if the renal team tells you to do so.
- You will be trained by the renal team on how to give yourself vancomycin through your peritoneal solution.

What are some of the possible side effects?

- Like most medicines, vancomycin may cause side effects. These include diarrhea, nausea (feeling sick to your stomach), vomiting (throwing up) and abdominal (stomach) pain. You may also have sore muscles or a throbbing pain in your back after taking this drug. Rarely, vancomycin may cause an allergic reaction.
- Contact your health care provider if diarrhea continues or changes in frequency or consistency.

Go to the nearest Emergency Department if you have any of the following:

- › Wheezing or trouble breathing
- › Chest tightness
- › Hives
- › Itchy rash
- › Swelling of the lips or body
- › Feeling faint
- › Severe (very bad) diarrhea
- › Flu-like symptoms
- › Ringing in the ears, hearing loss
- › General flushing (sudden feeling of warmth)

How do I give myself vancomycin?

- You will give yourself vancomycin intraperitoneally once every 5 days during a 6-hour 'dwell'.
- Vancomycin comes as a powder that needs to be mixed with sterile water before it is added to your dialysis solution.
- Instructions on how to mix, draw up and administer vancomycin are given below.

Mixing and adding vancomycin to a bag of solution

You will need:

- Face mask
- Vancomycin (500 mg vial)
- Sterile water
- Syringes with needles (2 or more)
- Solu-I.V.[™] swabs (2% chlorhexidine gluconate with 70% alcohol)

Instructions:

1. Your dose of vancomycin is _____ mg given intraperitoneally once every 5 days during a 6-hour dwell.
2. Check the vial(s) of vancomycin for the correct name, strength and expiry date.
3. Put on the face mask and wash your hands.

4. Open and check the bag of solution.
5. Remove caps from sterile water and vancomycin vial(s). Put a Solu-I.V.[™] swab on top of each vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove swabs and let air dry.
6. Put a SOLU-I.V.[™] swab on the medication port of the bag of solution. Scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let air dry.
7. Open a 10 ml syringe with needle. Twist together to tighten needle.
8. Draw up 10 ml of air into syringe.
9. Inject air into the sterile water.
10. Draw up 10 ml of sterile water.
11. Inject the sterile water into the vancomycin vial right away. Gently swirl the vial to mix until the powder is completely dissolved.
12. Put a new Solu-I.V.[™] swab on the vancomycin vial and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove swab and let air dry.
13. Repeat steps 6-11 if a second vancomycin vial is needed.
14. Using a new syringe, inject air into the vial. It should look clear, not cloudy.
15. You will need _____ **500 mg** vials. Draw up **10 ml of vancomycin from each vial** and inject into the medication port on the bag of solution right away.

16. Mix by squeezing the port and turning the bag upside down several times.
17. On your daily record sheet, write down the drug (vancomycin), dose (500 mg) and time/date given.
18. Repeat these steps once every 5 days during a 6-hour dwell, as directed.

Things to remember:

- ☑ Antibiotic medicines should dwell for 6 hours.
- ☑ 1 ml = 1 cc (Bottles are labelled with “ml” and syringes are labelled with “cc”.)
- ☑ Medicine should always look clear when mixed with sterile water.
- ☑ Only use the vial of sterile water one time. Discard the sterile water vial after using.
- ☑ **DO NOT** reuse syringes or needles.
- ☑ Put used needles into a sharps container for disposal.
- ☑ Mix the vancomycin right before your exchange, or as close as possible to it.
- ☑ Do not reheat the bag of solution after adding the vancomycin.
- ☑ The Renal Dialysis Home Unit phone number is 1-902-473-2155.

How do I store my vancomycin?

- Store unopened vancomycin at room temperature away from light.
- After mixing and drawing up your dose of vancomycin, throw away the vial.

If you have any questions, please talk to your nurse, doctor, pharmacist or nurse practitioner.

Your nurse can arrange for a member of your health care team to talk with you about your treatment.

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Contact your local public library for books, videos, magazines, and other resources.

For more information, go to <http://library.novascotia.ca>

Connect with a registered nurse in Nova Scotia any time: call 811 or visit <https://811.novascotia.ca>

Learn about other programs and services in your community: call 211 or visit <http://ns.211.ca>

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The information is not intended to be and does not constitute health care or medical advice.

If you have any questions, please ask your health care provider.

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The information in this pamphlet is to be updated every 3 years or as needed.