



Patient & Family Guide  
2017

# Gentamicin or Tobramycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis



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# **Gentamicin or Tobramycin for Peritonitis in Peritoneal Dialysis**

## **What are gentamicin and tobramycin?**

- Gentamicin and tobramycin are antibiotics (drugs used to treat infections caused by bacteria). They are used to treat peritoneal infections.

## **Why am I getting gentamicin or tobramycin?**

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

## **What are some of the possible side effects?**

- Like most medicines, gentamicin and tobramycin may cause side effects. Rarely, these drugs may cause an allergic reaction.

### **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
  - › Ringing or a full feeling in the ears, earache, hearing loss
  - › Dizziness, loss of balance, unsteady walking
- This type of antibiotic (from a drug class called ‘aminoglycosides’) may cause hearing loss, balance problems or dizziness that will never go away. This is rare and happens in less than 1 out of 100 patients taking the drug for more than 10 days.

- If you need to take gentamicin or tobramycin for more than 14 days, you will have a hearing test. The first test will be done before you start taking the drug. A second test will be done about two weeks after you start the drug. If you have hearing or balance problems, more testing will be done as needed.



## **How do I give myself gentamicin or tobramycin?**

- You will give yourself gentamicin or tobramycin intraperitoneally once a day during a 6-hour 'dwell'.
- These medications are already mixed.
- Instructions on how to draw up and administer these antibiotics are given on the next page.

### **Drawing up antibiotics that are already mixed and adding to a bag of solution**

You will need:

- Face mask
- Gentamicin or tobramycin (80 mg vial)
- 3 ml syringes with needles (2 or more)
- Solu-I.V.<sup>™</sup> swabs (2% chlorhexidine gluconate with 70% alcohol)

## Instructions:

1. Your dose of gentamicin or tobramycin is \_\_\_\_\_ mg (40 mg or 60 mg dose) given intraperitoneally once a day during a 6-hour dwell.
2. Check the vial(s) of gentamicin or tobramycin 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 cap from gentamicin or tobramycin vial(s). Put a Solu-I.V.<sup>™</sup> swab on top of the vial(s) and scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let it air dry.
6. Put a SOLU-I.V.<sup>™</sup> swab on the medication port of the bag of solution. Scrub for 30 seconds. Remove the swab and let it air dry.
7. Open a 10 ml syringe with needle. Twist together to tighten needle.
8. Draw up \_\_\_\_\_ ml of air into syringe.
9. Inject air into vial.
10. Turn the vial upside down to mix the gentamicin or tobramycin. It should look clear, not cloudy.

11. Draw up \_\_\_\_\_ mg (40 mg or 60 mg dose), which is \_\_\_\_\_ ml (amount), of gentamicin or tobramycin and inject into the medication port on the bag of solution right away. **Never use more than one vial.**
12. Mix by squeezing the port and turning the bag of solution upside down several times.
13. On your daily record sheet, write down the drug (gentamicin or tobramycin), dose and time/date given.
14. Repeat these steps once a day 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.
- DO NOT** reuse syringes or needles.
- Put used needles into a sharps container for disposal.
- Mix the gentamicin or tobramycin right before your exchange, or as close as possible to it.
- The Renal Dialysis Home Unit phone number is 1-902-473-2155.

# How do I store my gentamicin or tobramycin?

- Store unopened gentamicin or tobramycin at room temperature away from light.
- After drawing up your dose of gentamicin or tobramycin, 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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*Please do not use perfumed products. Thank you!*

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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.