

CEFTRIAZONE

Ceftriaxone for the Prevention of Meningococcal Disease

Meningococcal disease is caused by bacteria called *Neisseria meningitidis* found in your nose and throat. These bacteria can cause serious and life-threatening infections including meningitis, an infection of the lining that covers the brain, and septicemia, an infection of the blood. Fever, severe headache, and stiff neck may be signs of a meningococcal infection. Meningococcal infection is spread from person to person by coughing, sneezing or close face-to-face contact. It can also be spread through saliva through activities such as using the same eating utensils; kissing; drinking from the same glass or water bottle; or sharing joints, cigarettes, musical mouthpieces, or lipstick.

Ceftriaxone is an antibiotic prescribed for close contacts of people who are ill with meningococcal disease. Such close contacts may be carrying the bacteria in their throat but not have any symptoms of this infection. Ceftriaxone will eliminate the meningococcal bacteria from the nose and throat and lessen the risk of getting meningococcal disease or spreading the infection to others.

- Ceftriaxone is given as a single injection into the muscle
- The medicine may be mixed with lidocaine (a local anesthetic) to reduce stinging at the injection site
- To provide timely protection, you will not be tested to see if you are carrying the bacteria prior to treatment.

Allergies

Tell your healthcare provider if you have an allergy to ceftriaxone or lidocaine or any of the following medications:

- Other cephalosporin antibiotics (e.g., cefuroxime, cefixime, cefotaxime, ceftazidime and cefepime)
- Other local anesthetics or drugs of the amide type (e.g., prilocaine)

Pregnancy and Breast/Chest Feeding

- Ceftriaxone may generally be used during pregnancy and breast/chest feeding. However, please consult your healthcare provider.

CAUTION

- Tell your healthcare provider if you have any gallbladder, liver, kidney, pancreas or bleeding disorder, or a history of stomach dysfunction, particularly colitis.
- If you are receiving a dose of ceftriaxone, do not receive the following:
 - BCG therapy – consult with your healthcare provider
 - Cholera vaccine (Vaxchora®) within 14 days of antibiotic therapy
 - Oral Typhoid vaccine (Vivotif®) within 3 days of antibiotic therapy
- Ceftriaxone may interfere with certain copper-reduction urine glucose tests
- Ceftriaxone is contraindicated in preterm newborns or infants aged 28 days or less and neonates with high blood levels of bilirubin
- **Drug Interactions:** Please note that individual drug interactions are not listed in this document. If you are taking any prescription, non-prescription, herbal, or recreational products, please discuss with your healthcare provider.

Side Effects

Side effects of ceftriaxone may include the following:

- pain, redness or swelling at the injection site
- skin rash, diarrhea, vomiting or upset stomach or stomach pain

If any of these effects persist or worsen, please contact your healthcare provider.

Care Following Treatment

- Please wait in the clinic 15 minutes after your injection.
- Please inform a staff member immediately if you have any reactions following treatment including:
 - rash, itchiness, or hives
 - difficulty breathing or swallowing
 - swelling of the face or throat.
- If symptoms like the ones listed above develop after you leave the clinic, seek immediate medical attention.

Vaccine for meningococcal disease

In addition to receiving this antibiotic, it may be recommended that you get immunized to provide long term protection against meningococcal disease. The type of vaccine(s) given will depend on the strain of the bacteria that caused the disease. Speak to your healthcare provider for more information.