

Intravenous ceftriaxone for bacterial infections in children receiving treatment in the home

This leaflet aims to answer your questions about the antibiotic that your child is being given to treat their infection. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to the team looking after your child.

What is ceftriaxone?

Ceftriaxone is an antibiotic which is commonly used to treat infections caused by bacteria. It is important that your child receives ceftriaxone in order to kill the bacteria causing their infection.

How is ceftriaxone given?

Ceftriaxone is only available as an injection which is given intravenously (into a vein) through a small plastic tube (cannula). Ceftriaxone is usually given once a day. Usually a nurse will come to your house to give the medication to your child, or you may be taught to give the medication yourself.

What is the dose of ceftriaxone?

Your doctor will work out the amount of ceftriaxone (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be written on their discharge paperwork.

Are there any possible side effects?

We use medicines to make your child better, but sometimes they have unwanted effects (side effects). Ceftriaxone is generally a safe drug, but sometimes it can have serious side effects. For this reason, your child's first dose of ceftriaxone will be given in hospital, where the nursing staff can monitor for any side effects, like allergy.

Side effects that you must do something about

If your child gets a skin rash, itching or has problems breathing (such as shortness of breath or wheezing), or if their face, throat, lips or tongue start to swell, they may be allergic to ceftriaxone. **Take them to hospital or call an ambulance straight away.**

Contact the team looking after your child for advice (details at the end of this leaflet), if your child develops any of the following symptoms:

- A rash or any skin problems such as blisters, spots, peeling, scaling, redness or other colour change
- Severe diarrhoea that lasts for more than two days and particularly if it contains blood, mucus (slimy substance) or is very pale
- Dark urine (wee) or yellowing of the skin or the white part of the eye (jaundice)

Can other medicines be given at the same time as ceftriaxone?

You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol or ibuprofen unless your doctor has told you not to. If your child is taking any other medicines, tell your doctor or pharmacist. Check with your doctor or pharmacist **before** giving any other medicines to your child. This includes medicines that you can buy over the counter without a prescription, and herbal or complementary medicines

Is there anything else I need to know?

Ceftriaxone is a type of antibiotic called a cephalosporin. Your child should not have ceftriaxone if they are allergic to cephalosporins. **Make sure you tell your doctor if your child has ever shown any signs of allergy to any medicines.**

Where should I keep this medicine?

Keep this medicine in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge. Make sure that children cannot reach the medicine. Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

Contact us

The Paediatric Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (p-OPAT) Team

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact p-OPAT Clinical Nurse Specialist on **t:** 07771 678 353 Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. You can also contact the p-OPAT nurse by calling the switchboard on **t:** 020 7188 7188 and ask for the bleep desk. Ask for bleep 3053 and wait for a response. This will connect you to the p-OPAT nurse directly.

The Children's Hospital @home Team

Please contact the nurse on call via switchboard on **t:** 020 7188 7188, Monday to Sunday, 8am to 9pm.

Outside these hours, contact your GP, NHS 111, or go to your local Emergency Department (A&E).

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered

Evelina London Medicines Helpline

If you have any questions or concerns about your child's medicines, please speak to the staff caring for them or contact our helpline.

t: 020 7188 3003 10am to 5pm, Monday to Friday **e:** letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

NHS 111

Offers medical help and advice from fully trained advisers supported by experienced nurses and paramedics. Available over the phone 24 hours a day.

t: 111

Language and Accessible Support Services

If you need an interpreter or information about your care in a different language or format, please get in touch.

t: 020 7188 8815 **e:** languagesupport@gstt.nhs.uk

Leaflet number: 4531/VER1

Date published: December 2017

Review date: December 2020

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A list of sources is available on request