

Intravenous teicoplanin for children having treatment at home

This leaflet gives information about your child's intravenous antibiotics to treat their infection. If you have any further questions or concerns, please speak to a doctor or nurse looking after your child.

What is teicoplanin?

Teicoplanin is an antibiotic which is used to treat some bacterial infections. It is important that your child receives teicoplanin in order to kill the bacteria causing your child's infection.

How is teicoplanin given?

Teicoplanin is only available as an injection which is given through a small plastic tube (cannula) intravenously (into a vein). Teicoplanin is usually given once a day although at first it is given every three hours for three doses to achieve optimal levels in the blood (this is known as a "loading dose"). Usually a nurse will come to your house to administer the medication, or you may be taught to give the medication yourself.

What is the dose of teicoplanin?

Your doctor will work out the amount (dose) of teicoplanin that is right for your child. The dose will be written on your discharge paperwork. Depending on the severity of your child's infection, sometimes it may be necessary to monitor the level of drug in the blood to make sure they are getting the most appropriate treatment for their infection. To do this a small blood sample may be taken and sent away to the laboratory. The dose of teicoplanin may be adjusted depending on the result.

Are there any side effects?

We use medicines to make our children better but sometimes they have other effects that we don't want (side effects). Teicoplanin is generally a safe drug but sometimes it can have serious side effects. For this reason your child's first dose of teicoplanin will be given in hospital to check for side effects.

Side effects you must do something about

If your child gets a skin rash, flushing of the upper body, itching or hives and has problems breathing, seems short of breath or is wheezing, or if their face, throat, lips or tongue start to swell, they may be allergic to teicoplanin. **Take them to hospital or call an ambulance straight away.**

Contact the team looking after your child for advice if your child develops any of these symptoms:

- a rash or any skin problems such as blisters, spots, peeling, scaling, redness or other colour change
- the urine (wee) becomes dark

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

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?

Teicoplanin is a glycopeptide which is a type of antibiotic. Your child should not have teicoplanin if they are allergic to glycopeptides (for example, vancomycin). Make sure you tell your doctor if your child has ever shown any signs of allergy.

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, **t:** 07771 678 353, Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm. Alternatively, you can call the hospital switchboard, **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, **t:** 020 7188 7188, Monday to Sunday, 8am-9pm.

Out of hours, please contact your local Emergency Department (A&E).

For more information leaflets on conditions, procedures, treatments and services offered at our hospitals, please visit **w:** www.evelinalondon.nhs.uk/leaflets

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, Monday to Friday, 10am-5pm
e: letstalkmedicines@gstt.nhs.uk

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

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 **w:** 111.nhs.uk

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