

# Ampicillin

## **Why is this medication prescribed?**

Ampicillin is used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections. It is a penicillin-type antibiotic. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

Ampicillin is used to treat many different types of infections caused by bacteria, such as ear infections, bladder infections, pneumonia, gonorrhea, and E. coli or salmonella infection.

## **How should this medicine be used?**

Take this medication by mouth usually 4 times a day (every 6 hours), or as directed by your doctor. Take ampicillin on an empty stomach (1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal) with a full glass of water. Drink plenty of fluids while using this medication unless your doctor tells you otherwise.

The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy.

Continue to take this medication until the full-prescribed amount is finished even if symptoms disappear after a few days. Stopping the medication too early may allow bacteria to continue to grow, which may result in a relapse of the infection.

## **Other uses for this medicine**

Ampicillin may also be used for purposes other than those listed in this medication guide.

## **What special precautions should I follow?**

Before taking ampicillin, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to penicillin or cephalosporin antibiotics; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of kidney disease, a certain type of viral infection (infectious mononucleosis).

Kidney function declines as you grow older. This medication is removed by the kidneys.

Therefore, elderly people may be more sensitive to this drug.

This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor.

Ampicillin passes into breast milk.

## **What should I do if I forget a dose?**

If you miss a dose, use it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

### **What side effects can this medication cause?**

Get emergency medical help if you have any of these signs of an allergic reaction- hives; difficulty breathing; swelling of your face, lips, tongue, or throat.

Call your doctor at once if you have any of these serious side effects:

- fever, sore throat, and headache with a severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash;
- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms;
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- urinating less than usual or not at all;
- agitation, confusion, unusual thoughts or behavior; or
- seizure (black-out or convulsions).

Less serious side effects are more likely to occur, such as:

- nausea, vomiting, stomach pain;
- vaginal itching or discharge;
- headache;
- swollen, black, or "hairy" tongue; or
- thrush (white patches or inside your mouth or throat).

### **What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?**

Store at room temperature between 15-30 degrees C, away from excessive heat and moisture

### **In case of emergency/overdose**

If overdose is suspected, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

### **What other information should I know?**

Do not use this medication if you are allergic to ampicillin or to any other penicillin antibiotic, such as amoxicillin, carbenicillin, dicloxacillin, oxacillin, penicillin, and others.

Before using ampicillin, tell your doctor if you are allergic to cephalosporins or if you have asthma, kidney disease, a bleeding or blood clotting disorder, mononucleosis (also called "mono"), or a history of any type of allergy.

Ampicillin can make birth control pills less effective, which may result in pregnancy. Before taking ampicillin, tell your doctor if you use birth control pills.

Take this medication for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor. Your symptoms may get better before the infection is completely treated. Ampicillin will not treat a viral infection such as the common cold or flu.

Do not give this medication to another person, even if they have the same symptoms you do. Antibiotic medicines can cause diarrhea, which may be a sign of a new infection. If you have diarrhea that is watery or has blood in it, call your doctor. Do not use any medicine to stop the diarrhea unless your doctor has told you to.