

# Cefotaxime

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

Cefotaxime is an antibiotic used to treat a wide variety of bacterial infections. This medication is known as a cephalosporin antibiotic. It works by stopping the growth of bacteria.

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

If your product needs to be mixed, follow all instructions for proper mixing with the correct IV fluids. Before using, check the product visually for particles or discoloration. If either is present, do not use the liquid.

This medication is given by injection into a muscle or vein as directed by your doctor. If given by injection into a vein, inject the drug slowly over at least 3 minutes to avoid possible serious side effects (e.g., irregular heartbeat).

Antibiotics work best when the amount of medicine in your body is kept at a constant level. Therefore, use this drug at evenly spaced intervals. The dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy.

Continue to use this medication until the full prescribed treatment period is finished, even if symptoms disappear after a few days.

## **Other uses for this medicine**

Cefotaxime is also used to prevent infections in people having surgery.

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

Before using cefotaxime, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other cephalosporins; or to penicillins; or if you have any other allergies.

Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: kidney disease, liver disease, stomach/intestinal diseases (e.g., colitis).

Kidney function declines as you grow older. This medication is removed by the kidneys. Therefore, elderly people may be at greater risk for side effects while using this drug.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant before using this medication.

This medication passes into breast milk and may have undesirable effects on a nursing infant.

## **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:

- diarrhea that is watery or bloody;
- severe pain, irritation, or skin changes where the needle was placed;
- skin rash, bruising, severe tingling, numbness, pain, muscle weakness;
- uneven heartbeats;
- fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms;
- easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness;
- fever, sore throat, and headache with a severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash;
- seizure (black-out or convulsions); or
- jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin).

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

- pain, irritation, or hardening where the injection was given;
- stomach pain, nausea, vomiting;
- headache; or
- vaginal itching or discharge.

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

Before mixing, store the dry powder at room temperature below 30 degrees C away from light and moisture. After mixing, store at room temperature or in the refrigerator at or below 5 degrees C. If stored at room temperature, use/discard the mixed solution within 12-24 hours. If stored in the refrigerator, use/discard the mixed solution within 5-7 days. Consult the package instructions or your pharmacist for details.

### **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 cefotaxime or to similar antibiotics

Before using this medication, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs (especially penicillin). Also tell your doctor if you have liver or kidney disease, diabetes, a stomach or intestinal disorder, or a heart rhythm disorder.

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

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.

This medication can cause you to have unusual results with certain lab tests to check for glucose (sugar) in the urine. Tell any doctor who treats you that you are using cefotaxime.