

Cefepime

Why is this medication prescribed?

Cefepime 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?

Read and learn all preparation and usage instructions supplied by the manufacturer. If your product needs to be mixed, follow all instructions for proper mixing with the correct IV fluids. Consult your pharmacist for details. 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.

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. Stopping the medication too early may result in a return of the infection.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before using cefepime, 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, 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;
- skin rash, bruising, severe tingling, numbness, pain, muscle weakness;
- 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; or
- seizure (black-out or convulsions).

Less serious side effects may include:

- pain, swelling, or skin rash where the injection was given;
- stomach pain, nausea, vomiting;
- headache;
- skin rash or itching;
- white patches or sores inside your mouth or on your lips; or
- vaginal itching or discharge.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Before mixing, store the dry powder between 2-25 degrees C away from light and moisture. After mixing, you may store the solution at room temperature between 20-25 degrees C for up to 24 hours or in the refrigerator between 2-8 degrees C for up to 7 days.

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 take cefepime if you have ever had an allergic reaction to another cephalosporin or to a penicillin without first talking to your doctor.

Before using cefepime, tell your doctor if you are allergic to any drugs (especially penicillins), or if you have kidney disease, liver disease, or a stomach or intestinal disorder such as colitis.

Before using cefepime, tell your doctor if you are also using any other injected antibiotics, or a diuretic (water pill).

Use this medication for the entire length of time prescribed by your doctor. Your symptoms may get better before the infection is completely treated. Cefepime 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.



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