

Ceftazidime

Why is this medication prescribed?

Ceftazidime 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.

Other uses for this medicine

Ceftazidime injection is used to treat many kinds of bacterial infections, including severe or life-threatening forms.

What special precautions should I follow?

Before using ceftazidime, 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;
- fever, sore throat, and headache with a severe blistering, peeling, and red skin rash;
- swelling, pain, or irritation where the injection was given;
- cold feeling, discoloration, or skin changes in your fingers;
- seizure (black-out or convulsions);
- white patches or sores inside your mouth or on your lip; or
- jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin).

Less serious side effects may include:

- nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain;
- headache, dizziness;
- numbness or tingling feeling; or
- vaginal itching or discharge.

What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Before mixing, store the dry powder at room temperature between 15-30 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 24 hours.

Store the pre-mixed solution containers in the freezer at or below -20 degrees C. If stored at room temperature, use/discard the thawed solution within 24 hours.

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 ceftazidime, 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, heart failure, cancer, a stomach or intestinal disorder, or if you are malnourished.

Ceftazidime can make birth control pills less effective, which may result in pregnancy. Tell your doctor if you are taking birth control pills to prevent pregnancy. You may need to use another form of birth control during treatment with ceftazidime.

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