

# Gentamicin Topical

## Why is this medication prescribed?

This medication is used to treat minor infections of the skin (e.g., impetigo) or minor infections due to some skin conditions (e.g., psoriasis, eczema, poison oak/ivy). Gentamicin belongs to a class of drugs known as aminoglycoside antibiotics. It works by killing the bacteria that cause the infection.

## How should this medicine be used?

Apply this product to the infected area of skin, usually 3 to 4 times daily or exactly as prescribed by your doctor. Clean and dry the affected area, removing any dried crust. After applying a thin film of cream/ointment to the affected area, cover with a bandage if directed to do so by your doctor. Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. Use it at the same times each day.

## What special precautions should I follow?

Before using gentamicin topical, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or to other aminoglycoside antibiotics (e.g., tobramycin, amikacin); or if you have any other allergies.

Rarely, this medication may be absorbed into the bloodstream if you are applying it to a large area of your body with open wounds.

During pregnancy, this medication should be used only when clearly needed. This medication is considered safe to use while breast-feeding.

## 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?

Irritation, redness, and itching may occur.

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur: signs of a new infection (e.g., spreading skin redness, new milky/bloody liquid discharge).

## What storage conditions are needed for this medicine?

Store at room temperature between 15-30 degrees C away from light.

**In case of emergency/overdose**

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

