

*****Pharmacist available for consultation 24 hours a day*****

Ceftriaxone Sodium Injection
(sef try ax' one)

Brand Name: **Rocephin**

About Your Treatment

Your doctor has ordered ceftriaxone, a cephalosporin antibiotic, to help treat your infection. The drug will be either injected into a large muscle (such as your buttock or hip) or added to an intravenous fluid that will drip through a needle or catheter placed in your vein for 30 minutes, one or two times a day.

Ceftriaxone eliminates bacteria that cause many kinds of infections, including respiratory, skin, bone, joint, stomach, blood, and urinary tract infections. This medication is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your doctor or pharmacist for more information.

Your health care provider (doctor, nurse, or pharmacist) may measure the effectiveness and side effects of your treatment using laboratory tests and physical examinations. It is important to keep all appointments with your doctor and the laboratory. The length of treatment depends on how your infection and symptoms respond to the medication.

Precautions

Before administering ceftriaxone,

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to ceftriaxone, any other cephalosporin [e.g., cefaclor (Ceclor), cefadroxil (Duricef), or cephalexin (Keflex)], penicillin, or any other drugs.
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking, especially other antibiotics, probenecid (Benemid), and vitamins.
- Tell your doctor if you have or have ever had kidney, liver, gallbladder, or gastrointestinal disease (especially colitis).
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. If you become pregnant while taking ceftriaxone, call your doctor.
- If you have diabetes and regularly check your urine for sugar, use Clinistix or TesTape. Do not use Clinitest tablets because ceftriaxone may cause false positive results.

Administering Your Medications

Before you administer ceftriaxone, look at the solution closely. It should be clear to yellowish and free of floating material. Cephalosporins normally yellow over time but this does not affect the potency. Gently squeeze the bag or observe the solution container to make sure there are no leaks. Do not use the solution if it is grossly discolored, if it contains particles, or if the bag or container leaks. Use a new solution, but show the damaged one to your health care provider.

It is important that you use your medication exactly as directed. Do not stop your therapy on your own for any reason because your infection could worsen and result in hospitalization. Do not change your dosing schedule without talking to your health care provider. Your health care provider may tell you to stop your infusion if you have a mechanical problem (such as a blockage in the tubing, needle, or catheter); if you have to stop an infusion, call your health care provider immediately so your therapy can continue.

Side Effects

Although side effects from ceftriaxone are not common, they can occur. If you are administering ceftriaxone into a muscle, it may be mixed with lidocaine (Xylocaine) to reduce pain at the injection site. Tell your health care provider if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- Diarrhea
- Stomach pain

- Upset stomach
- Vomiting

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your health care provider immediately:

- Unusual bleeding or bruising
- Difficulty breathing
- Itching
- Rash
- Hives
- Sore mouth or throat

Storing Your Medication

- Your health care provider probably will give you a several-day supply of ceftriaxone at a time. If you are receiving ceftriaxone intravenously (in your vein), you probably will be told to store it in the refrigerator or freezer.
- Take your next dose from the refrigerator 1 hour before using it; place it in a clean, dry area to allow it to warm to room temperature.
- If you are told to store additional ceftriaxone in the freezer, always move a 24-hour supply to the refrigerator for the next day's use.
- Do not refreeze medications.

Store your medication only as directed. Make sure you understand what you need to store your medication properly.

Keep your supplies in a clean, dry place when you are not using them, and keep all medications and supplies out of reach of children. Your health care provider will tell you how to throw away used needles, syringes, tubing, and containers to avoid accidental injury.

Signs of Infection

You should be aware of the symptoms of infection in case your infection worsens or a new infection develops. If you notice any of the following symptoms, tell your health care provider as soon as possible:

- Fever
- Unusual tiredness or weakness
- Chills
- Shaking
- Nighttime sweating
- Loss of appetite

If you are receiving ceftriaxone in your vein or under your skin, you need to know the symptoms of a catheter-related infection (an infection where the needle enters your vein or skin). If you experience any of these effects near your intravenous catheter, tell your health care provider as soon as possible:

- Tenderness
- Warmth
- Irritation
- Drainage
- Redness
- Swelling
- Pain