

Alphacin

contains the active ingredient ampicillin (trihydrate)

CONSUMER MEDICINE INFORMATION

What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Alphacin.

It does not contain all of the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have benefits and risks. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking Alphacin against the benefits expected for you.

If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

Keep this leaflet with your medicine.

You may need to read it again.

What Alphacin is used for

Alphacin is used to treat certain types of bacterial infections in the body such as:

- * respiratory tract infections (throat, airways and lungs)
- * urinary tract infections (kidneys and bladder)
- * gastrointestinal infections (stomach and intestines).

Alphacin is an antibiotic that belongs to a group of medicines called penicillins. These medicines work by killing the bacteria that are causing your infection.

Alphacin does not work against infections caused by viruses, such as colds or flu, or fungi.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why Alphacin has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed Alphacin for another reason.

Alphacin is available only with a doctor's prescription.

There is no evidence that Alphacin is addictive.

Before you take Alphacin

When you must not take it

Do not take Alphacin if you are allergic to:

- * medicines containing ampicillin or any other penicillins eg. amoxycillin
- * cephalosporin antibiotics
- * any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include skin rash, itching or hives; swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat, which may cause difficulty with swallowing or breathing.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about any of the above.

Do not take Alphacin if the expiry date (EXP) printed on the pack has passed.

If you take this medicine after the expiry date, it may not work as well.

Do not take Alphacin if the packaging shows signs of tampering or the capsules do not look quite right.

Before you start to take it

Be sure to tell your doctor if you have had any type of allergic reaction to:

- * other penicillins eg. amoxycillin
- * cephalosporin antibiotics.

You may have an increased chance of being allergic to Alphacin if you are allergic to cephalosporins.

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.

Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant.

Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking Alphacin during pregnancy.

Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding or wish to breastfeed.

Alphacin passes into breast milk. Your doctor will discuss the risks and benefits of taking Alphacin when breastfeeding.

Tell your doctor if you have any medical conditions, especially the following:

- * kidney problems
- * leukaemia
- * glandular fever
- * a history of allergies, asthma, hay fever or hives.

If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking Alphacin.

Taking other medicines

Tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you buy without a prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may be affected by Alphacin, or may affect how well it works. These include:

- * probenecid and allopurinol, medicines commonly used to prevent gout
- * certain other antibiotics, such as tetracyclines, erythromycin, chloramphenicol
- * the contraceptive pill (birth control pill).

Talk to your doctor about the need for additional contraception while taking Alphacin.

Alphacin may reduce the effectiveness of some birth control pills.

Your doctor can tell you what to do if you are taking any of these medicines.

If you are not sure whether you are taking any of these medicines, check with your doctor or pharmacist.

Your doctor and pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or avoid while taking Alphacin.

How to take Alphacin

Follow all directions given to you by your doctor and pharmacist carefully.

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

If you do not understand the instructions on the pack, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.

How much to take

The dose varies from person to person.

Your doctor will tell you how much you need to take each day. This depends on your condition and whether or not you are taking any other medicines.

If Alphacin is to be given to a child, the doctor will work out the dose according to the child's weight.

People with kidney problems may need smaller doses.

How to take Alphacin

Swallow the capsules whole with a glass of water.

When to take Alphacin

Take Alphacin on an empty stomach, at least one hour before food.

Food can interfere with the absorption of Alphacin.

Take Alphacin every six hours or as instructed by your doctor, at about the same time each day.

How long to take Alphacin for

Keep taking Alphacin until you finish the capsules, or for as long as your doctor recommends.

Do not stop taking Alphacin even if you feel better after a few days, unless advised by your doctor.

If you stop taking Alphacin too soon, your infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

If you forget to take Alphacin

If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose when you are meant to.

Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

If you take too much Alphacin (overdose)

Telephone your doctor, or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26), if you think you or anyone else may have taken too much Alphacin.

Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

You may need urgent medical attention

While you are taking Alphacin

Things you must do

Before starting any new medicine, tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Alphacin.

Tell all the doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking Alphacin.

If your symptoms do not improve within a few days, or if they become worse, tell your doctor.

If you develop itching with swelling or skin rash or difficulty breathing while taking Alphacin, do not take any more and tell your doctor immediately.

If you get severe diarrhoea, tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after you have stopped taking Alphacin.

Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care.

Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without checking with your doctor.

If you get a sore, white mouth or tongue while taking or soon after stopping Alphacin, tell your doctor. Also tell your doctor if you get vaginal itching or discharge.

This may mean you have a fungal infection called thrush. Sometimes, the use of Alphacin allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms to occur. Alphacin does not work against fungi.

If you are about to have any urine tests, tell your doctor that you are taking Alphacin.

It may interfere with the results of some tests.

Things you must not do

Do not stop taking Alphacin, even if you feel better after a few days, unless advised by your doctor.

If you stop taking Alphacin too soon, the infection may not clear completely or your symptoms may return.

Do not use Alphacin to treat any other conditions unless your doctor tells you to.

Do not give Alphacin to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.

Side effects

Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking Alphacin.

Alphacin helps most people with their infections, but it may have unwanted side effects in some people.

All medicines can have side effects. Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical treatment if you get some of the side effects.

Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side effects.

You may not experience any of them.

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following and they worry you:

- * feeling sick (nausea) or vomiting
- * diarrhoea
- * oral thrush (white, furry sore tongue and mouth)
- * vaginal thrush (sore and itchy vagina, vaginal discharge).

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following:

- * watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody
- * severe stomach cramps
- * signs of anaemia such as looking pale, unusual tiredness or weakness, being short of breath when exercising
- * bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- * yellowing of the skin and/or eyes (jaundice)
- * signs of frequent infections such as fever, chills, sore throat or mouth ulcers.

If any of the following happen, stop taking Alphacin and tell your doctor immediately, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital:

- * any type of skin rash, itching, blistering or peeling of the skin, hives
- * swelling of the face, lips, mouth or throat which may cause difficulty swallowing or breathing
- * fever, in combination with one or both of the above
- * passing little or no urine.

Tell your doctor if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

After finishing Alphacin

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following, even if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with Alphacin:

- * watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody
- * severe stomach cramps
- * fever, in combination with one or both of the above.

These are rare but serious side effects. You may need urgent medical attention.

This medicine may cause the bacteria, which are normally harmless and present in the bowel, to multiply resulting in the above symptoms.

Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without checking with your doctor.

After using Alphacin

Storage

Keep Alphacin where children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Keep Alphacin capsules in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25 degrees C.

Do not store Alphacin or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink.

Do not leave Alphacin in the car or on window sills.

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Disposal

If your doctor tells you to stop taking Alphacin, or your medicine has passed its expiry date, ask your pharmacist what to do with any that is left over.

Product description

What it looks like

Alphacin capsules are available in two strengths:

- * Alphacin 250
- * Alphacin 500.

The capsules are green and red for both Alphacin strengths.

Each pack contains 24 capsules.

Ingredients

The active ingredient in:

- * Alphacin 250 is 250 mg ampicillin (trihydrate)
- * Alphacin 500 is 500 mg ampicillin (trihydrate).

The capsules also contain:

- * purified talc
- * magnesium stearate
- * sodium starch glycollate
- * microcrystalline cellulose [Alphacin 250 only]
- * colloidal anhydrous silica
- * sodium lauryl sulfate
- * gelatin
- * brilliant blue FCF CI42090 (E133)
- * erythrosine CI45430 (E 127)
- * iron oxide yellow CI77492 (E172)
- * titanium dioxide CI77891 (E171).

The capsules are gluten free.

Supplier

Alphacin is supplied by:

Alphapharm Pty Limited

(ABN 002 359 739)

Chase Building 2

Wentworth Park Road

Glebe NSW 2037

Phone: (02) 9298 3999

Medical Information

Phone: 1800 028 365

www.alphapharm.com.au

Australian Registration Numbers:

Alphacin 250 - AUST R 17689

Alphacin 500 - AUST R 17690.

This leaflet was prepared on 15 July 2004.