# ERTAPENEM

*Er-ta-pen-em*

## What does it do?

*Ertapenem* is an antibiotic used to treat bacterial infections. It may also be used before a prostate biopsy to prevent serious infections.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How is it given?

*Ertapenem* is given as an infusion into a vein, or as an injection into a muscle. It is usually given to you by a health professional.

## What if you forget a dose?

Contact your health professional as soon as possible. Usually, the missed dose is given as soon as possible, and treatment continued as directed.

## Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

## What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---|
| Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain<br>Skin rash | Tell your doctor |
| Stomach upset<br>Headache | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.