# VANCOMYCIN (injection)

*van-koh-my-sin*

## What does it do?

*Vancomycin* is used to treat and prevent bacterial 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?

*Vancomycin* is given as a slow infusion into a vein, usually by a health professional.

## What if you forget a dose?

If you miss a dose, contact your health professional as soon as possible.

## Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *vancomycin* including:

- anti-inflammatories, such as diclofenac (e.g. Voltaren®), ibuprofen (e.g. Nurofen®), or aspirin (e.g. Disprin®, in doses used for pain relief). These can also be found in some cold and flu medicines (e.g. Nurofen Cold and Flu®).

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 |
|---|---|
| Reaction during the infusion including: flushing, redness, itching, short of breath, dizziness, fast or irregular heartbeat<br>Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding<br>Hearing loss, ringing in the ears, unsteadiness | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Severe or persistent diarrhoea, abdominal pain | Tell your doctor |
| Pain, tenderness or redness at injection site | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

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

## Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests to check how well your kidneys are working, and to measure the amount of *vancomycin* in your blood to make sure you are on the right dose.