

Vancomycin

Names	The generic drug name is vancomycin (van koe mye' sin). Vancocin® is a brand name. There may be other names for this medication)
How is it Administered?	Your medicine will be given by injection or intravenously. Vancomycin is also available in capsule form, which is taken by mouth.
What is it Used For?	<p>Vancomycin is an antibiotic. The IV form is used alone or with other medications to treat some serious infections such as endocarditis, peritonitis, and infections of the lungs, skin, blood, and bones.</p> <p>The oral (capsule) form is used for intestinal infections only.</p>
How Does it Work?	Vancomycin is in a class of medications called glycopeptide antibiotics, which kill bacteria. Antibiotics will not work for colds, flu, or other viral infections.
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to vancomycin or any other medications.• are pregnant or breastfeeding• have kidney disease, vertigo, hearing loss, or ringing in the ears• are taking any prescription and nonprescription medications, especially antibiotics and vitamins <p>This drug may interact with other medications, increasing or decreasing their effectiveness or causing harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about any prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>
What Are Some Possible Side Effects?	<p>Taken by mouth: Bitter taste, nausea, vomiting</p> <p>Given by IV:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Low blood pressure, with flushing of the skin• “Red Man Syndrome”: Chills or fever; fainting; fast heartbeat; hives; itching ; low blood pressure; nausea or

vomiting; rash or redness of the face, base of neck, upper body, back, and arms

How Can I
Manage These
Side Effects?

Ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or lessen nausea if you have this side effect.

When Should I
Call the
Doctor?

Call 911 or go to the nearest hospital emergency department if you have signs of severe allergic reaction: Swelling or tingling in your face, tongue, mouth, or throat; chest tightness; wheezing; trouble breathing or swallowing; dizziness, shortness of breath; heart palpitations; or hives. Please let us know if you go to the emergency room or are admitted to the hospital.

Let your doctor or nurse know immediately if you have:

- Change in the frequency of urination or amount of urine
- Fever, chills, or sore throat
- Coughing
- Drowsiness
- Weakness

What Else
Should I Know
About
Vancomycin?

- Some of the side effects also may occur up to several weeks after you stop receiving this medicine.
- Less common adverse reactions (less than 1%) include
 - ototoxicity (damage to the nerves of the ear/hearing especially with pre-existing hearing loss) when given in with large doses;
 - thrombocytopenia (low platelet count) that increases the risk of bleeding);
 - kidney damage or failure (especially with renal dysfunction or pre-existing hearing loss);
 - Stevens-Johnson syndrome (an emergency medical condition - flu-like symptoms, followed by a painful red or purplish rash that spreads and blisters - usually requires hospitalization
 - vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels)
- If you would like more information about vancomycin, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.