

Chest Centre

Lower Lane

Liverpool L9 7AL

[Tel:0151-529-8334/2483](tel:0151-529-8334/2483)

Monday – Friday 8am -5pm

# Nebulised Colomycin

## Patient Information leaflet

### Introduction

Your doctor has prescribed you a medicine called colomycin to use through a nebuliser. Colomycin belongs to a group of antibiotics called polymyxins.

If you think you are allergic to this group of antibiotics you should let your doctor know immediately.

Nebulisers are used to convert liquid medicines into fine droplets which can be inhaled directly into the lungs. The use of nebulised antibiotics including Colomycin (colistimethate sodium) is of benefit in some chronic respiratory infections (e.g. pseudomonas).

Regular use can improve lung function; decrease time spent in hospital and may reduce the need for other antibiotics. Nebulising the drug means it can treat the infection in the lungs directly and is much less likely to cause unwanted side effects.

### What to Do

Before you start, please note that Colomycin should be nebulised in a well ventilated room ideally without any other people, animals or pets present.

Separate administration sets should be used if taking other nebulisers i.e. salbutamol, ipratropium or 0.9% saline and should be taken first and **NOT** with the colomycin.

Hypertonic saline 6% or 7% should be taken **after the** colomycin nebuliser (in a separate administration set - bronchodilator nebulisers/inhalers also to be taken first).

### Equipment Needed

- Colomycin vial (1 million or 2 million as prescribed).
- Sterile water or sodium chloride 0.9% (saline) in 2.5ml or 5ml plastic vials.
- Air Compressor (machine), closed circuit tubing, acorn/ chamber, mouthpiece and filters.

### Preparing Colomycin & Administration

1. Wash and dry your hands.
2. Ensure taken regular bronchodilator nebulisers with separate administration set or inhalers (i.e. salbutamol, ipratropium, terbutaline, 0.9% saline) if prescribed.
3. Gently tap the vial on a hard surface to loosen the powder inside.



4. Flip up the plastic cap from the Colomycin vial.
5. Carefully remove the foil seal from around the top. This should peel off in one single piece.
6. Remove the rubber bung from the vial.
7. Add the sterile water /or saline 0.9% to the Colomycin vial.  
  
1 million unit vial: 2.5mls water/saline.  
2 million unit vial: 5mls water/saline.
8. Once the water or saline has been added to the Colomycin powder replace the rubber bung and swirl gently to mix.  
**Avoid shaking the vial as this can cause excessive frothing.**
9. Remove the rubber bung once mixed and pour the contents of the vial into the nebuliser chamber (as directed by your nurse or doctor).
10. Plug the air compressor into an electric outlet. Make sure the compressor is on a hard surface.
11. Attach one end of the smooth tubing to the air compressor and the opposite end to the nebuliser chamber containing the colomycin. Turn on the air compressor.
12. Use the dial on the top of nebuliser chamber to ensure this **is on breath activation only (triangle with dots)** and should be nebulised in a well ventilated room ideally without any other people, animals or pets present.
13. Place the mouthpiece in your mouth. Take slow, deep, even breaths through your mouth.
14. Continue for approximately 10 minutes or until the chamber is empty. It is safe to take a drink either during or after your nebuliser.
15. After the treatment is over take the nebuliser chamber apart and clean as per manufacturer's instructions, the chamber should be rinsed after each use.

## Other Useful Information

When the Colomycin powder is mixed with the saline 0.9% or water it is normal for the mixture to look hazy. It may also be frothy, especially if shaken.

Colomycin should be used immediately after preparation. Do not mix the powder and store for later use as this can make the medicine less effective and lead to side effects. Any remaining liquid should be discarded immediately.

Colomycin should not be mixed together with other nebulised medicine and separate administration set should be used for colomycin only

Using the filter as directed can reduce the amount of the drug passing into the surrounding air.

Your doctor/consultant will advise how long your treatment should last.

Do not use colomycin after the expiry date

Do not store vials above 25 C

## Will Taking Colomycin Affect Any other Medicines?

Taking Colomycin shouldn't affect any other medicines including prophylactic antibiotics and acute antibiotics. However, if you are prescribed a new medicine or want to buy a medicine e.g. from a pharmacy or supermarket, it is important that you tell the doctor or pharmacist about all the medicines that you take, including colomycin.

## Side Effects and Incidences When the Drug Should NOT be taken

Sometimes Colomycin can lead to unwanted effects such as:

- Coughing, Bronchospasm (a tight feeling in the chest, increased shortness of breath, wheeze). Take an extra dose of your bronchodilator (reliever inhaler or nebuliser).

- A sore throat/mouth.
- A rash (rarely) If you develop a rash or bronchospasm – please contact your doctor or nurse before taking any further doses for further advice.

## **Nebuliser equipment**

You have been provided with a loan nebuliser machine for the medication that your Doctor/Nurse requires you to take. (The air compressor and filters may have been ordered from your community stores)

The Consumables (**closed circuit nebuliser chamber, tubing and filters**) provided with it should last for **12** months.

The medication will be provided by your GP as part of your regular medication as per Pan Mersey guidelines.

The nebuliser chamber should be cleaned after every use as per manufacturer's instructions.

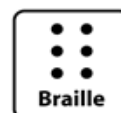
The nebuliser chamber and tubing (AeroEclipse XL) should be replaced every 6 months (we will provide 2 per year)

The Filters for the air compressor machine should be changed every 3 months. (If ordered via community stores these will be provided by them)

Please ring us on the number below when you have ran out of your 12 months supply. So we can provide you with additional consumables and your air compressor Nebuliser machine can be replaced/serviced every 12 months.

Should you have any issues with your Consumables or Nebuliser machine please contact the Number below for assistance:

**0151 529 8334/2483**



### **If you require a special edition of this leaflet**

This leaflet is available in large print, Braille, on audio tape or disk and in other languages on request. Please contact:

**Tel No: 0151 529 2906**

**Email: [interpretationandtranslation@aintree.nhs.uk](mailto:interpretationandtranslation@aintree.nhs.uk)**