

Consumer information

Use of neomycin prior to colorectal surgery

You may be advised to take a short course of tablets the day before your bowel or intestinal surgery. These tablets contain an antibiotic called neomycin which may lower your risk of developing an infection after your surgery.

How do I take it?

Three doses of neomycin are usually taken on the day before your surgery at specific times. TWO tablets make up one dose.

Date of surgery:

Start taking neomycin on:
(Insert the date one day before the date of your surgery)

Dose of neomycin	Time	Tick when dose taken
TWO tablets (total 1g)	1 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
TWO tablets (total 1g)	3 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>
TWO tablets (total 1g)	10 pm	<input type="checkbox"/>

Are there any side effects?

- When swallowed, only very small amounts of neomycin are absorbed into your bloodstream. This means that there is a low risk of having side effects.
- Some people may experience nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea. In extremely rare cases, neomycin may affect your kidneys or hearing.
- If you develop any signs of an allergic reaction such as rash or itching of the skin, stop taking neomycin and contact your surgeon immediately. If more severe signs of an allergic reaction such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the face and/or lips occur, call Triple Zero (000) immediately.

Where do I get it?

Neomycin is not a registered product in Australia but is used in many other countries. It is not readily available from community pharmacies. Your doctor will give you a hospital prescription for 6 tablets of neomycin 500mg. Take your prescription to a hospital pharmacy to obtain supply.

The information contained within this leaflet is for general information only. Ask your doctor if you have any questions about the leaflet or about your medical care.

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