

Colomycin[®] in cystic fibrosis

Information for adult patients

This information sheet explains how to take your nebuliser, possible side effects and advice on use, cleaning and storage. If you have any more questions, please do not hesitate to speak to the Adult CF team.

What is Colomycin[®]?

Colomycin[®] is a brand of an antibiotic called colistin, which is used to treat *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* infection in your lungs. You can use it for three months to try and clear a new growth of *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* in your lungs or long term as a maintenance treatment if you always grow it.

Usual dose

- Using an I-neb[®] device: nebulise 1 million international units twice a day.
- Using an eFlow[®] device or conventional compressor: nebulise 2 million international units twice a day.

The Adult CF team will let you know if you need to nebulise Colomycin[®] continuously or every other month (usually alternating with another nebulised antibiotic).

Are there any side effects?

Colomycin[®] can cause chest tightness, wheezing and coughing. You can usually avoid these symptoms by using inhaled or nebulised bronchodilators such as salbutamol or terbutaline.

To check for this and to assess your lung function, the physiotherapists at the hospital will arrange a trial dose for you before starting. You do not need a trial dose if you have previously been prescribed Promixin[®].

Colomycin[®] can also cause you to have a sore throat, hoarse voice, feel sick (nausea) and make things taste different. The patient information leaflet that comes in the package has a full list of possible side effects. If you have any of these or any other symptoms, contact the Adult CF team.

How do I take Colomycin[®]?

Inhale or nebulise your usual bronchodilator (salbutamol or terbutaline) before taking Colomycin[®].

Using an I-neb[®] device:

- Add 2mL of water for injection or sodium chloride 0.9% (or salbutamol if advised by the Adult CF physiotherapist) to a 2 million international unit vial of Colomycin[®] and mix until the medication is fully dissolved.

- Fill the bubble with 1mL of solution in the grey chamber and nebulise until the I-neb[®] completes delivery.
- The remaining solution should be stored in the fridge for up to 24 hours for the next doses.

Using an eFlow[®] device or conventional compressor:

- Add 4mL of water for injection or sodium chloride 0.9% (or salbutamol if advised by the Adult CF physiotherapist) to a 2 million international unit vial of Colomycin[®] and mix until the medication is fully dissolved.
- Empty the solution into the nebuliser pot or chamber.
- Nebulise until there is no more vapour or the device completes its pre-set delivery (this will be explained separately according to the device you have).

General advice

- Do not mix Colomycin[®] with any other drug in the same nebuliser pot or chamber.
- Nebulise Colomycin[®] twice a day, soon after physiotherapy.

Cleaning and storage

- After each use, clean the nebuliser pot or chamber as advised by the manufacturer and the Adult CF team.
- Colomycin[®] vials should be stored at room temperature.
- Once made up, the Colomycin[®] solution can be stored in the fridge at 2 to 8°C for up to 24 hours

Who do I contact with queries and concerns?

Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm:

- Adult CF physiotherapists: tel 020 3299 5284 or email kch-tr.adultcfphysio@nhs.net
- Adult CF pharmacists: email kch-tr.adultcfpharmacist@nhs.net

At all other times:

- King's Adult CF Ward: tel 020 3299 8652

PALS

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) is a service that offers support, information and assistance to patients, relatives and visitors. They can also provide help and advice if you have a concern or complaint that staff have not been able to resolve for you. They can also pass on praise or thanks to our teams.

Tel: **020 3299 4618**

Email: kings.pals@nhs.net

If you would like the information in this leaflet in a different language or format, please contact our Interpreting and Accessible Communication Support on 020 3299 4618 or email kings.access@nhs.net