

Medication Information

Vancomycin – Intravenous (IV) (Van – koe – MYE – sin)

When you take vancomycin through an intravenous (IV), the amount of medication in your body can change over time. You will need to have blood work done regularly to make sure it is:

- at the right level in your blood
- safe for your kidneys.

Please get your blood work done 30 to 90 minutes **before your scheduled dose of vancomycin.**



Make sure you have a **lab work requisition** to do your blood work before you leave the hospital.

Your next blood level check is on _____.

Get your blood levels checked every _____ week.

If you have any problems, please contact Dr. _____
at 905-521-2100, ext. _____.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- headache
- feeling drowsy
- symptoms of “red man syndrome” such as flushing, itchiness, and redness of the face, neck and chest. You may have burning, itching and generalized discomfort. This can happen if your medication is given too quickly. If you develop these symptoms after taking vancomycin, please contact your health care provider.

Contact your doctor right away or go to the emergency department if you notice:

- severe diarrhea and/or abdominal pain
- worsening or no response to infection or fever
- severe skin rash or hives
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips
- dizziness, hearing changes, balance issues
- low urine output

This medication information handout does not list all possible unwanted effects. Keep track of any changes after you start taking this medication and report unwanted effects to your health care provider.

Common medications that interact with vancomycin

Avoid these medications when taking vancomycin:

- Aminoglycosides (such as amikacin, gentamicin, tobramycin)
- Non-steroidal Anti-Inflammatory Drugs or NSAIDs (such as ibuprofen, naproxen)

Speak to your pharmacist or doctor if you take any of the above medications.

Pregnancy: Vancomycin is generally safe for use in pregnancy. If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant, talk to your health care provider about the risks and benefits of taking this medication.

Breastfeeding: Vancomycin passes into breastmilk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Infants, children and adolescents can take vancomycin.