

Medication Information

Vancomycin – Oral (Van – koe – MYE – sin)

Other names for this medication

Vancocin®

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed. It must be taken regularly, until you have none left, even if you feel well.

If you stop taking this antibiotic too early, it may not cure your infection.

Tell your health care provider, including your pharmacist, about any other medications, natural or herbal products that you take – even the ones you buy without a prescription.

If you miss a dose of this medication, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the medication at your regular dosing time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

Capsule: Take with or without food. You may take the medication with food if you have mild nausea or upset stomach.

While taking this medication you may notice:

- nausea
- upset stomach
- diarrhea
- heartburn and/or bloating
- headache

Contact your health care provider or go to the emergency department if you notice:

- severe diarrhea
- severe abdominal pain
- no improvement or worsening of your infection
- a temperature higher than 38°C (100.4°F)
- worsening skin rash or hives
- shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
- swelling of hands, face, throat, tongue or lips

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

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: A small amount of Vancomycin passes into breast milk. Please discuss the risks and benefits of taking this medication with your health care provider.

Children: Vancomycin is safe to use with infants, children and adolescents.