

Pristinamycin for the treatment of mycoplasma genitalium infection



What is pristinamycin?

Pristinamycin is an antibiotic used to treat a sexually transmitted infection caused by a bacterium called *mycoplasma genitalium*. This infection often causes no symptoms but if not treated it can cause complications and serious long-term health problems. Pristinamycin is generally used in cases where other antibiotics have failed to clear the infection.

How should I take pristinamycin?

When used to treat *mycoplasma genitalium*, TWO pristinamycin 500mg tablets should be taken FOUR times a day for 10 days. Ideally, the doses should be spaced equally throughout the day and be taken at approximately the same time each day.

The tablets should be taken with food, swallowed whole with a glass of water. If you are unable to swallow the tablets whole, they may be crushed in a little milk or sweet, semi-solid food such as jam; please take care to ensure you take the complete dose.

What should I do if I miss a dose?

Antibiotics such as pristinamycin work best if there is a constant amount of the drug in your body and it is important that you take it regularly as prescribed. However, should you forget to take a dose, you should take it as soon as you remember but, if it's nearly time for your next dose, or you don't remember until your next dose is due, you should skip the missed dose altogether and not make up for it by taking a double dose.

It is important to ensure that you complete the course, even if your symptoms go away before you've finished it.

Am I likely to experience side effects from pristinamycin?

Like all medicines, pristinamycin may cause some side effects although not everybody gets them.

The most common side effects include feeling or being sick, diarrhoea and joint or muscle pain. However, these are usually mild and improve within a few days. Occasionally, pristinamycin may cause more severe watery diarrhoea, allergic skin reactions, including rash and itch, and/or yellowing of the skin or eyes. If you are affected by these side effects, please contact your clinic.

Please note that the list of side effects above is not exhaustive; should you feel you are experiencing any other side effects associated with pristinamycin, please get in touch with your clinic.

Can I take pristinamycin with other medicines?

If you are taking any other medicines, including any herbal or complementary/supplementary medicines or medicines bought 'over-the-counter', please ensure that you tell your clinician as pristinamycin may interact with other medicines you are taking. This may reduce the effectiveness of, or increase the risk of side effects from, pristinamycin or the other medicine(s) taken with it. Of particular concern are colchicine, a medicine taken for the treatment of gout, and some medicines taken to suppress the immune system, and those taken to prevent blood clots.

Can I take pristinamycin if I am, or could be, pregnant or am breastfeeding?

Please tell your clinician if you could be pregnant or are breastfeeding; pristinamycin may not be suitable for you if you are pregnant and is not recommended for use if you are breastfeeding.

Am I allergic to anything in the medicine?

The ingredients of the tablets may vary depending on the brand with which you are issued so please check that there are no ingredients that you are allergic to. Please be aware that pristinamycin tablets may contain gluten in small amounts. Please tell your clinician if you have any intolerances, or allergies, to wheat or gluten.

Rarely, pristinamycin may cause a serious allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the lips and/or face.

How do I store my medicines?

You should store your medicines at room temperature (less than 30°C) in a safe place out of the reach of children.

Is there anything else I need to know about pristinamycin?

Pristinamycin does not hold a product licence in the UK which means that it cannot be advertised and sold here. However, please be reassured that this does not mean that pristinamycin is not safe to use; it does have a licence in some other countries and, in the UK, its use to treat *mycoplasma genitalium* is supported by authoritative national clinical guidance. It will only be prescribed after careful consideration of the options available and where it is considered to be the most appropriate treatment for you by your clinician.

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Tel: 0300 300 3030

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