Flucloxacillin sodium

Flucloxacillin 1g powder for solution for injection vials
When used in certain types of bacterial infections

emc Medicine Guides

Flucloxacillin sodium (Floo-clox-ass-sill-in soh-dee-um) is a medicine which is used in certain types of bacterial infections.

Your medicine

Flucloxacillin sodium belongs to a class of medicines called penicillin antibiotics. Flucloxacillin sodium is used to treat certain types of bacterial infections. It may also be used to prevent infections that may occur after carrying out surgical procedures. Flucloxacillin sodium works by killing certain types of bacteria.

Flucloxacillin sodium is usually given to you by a healthcare professional. The person responsible for giving you your medicine will make sure that you get the right dose.

If you feel that the medicine is making you unwell or you do not think it is working, then talk to your prescriber or someone involved in your medical care.

When to take your medicine

The person with responsibility for giving you your medicine will make sure that you have your medicine at the prescribed times.

How to take your medicine

This medicine will be given to you as an injection. If you have any concerns about this medicine or how this will be given to you, talk to someone who is involved in your medical care.

Taking too much of your medicine

Having extra doses of some medicines can be harmful. In some cases even one extra dose can cause you problems.

In the case of Flucloxacillin sodium, the person who is responsible for giving you your medicine will make sure that you are given the correct dose.

Stopping your medicine

If you are not having any problems with this medicine, do not stop having it, even if you feel better, unless you have completed the course or you are advised to stop having it by your prescriber.

Looking after your medicine

This medicine will be stored by the medical team.

Whether this medicine is suitable for you

Flucloxacillin sodium is not suitable for everyone and some people should never use it. Other people should only use it with special care. It is important that the person prescribing this medicine knows your full medical history.

Your prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all if you:

- are allergic or sensitive to or have had a reaction to any of the ingredients in the medicine
- have kidney problems
- are allergic or sensitive to or have had a bad reaction to beta-lactam antibiotics such as penicillins or cephalosporins
- have or have had an allergy
- have liver problems
- have porphyria
- are on a diet which must be low in sodium from all sources, including medicines
- have certain types of infections such as syphilis or leptospirosis

Furthermore the prescriber may only prescribe this medicine with special care or may not prescribe it at all for a newborn baby.

As part of the process of assessing suitability to take this medicine a prescriber may also arrange tests:

- to check that this medicine is not having any undesired effects

Over time it is possible that Flucloxacillin sodium can become unsuitable for some people, or they may become unsuitable for it. If at any time it appears that Flucloxacillin sodium has become unsuitable, it is important that the prescriber is contacted immediately.

Side-effects

A medicine is only made available to the public if the clinical trials have shown that the benefits of taking the medicine outweigh the risks.

Once a medicine has been licensed, information on the medicine's effects, both intended and unintended, is continuously recorded and updated.

Some side-effects may be serious while others may only be a mild inconvenience.

Everyone's reaction to a medicine is different. It is difficult to predict which side-effects you will have from taking a particular medicine, or whether you will have any side-effects at all. The important thing is to tell your prescriber or pharmacist if you are having problems with your medicine.

The frequency of these side-effects is unknown

- anaphylactic reactions including serum sickness-like reactions such as joint pain, rash, urticaria, fever, angioedema or lymphadenopathy. Some of these may be fatal
- angioedema
- bleeding problems
- blood and bone marrow problems
- brain and central nervous system problems - some of these problems may be fatal if Flucloxacillin sodium is injected into the spine
- breathing difficulties
- bronchospasm
- coma - this may occur if Flucloxacillin sodium at a high dose
- convulsions
- diarrhoea - seek medical advice if you experience severe diarrhoea
- erythema multiforme
- fever
- hallucinations
- Herxheimer's reaction, fever, chills or headache may occur to people who have syphilis or leptospirosis and who have Flucloxacillin sodium
- hypersensitivity reactions - some of these reactions may be fatal
- infection of the mouth
- itching
- jaundice
- joint pain
- kidney problems
- liver problems - some of these problems may be fatal
- may affect the results for certain tests
- metabolic problems
- nausea
- nephropathy
- overgrowth of micro-organisms that are not affected by Flucloxacillin sodium
- phlebitis - this may occur if Flucloxacillin sodium is injected into a vein
- porphyria or porphyria-like reaction
- pseudomembranous colitis
- skin problems - these may occur in the area where Flucloxacillin sodium has come into contact with the skin
- skin rash or rashes
- Stevens-Johnson syndrome
- toxic epidermal necrolysis
- unexplained or easy bruising of the skin or mucous membranes
- urticaria
- vasculitis
- vomiting

If you feel unwell or if you have concerns about a side-effect, you will need to seek advice. If you feel very ill, get medical help straight away. Contact your prescriber, pharmacist, nurse or call NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

Taking other medicines

If you are taking more than one medicine they may interact with each other. At times your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact, in other cases this may not be appropriate.

The decision to use medicines that interact depends on your specific circumstances. Your prescriber may decide to use medicines that interact, if it is believed that the benefits of taking the medicines together outweigh the risks. In such cases, it may be necessary to alter your dose or monitor you more closely.

Tell your prescriber the names of all the medicines that you are taking so that they can consider all possible interactions. This includes all the medicines which have been prescribed by your GP, hospital doctor, dentist, nurse, health visitor, midwife or pharmacist. You must also tell your prescriber about medicines which you have bought over the counter without prescriptions.

The following medicines may interact with Flucloxacillin sodium:

- chloramphenicol
- tetracycline
- methotrexate
- probenecid

The following types of medicine may interact with Flucloxacillin sodium:

- antibacterials
- oral contraceptives containing oestrogen

If you are taking Flucloxacillin sodium and one of the above medicines or types of medicines, make sure your prescriber knows about it.

Complementary preparations and vitamins

Medicines can interact with complementary preparations and vitamins. In general, there is not much information available about interactions between medicines and complementary preparations or vitamins.

If you are planning to take or are already taking any complementary preparations and vitamins you should ask your prescriber whether there are any known interactions with Flucloxacillin sodium.

Your prescriber can advise whether it is appropriate for you to take combinations that are known to interact. They can also discuss with you the possible effect that the complementary preparations and vitamins may have on your condition.

If you experience any unusual effects while taking this medicine in combination with complementary

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preparations and vitamins, you should tell your prescriber.

Driving and operating machinery

When taking any medicine you should be aware that it might interfere with your ability to drive or operate machinery safely.

Like all medicines Flucloxacillin sodium can cause side effects. You should see how this medicine affects you and then judge if you are safe to drive or operate machinery. If you are in any doubt, talk to your prescriber.

Diet

Medicines can interact with certain foods. In some cases, this may be harmful and your prescriber may advise you to avoid certain foods.

In the case of Flucloxacillin sodium:

- this medicine may contain a large amount of sodium. This may be relevant to you if you are on a diet which must be low in sodium from all sources. Your prescriber will give you more information on this if this is relevant to you

If you are unsure if your diet is suitable for Flucloxacillin sodium, speak to your prescriber, nutritionist or pharmacist for further advice.

Alcohol

Alcohol can interact with certain medicines.

In the case of Flucloxacillin sodium:

- there are no known interactions between alcohol and Flucloxacillin sodium

Family planning and pregnancy

Most medicines, in some way, can affect the development of a baby in the womb. The effect on the baby differs between medicines and also depends on the stage of pregnancy that you have reached when you take the medicine.

In the case of Flucloxacillin sodium:

- you should only have this medicine during pregnancy if your doctor thinks that you need it

You need to discuss your specific circumstances with your doctor to weigh up the overall risks and benefits of taking this medicine. You and your doctor can make a decision about whether you are going to take this medicine during pregnancy.

If the decision is that you should not have Flucloxacillin sodium, then you should discuss whether there is an alternative medicine that you could take during pregnancy.

Breast-feeding

Certain medicines can pass into breast milk and may reach your baby through breast-feeding.

In the case of Flucloxacillin sodium:

- this medicine passes into breast milk. Taking Flucloxacillin sodium and breast-feeding may affect your baby

Before you have Flucloxacillin sodium you should discuss breast-feeding with your doctor or midwife. They will help you decide what is best for you and your baby based on the benefits and risks associated with this medicine. You should only breast-feed your baby while having this medicine on the advice of your doctor or midwife.

Ingredients of your medicine

Medicines contain active ingredients. They may also contain other, additional ingredients that help ensure the stability, safety and effectiveness of the medicine. They may also be used to prolong the life of the medicine.

This medicine contains flucloxacillin sodium.

We are unable to list all of the ingredients for your medicine here. For a full list, you should refer to the patient information leaflet that comes with this medicine or ask your prescriber. You should check that you are able to take the ingredients of your medicine, especially if you have any allergies.

If you are not able to take any of the ingredients in your medicine, talk to your prescriber or pharmacist to see if they can suggest an alternative medicine. If you have reacted badly to Flucloxacillin sodium before, do not take Flucloxacillin sodium. Talk to your prescriber, pharmacist or nurse as soon as possible.

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