

PACKAGE LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

**Piperacillin/Tazobactam 2 g/0.25 g and 4 g/0.5 g  
powder for solution for infusion**

Piperacillin and tazobactam

**Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.**

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse
- This medicine has been prescribed for you only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. See section 4.

**What is in this leaflet:**

1. What Piperacillin/Tazobactam is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you use Piperacillin/Tazobactam
3. How to use Piperacillin/Tazobactam
4. Possible side effects
5. How to store Piperacillin/Tazobactam
6. Contents of the pack and other information

**1. WHAT PIPERACILLIN/TAZOBACTAM IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR**

Piperacillin belongs to the group of medicines known as "broad spectrum penicillin antibiotics". It can kill many kinds of bacteria. Tazobactam can prevent some resistant bacteria from surviving the effects of piperacillin. This means that when piperacillin and tazobactam are given together, more types of bacteria are killed.

Piperacillin/Tazobactam is used in adults and adolescents to treat bacterial infections, such as those affecting the lower respiratory tract (lungs), urinary tract (kidneys and bladder), abdomen, skin or blood. Piperacillin/Tazobactam may be used to treat bacterial infections in patients with low white blood cell counts (reduced resistance to infections).

Piperacillin/Tazobactam is used in children aged 2-12 years to treat infections of the abdomen such as appendicitis, peritonitis (infection of the fluid and lining of the abdominal organs), and gallbladder (biliary) infections. Piperacillin/Tazobactam may be used to treat bacterial infections in patients with low white blood cell counts (reduced resistance to infections).

In certain serious infections, your doctor may consider using Piperacillin/Tazobactam in combination with other antibiotics.

## 2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU USE PIPERACILLIN/TAZOBACTAM

### Do not use Piperacillin/Tazobactam

- if you are allergic to piperacillin or tazobactam
- if you are allergic to antibiotics known as penicillins, cephalosporins or other beta-lactamase inhibitors, as you may be allergic to Piperacillin/Tazobactam.

### Warning and precautions

Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse before using Piperacillin/Tazobactam:

- if you have allergies. If you have several allergies, make sure you tell your doctor or other healthcare professional before receiving this product
- if you are suffering from diarrhoea before, or if you develop diarrhoea during or after your treatment. In this case, make sure you tell your doctor or other healthcare professional immediately. Do not take any medicine for the diarrhoea without first checking with your doctor
- if you think you developed a new or worsening infection. In this case, you should inform your doctor or other healthcare professional
- if you are taking another antibiotic called vancomycin at the same time as Piperacillin/Tazobactam, this may increase the risk of kidney injury (see also **Other medicines and Piperacillin/Tazobactam** in this leaflet).
- if you are taking certain medicines (called anticoagulants) to avoid an excess of blood clotting (see also **Other medicines and Piperacillin/Tazobactam** in this leaflet) or any unexpected bleeding occurs during the treatment. In this case, you should inform your doctor or other healthcare professional immediately
- if you have kidney or liver problems, or are receiving haemodialysis. Your doctor may want to check your kidneys before you take this medicine, and may perform regular blood tests during treatment
- if you develop convulsions during the treatment. In this case, you should inform your doctor or other healthcare professional
- if you have low levels of potassium in your blood. Your doctor may want to check your kidneys before you take this medicine and may perform regular blood tests during treatment.

### Haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis

There have been reports about a disease in which the immune system makes too many of otherwise normal white blood cells called histiocytes and lymphocytes, resulting in inflammation (haemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis). This condition may be life-threatening if not diagnosed and treated early. If you experience multiple symptoms such as fever,

swollen glands, feeling weak, feeling lightheaded, shortness of breath, bruising, or skin rash, contact your doctor immediately.

### **Children**

Piperacillin/Tazobactam is not recommended for use in children below the age of 2 years due to insufficient data on safety and effectiveness.

### **Other medicines and Piperacillin/Tazobactam**

Tell your doctor or other healthcare professional if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription.

Some medicines may interact with piperacillin and tazobactam.

These include:

- medicine for gout (probenecid). This can increase the time it takes for piperacillin and tazobactam to leave your body
- medicines to thin your blood or to treat blood clots (e.g. heparin, warfarin or aspirin)
- medicines used to relax your muscles during surgery. Tell your doctor if you are going to have a general anaesthetic
- methotrexate (medicine used to treat cancer, arthritis or psoriasis). Piperacillin and tazobactam can increase the time it takes for methotrexate to leave your body
- medicines that reduce the level of potassium in your blood (e.g. tablets enhancing urination or some medicines for cancer)
- medicines containing the other antibiotics tobramycin, gentamicin or vancomycin. Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems. Taking Piperacillin/Tazobactam and vancomycin at the same time may increase the risk of kidney injury even if you have no kidney problems.

### **Effect on laboratory tests**

Tell your doctor or laboratory staff that you are taking Piperacillin/Tazobactam if you have to provide a blood or urine sample.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or other healthcare professional for advice before taking this medicine. Your doctor will decide if Piperacillin/Tazobactam is right for you.

Piperacillin and Tazobactam can pass to a baby in the womb or through breast milk. If you are breast-feeding, your doctor will decide if Piperacillin /Tazobactam is right for you.

### **Driving and using machines**

The use of Piperacillin/Tazobactam is not expected to affect the ability to drive or use machines.

### **Piperacillin/Tazobactam contains sodium**

Piperacillin/Tazobactam 2g/0.25g contains 108 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each vial. This is equivalent to 5.4% of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult.

Piperacillin/Tazobactam 4g/0.5g contains 216 mg sodium (main component of cooking/table salt) in each vial. This is equivalent to 10.8% of the recommended maximum daily dietary intake of sodium for an adult.

### **3. HOW TO USE PIPERACILLIN/TAZOBACTAM**

Your doctor or other healthcare professional will give you this medicine through an infusion (a drip for 30 minutes) into one of your veins.

#### **Dosage**

The dose of medicine given to you depends on what you are being treated for, your age, and whether or not you have kidney problems.

#### **Adults and adolescents above 12 years of age**

The usual dose is 4g/0.5g of Piperacillin/Tazobactam given every 6-8 hours, which is given into one of your veins (directly into the blood stream).

#### **Children aged 2 to 12 years**

The usual dose for children with abdominal infections is 100 mg/12.5 mg/kg of body weight of Piperacillin/Tazobactam given every 8 hours into one of your veins (directly into the blood stream).

The usual dose for children with low white blood cell counts is 80 mg/10 mg/kg of body weight of Piperacillin/Tazobactam given every 6 hours into one of your veins (directly into the blood stream).

Your doctor will calculate the dose depending on your child's weight but each individual dose will not exceed 4 g/0.5 g of Piperacillin/Tazobactam.

You will be given Piperacillin/Tazobactam until the sign of infection has gone completely (5 to 14 days).

#### **Patients with kidney problems**

Your doctor may need to reduce the dose of Piperacillin/Tazobactam or how often you are given it. Your doctor may also want to test your blood to make sure that your treatment is at the right dose, especially if you have to take this medicine for a long time.

#### **If you receive more Piperacillin/Tazobactam than you should**

As you will receive Piperacillin/Tazobactam from a doctor or other healthcare professional, you are unlikely to be given the wrong dose. However, if you experience side effects, such as convulsions, or think you have been given too much, tell your doctor immediately.

#### **If you miss a dose of Piperacillin/Tazobactam**

If you think you have not been given a dose of Piperacillin/Tazobactam, tell your doctor or other healthcare professional immediately.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or nurse.

#### **4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS**

Like all medicines, this medicine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. **See a doctor immediately** if you experience any of these potentially serious side effects.

The serious side effects (with frequency in brackets) are:

- serious skin rashes [Stevens-Johnson syndrome, dermatitis bullous (Not known), dermatitis exfoliative (Not known), toxic epidermal necrolysis (Rare)] appearing initially as reddish target-like spots or circular patches often with central blisters on the trunk. Additional signs include ulcers in the mouth, throat, nose, extremities, genitals and conjunctivitis (red and swollen eyes). The rash may progress to widespread blistering or peeling of the skin and potentially may be life threatening
- severe potentially fatal allergic condition (drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms) that can involve the skin and most importantly other organs under the skin such as the kidney and the liver (Not known)
- a skin condition (acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis) accompanied by fever, which consists of numerous tiny fluid filled blisters contained within large areas of swollen and reddened skin (Not known)
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body (Not known)
- shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing (Not known)
- severe rash or hives (Uncommon), itching or rash on the skin (Common)
- yellowing of the eyes or skin (Not known)
- damage to blood cells [the signs include: being breathless when you do not expect it, red or brown urine (Not known), nosebleeds (Rare) and small spot bruising (Not known)], severe decrease in white blood cells (Rare)
- severe or persistent diarrhoea accompanied by a fever or weakness (Rare)

If any of **the following** side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or other healthcare professional.

**Very common side effects** (may affect more than 1 in 10 people)

- diarrhoea

**Common side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- yeast infection
- decrease in platelets, decrease of red blood cells or blood pigment / haemoglobin, abnormal lab test (positive direct Coombs), prolonged blood clotting time (activated partial thromboplastin time prolonged)
- decrease in blood protein
- headache, sleeplessness
- abdominal pain, vomiting, nausea, constipation, upset stomach
- increase in blood liver enzymes
- skin rash, itching
- abnormal kidney blood tests
- fever, injection site reaction

**Uncommon side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- decrease in white blood cells (leukopenia), prolonged blood clotting time (prothrombin time prolonged)
- decreased blood potassium, decreased blood sugar
- fits (convulsions) seen in patients on high doses or with kidney problems
- low blood pressure, inflammation of the veins (felt as tenderness or redness in the affected area), reddening of skin
- increase of a blood pigment breakdown product (bilirubin)
- skin reactions with redness, formation of skin lesions, nettle rash
- joint and muscle pain
- chills

**Rare side effects** (may affect up to 1 in 1,000 people)

- severe decrease in white blood cells (agranulocytosis), bleeding of the nose
- serious infection of the colon, inflammation of the mucous lining of the mouth
- detachment of the top layer of the skin all over the body (toxic epidermal necrolysis)

**Not known side effects** (cannot be estimated from the available data)

- severe decrease of red blood cells, white blood cells and platelets (pancytopenia), decrease in white blood cells (neutropenia), decrease of red blood cells due to premature breakdown or degradation, small spot bruising, bleeding time prolonged, increase of platelets, increase of a specific type of white blood cells (eosinophilia)
- allergic reaction and severe allergic reaction

- inflammation of the liver, yellow staining of the skin or whites of the eyes
- serious body wide allergic reaction with skin and mucous lining rashes, blistering and various skin eruptions (Stevens-Johnson Syndrome), severe allergic condition involving skin and other organs such as the kidney and the liver (drug reaction with eosinophilia and systemic symptoms), numerous tiny fluid filled blisters contained within large areas of swollen and reddened skin accompanied by fever (acute generalised exanthematous pustulosis), skin reactions with blistering (dermatitis bullous)
- poor kidney function and kidney problems
- a form of lung disease where eosinophils (a form of white blood cell) appear in the lung in increased numbers
- acute disorientation and confusion (delirium)

Piperacillin therapy has been associated with an increased incidence of fever and rash in cystic fibrosis patients.

Beta-lactam antibiotics, including piperacillin tazobactam, may lead to manifestations of encephalopathy and convulsions.

### **Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at [www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard](http://www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard) or search for MHRA Yellow Card in the Google Play or Apple App Store. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

## **5. HOW TO STORE PIPERACILLIN/TAZOBACTAM**

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date which is stated on the carton and vial after “EXP”. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Unopened vials: Do not store above 25°C. Store in the original package.

The reconstituted/diluted solution should be used within 5 hours when stored at 20-25°C and within 24 hours when stored at 2 - 8°C.

Only clear solutions, free of visible particles should be used.

For single use only. Discard any unused solution.

Do not throw away any medicines via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to throw away medicines you no longer use. These measures will help to protect the

environment.

## **6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION**

### **What Piperacillin/Tazobactam contains**

The active substances are piperacillin and tazobactam.

Each vial contains 2 g piperacillin (as sodium salt) and 0.25 g tazobactam (as sodium salt).

Each vial contains 4 g piperacillin (as sodium salt) and 0.5 g tazobactam (as sodium salt).

### **What Piperacillin/Tazobactam looks like and contents of the pack**

White to off-white powder. Clear glass vial with a rubber stopper sealed with an aluminium flip-off seal.

Pack sizes:

1 x 1 vial containing powder for solution for infusion.

10 x 1 vial containing powder for solution for infusion.

Not all pack sizes may be marketed.

### **Marketing authorisation holder**

Ibigen S.r.l.

Via Fossignano, 2

04011 Aprilia (LT), Italy

### **Manufacturer**

Istituto Biochimico Italiano G. Lorenzini S.p.A., Via Fossignano, 2

04011 Aprilia (LT), Italy

**This leaflet was last revised in 02/2022.**

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**The following information is intended for healthcare professionals only**

### **Instructions for use**

Piperacillin/Tazobactam will be given by intravenous infusion (a drip for 30 minutes).

### **Intravenous use**

Reconstitute each vial with the volume of solvent shown in the table below, using one of the compatible solvents for reconstitution. Swirl until dissolved. When swirled constantly, reconstitution generally occurs within 5 to 8 minutes (for details on handling, please see below).



Content of vial	Volume of solvent* to be added to vial
2g/0.25g (2g piperacillin and 0.25g tazobactam)	10 ml
4g/0.5g (4g piperacillin and 0.5g tazobactam)	20 ml

\*Compatible solvents for reconstitution:

- 0.9% (9 mg/ml) sodium chloride solution for injection
- Sterile water for injections <sup>(1)</sup>
- Glucose 5%

<sup>(1)</sup> Maximum recommended volume of sterile water for injection per dose is 50 ml.

The reconstituted solutions should be withdrawn from the vial by syringe. When reconstituted as directed, the vial contents withdrawn by syringe will provide the labelled amount of piperacillin and tazobactam.

The reconstituted solutions may be further diluted to the desired volume (e.g. 50 ml to 150 ml) with one of the following compatible solvents:

- 0.9% (9 mg/ml) sodium chloride solution for injection
- Glucose 5%

When prepared under aseptic conditions chemical and physical in-use stability has been demonstrated for 5 hours at 20-25°C and for 24 hours at 2-8°C. From the microbiological point of view, the product should be used immediately. If not used immediately, in-use storage times and conditions prior to use are the responsibility of the user.

The solution is to be inspected visually for particulate matter and discoloration prior to administration. The solution should only be used if the solution is clear and free from particles.

### **Incompatibilities**

Whenever Piperacillin/Tazobactam is used concurrently with another antibiotic (e.g. aminoglycosides), the substances must be administered separately. The mixing of beta-lactam antibiotics with aminoglycosides *in vitro*, can result in substantial inactivation of the aminoglycoside.

Piperacillin/Tazobactam should not be mixed with other substances in a syringe or infusion bottle since compatibility has not been established.

Because of chemical instability, Piperacillin/Tazobactam should not be used with solutions containing only sodium bicarbonate.

Piperacillin/Tazobactam should not be added to blood products or albumin hydrolysates.

Lactated Ringer's solution is not compatible with Piperacillin/Tazobactam.