PRISTINAMYCIN

Pristinamycin is an antibiotic reserved to treat infections caused by bacteria that cannot be treated with other antibiotics.

How do I take pristinamycin?
- Pristinamycin is best taken with food.
- Swallow the tablets whole with a glass of water.

What do I need to be aware of before taking pristinamycin?
- **Discuss other medicines** you are currently taking or are going to start taking (including herbal and over-the-counter medicines) with your doctor and/or pharmacist. Pristinamycin may affect other medicines, or may be affected by other medicines, such as warfarin, ciclosporin, tacrolimus, and colchicine.
- Pristinamycin tablets contain wheat starch. Wheat starch may contain gluten in small amounts. Tell your doctor if you have any intolerances or allergies to gluten.
- **Pregnancy and Breastfeeding:** Limited information is available. If you are or are planning to breastfeed or become pregnant during your antibiotic course, contact your doctor to discuss an alternative antibiotic.

What are the common side effects of pristinamycin?
- **Nausea:** usually mild and improves over a few days.
- **Diarrhoea:** usually mild and improves over a few days. If diarrhoea occurs, avoid anti-diarrhoeal medications such as loperamide (the active ingredient in Imodium® or Gastro-Stop®), unless advised by your doctor.
- If any of these symptoms are severe or ongoing (more than a few days) consult your doctor.
What are the rare side effects of pristinamycin to be aware of?

Contact a doctor immediately if you develop any of the following:

- **Severe, frequent or watery diarrhoea:**
  - There may or may not be accompanying stomach pain.

- **Allergic reactions**
  - Such as a rash, itch, blisters or red skin spots – see your doctor immediately.
  - Signs of a serious allergic reaction, such as difficulty breathing or swelling of the face and/or lips – contact an **ambulance** immediately.

- **Changes in liver or kidney function:**
  - Signs of liver problems include loss of appetite, severe nausea or vomiting or yellowing of the eyes or skin.
  - During prolonged treatment your doctor may request a blood test to check your liver and kidneys are working properly.

Where do I obtain my supply of pristinamycin?

- Pristinamycin is **not** a registered product in Australia, but is used in many other countries. Pristinamycin is to be dispensed by your **hospital pharmacy**; it is **not** readily available from community pharmacies.

- If you are running out of pristinamycin and your course is meant to continue for longer, it is important you contact your prescribing doctor at the hospital for another prescription.

This patient antibiotic leaflet is designed to provide information that is easy to understand; it may not contain a complete list of all side effects. Further information is available in the Consumer Medicines Information (CMI). Ask your pharmacist or doctor if you have any additional questions or would like more detailed information about this medicine.

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