

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

CLINDAMYCIN

ABOUT your medicine

Clindamycin is an antibiotic that can be used in the treatment of infections caused by sensitive organisms. These may include infections of the respiratory tract, skin and soft tissue, blood and genital tract. It can also be used topically to treat acne vulgaris.

HOW should I take/apply the medicine?

Clindamycin (Oral):

Clindamycin may be taken with food or milk to lessen stomach upset. Take each dose with a full glass of water.

The course of antibiotics should be completed even though you may feel better as inadequate treatment can lead to recurrence of infection or result in the development of resistance to treatment. However, should you develop any allergic reactions such as rashes, swollen eyes, difficulty breathing etc., stop the medicine and consult your doctor.

Medicines containing kaolin which is used to treat diarrhoea will decrease the effects of clindamycin. Do not take kaolin during treatment with clindamycin.

Clindamycin (Topical):

Wash your hands before and after using the medicine.

Clean and dry the area to which you will apply topical clindamycin. Apply a thin film of the medicine. Topical clindamycin is usually applied once or twice daily. Follow your doctor's directions.

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Keep all medication out of reach of children

Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required

Avoid your eyes, nose, mouth, and lips when applying topical clindamycin. Wash with water if the medicine gets into any of these areas.

It may take up to 3 months to see the effects of this drug. Do not stop using it even if you do not see results immediately.

What should I do if **I FORGET** a dose?

Clindamycin (Oral):

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next usual dose, wait until then to take your medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Clindamycin (Topical):

Apply the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the dose you missed and apply only your next scheduled dose. Keep applications at least 12 hours apart.

What are the possible **SIDE-EFFECTS** of the medicine?

If you experience any of the following serious side-effects, stop taking/applying clindamycin and seek emergency medical attention:

- an allergic reaction (swelling of your lips, tongue, or face; shortness of breath; closing of your throat; or hives); a rash; severe diarrhoea or abdominal pain; yellow skin or eyes; little or no urine.

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Other less serious side-effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take/apply clindamycin and talk to your doctor if you experience nausea, vomiting, decreased appetite, heartburn, or an unpleasant or metallic taste in your mouth.

Side-effects other than those listed here may also occur. Talk to your doctor about any side-effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.

What **PRECAUTIONS** should I take?

Clindamycin (Oral):

You may not be able to take clindamycin or you may require a lower dose or special monitoring during your therapy if you have any of the conditions:

- liver disease, kidney disease, stomach or intestinal disease.

It is not known whether clindamycin will harm an unborn baby. Do not take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are pregnant.

Clindamycin passes into breast milk and may affect a nursing infant. Do not take this medication without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

Clindamycin (Topical):

Avoid applying topical clindamycin to broken or irritated skin. This medication could make your condition worse.

Avoid using other topical products on the same area at the same time unless directed to do so by your doctor.

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Avoid using harsh, abrasive, or irritating cleansers, perfumes or cosmetics during therapy with topical clindamycin.

Topical clindamycin is unlikely to harm an unborn baby. However, do consult the doctor if you are pregnant before using topical clindamycin.

Topical clindamycin passes into breast milk and may affect a nursing infant. Do not use topical clindamycin without first talking to your doctor if you are breast-feeding.

How should **I STORE** the medicine?

Store the medicine in a cool, dry place. Protect from moisture, heat and direct light.

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The information provided in this publication is meant purely for educational purposes and may not be used as a substitute for medical diagnosis or treatment. You should seek the advice of your doctor or a qualified healthcare provider before starting any treatment or if you have any questions related to your health, physical fitness or medical conditions.

Information is correct at time of printing and subject to revision without prior notice.

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