

COLISTIMETHATE (injection)

koh-lis-ti-meth-ate

What does it do?

Colistimethate is used to treat bacterial infections.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How is it given?

Colistimethate is given as an injection into a vein or a muscle by a health professional.

Can you take other medicines?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *colistimethate* including:

- anti-inflammatories, such as diclofenac (e.g. Voltaren®), ibuprofen (e.g. Nurofen®), or aspirin (e.g. Disprin®, in doses used for pain relief). These can also be found in some cold and flu medicines (e.g. Nurofen Cold and Flu®).

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|------------------------------|
| Trouble breathing | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Peeing less or not at all Confusion, slurred speech, dizziness Changes in vision Tingling or numbness, muscle weakness | Tell your doctor |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- *Colistimethate* can impair your ability to do tasks such as driving or using machines. Alcohol makes this worse. Discuss your risk with your health professional. (search NZTA - Are you safe to drive?)
- *Colistimethate* can cause kidney problems. You will need regular blood tests to check how well your kidneys are working.