

# MEROPENEM

Other names: Merrem®



**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

## Why are you taking this medication

Meropenem is an antibiotic that kills bacteria. It is effective against many (but not all) infections. This medicine is used for serious infections, where other antibiotics would not work as well.

## When to take this medication

Meropenem does not work if it is taken orally (as a tablet or capsule). It only works if it is injected into a vein (IV).

Meropenem may already be prepared by the Hospital Pharmacy or will be prepared by a District Nurse. The injection is contained in a bag and is designed to drip slowly into your catheter (this is called an infusion) or as a syringe. This should be administered exactly as you have been instructed at the hospital or clinic. The infusion should be given over at least 15 minutes. The syringe should be given over at least 5 minutes. Your dose (how much and how often) depends on how bad your infection is, your weight and your kidney function.

## Side effects

Some people are allergic to meropenem: this would have showed up in the hospital or clinic.

Milder side effects include:

- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhoea
- tremor
- headache
- pain and inflammation during the infusion at the injection site

Contact your backup service or see your doctor **immediately** if the following occur:

- skin rash, itching or fever
- unusual bleeding or bruising

Meropenem can cause severe or long lasting diarrhoea which may start up to a month after you finish taking this medicine. If you get troublesome diarrhoea, do not take any anti-diarrhoea medicine. Contact your backup service or your doctor straight away and report that you have had meropenem recently: there is a specific treatment for this diarrhoea.

## Storage

Remember to keep your medication out of reach of children

**Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist.**