Amoxycillin & Clavulanic Acid

Consumer Medicine Information
This leaflet answers some common questions about amoxycillin and clavulanic acid. It does not contain all the available information.

What is amoxycillin & clavulanic acid used for?
This medicine contains two active ingredients. One of these is a penicillin called amoxycillin and the other is clavulanic acid. Clavulanic acid enhances the action of the amoxycillin.

This medicine is used for the short term treatment of a wide range of infections caused by bacteria.
This medicine will not work against infections caused by viruses such as colds or the flu.

Before you take amoxycillin & clavulanic acid

Do not take this medicine if:

- you have had an allergic reaction to penicillin or similar types of antibiotics (such as cephalosporin)
What you must tell your doctor

Tell your doctor if:

- you have ever had an allergic reaction (such as a rash) to antibiotics or other substances in the past.
- you are allergic to foods, dyes, preservatives or any other medicines.
- you have experienced liver problems after taking amoxycillin and clavulanic acid tablets or any other medicines.
- you have glandular fever (mononucleosis) or leukaemia.
- you are pregnant or think you may be pregnant or are breastfeeding.
  
  Your doctor will discuss with you the possible risks and benefits of taking amoxycillin and clavulanic acid tablets during pregnancy or while you are breastfeeding. These tablets can pass to your baby from breast milk.
- you have kidney or liver problems. The dosage of these tablets may need to be changed or you may need to be given an alternative medicine.
- you have to test your urine for sugar. Amoxycillin & clavulanic acid tablets may affect the results of these tests.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including medicines that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop. In particular, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following:

- Warfarin or other medicines used to prevent blood clots;
- Mycophenolate (used for transplants);
- Medicines used to treat gout (e.g. probenecid or allopurinol);
- Other antibiotics;
- A contraceptive pill. As with other antibiotics, you may need to use extra birth control methods (e.g. condoms) while taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid tablets.

Some medicines may affect the way that other medicines work. Your doctor or pharmacist will be able to tell you what to do when taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid tablets with other medicines.
How to take amoxycillin & clavulanic acid

Take as directed by your doctor or pharmacist. The usual dose is one tablet twice a day, at 12 hourly intervals.

**How to take it**

Swallow the amoxycillin & clavulanic acid with a full glass of water or other liquid. The tablets can be broken in half, but should not be chewed.

This medicine should be taken immediately before or with the first mouthful of food. *These medicine work best when taken this way. It may also help to prevent stomach upsets. However, the medicine will still work if they are taken without food.*

**How long to take it for**

Keep taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid until the course is finished or for as long as your doctor tells you.

*Do not stop taking the medicine or change the dose just because you feel better as the infection can return.*

**If you forget to take it**

If your next dose is due within six hours, skip the dose you missed and take your next dose at the normal time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as your remember and then go back to taking your tablets as directed by your doctor.

*Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you have missed.* *Taking more than the prescribed dose can increase the chance of unwanted side-effects.*

**If you take too much (overdose)**

Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

Symptoms of overdose include mild to severe nausea, vomiting, cramps and diarrhoea.

If you are not sure what to do, contact your doctor, pharmacist, or nearest hospital. Be sure to show the doctor the amoxycillin & clavulanic acid pack.
While you are using amoxycillin & clavulanic acid

**Things you must do**

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as directed. Otherwise your doctor may think that it was not working as it should and change your treatment unnecessarily.

Tell all other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who are treating you that you are taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid.

Tell your doctor if the symptoms of your infection become worse, or do not improve within a few days of starting this medicine.

**Things you must not do**

Do not take amoxycillin & clavulanic to treat any complaint other than that directed by your doctor. It may not be safe to take amoxycillin & clavulanic acid for another complaint.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours. It may not be safe for another person to take this medicine.

**Things to be careful of**

Alcohol should be avoided during and for several days after treatment with this medicine.

Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how these tablets affect you. Generally, these tablets do not cause any problems with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. However, as with many other medicines, they may cause dizziness or tiredness in some people.

If you develop severe diarrhoea either when taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid or within several weeks after treatment, tell your doctor as soon as possible. Do not take any medication to stop the diarrhoea (e.g. Lomotil® or Imodium®).
Side Effects

Tell your doctor of pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well or experiencing any side-effects or allergic reactions while you are taking this medicine, even if the problems are not connected with the medication or they are not listed in this leaflet.

*Mild side effects*

Tell your doctor if you notice any of the following that are troublesome or ongoing:

- Diarrhoea (several loose bowel movements per day), indigestion, pain in the stomach, feeling sick or being sick, white, furry, sore tongue and mouth (oral thrush), abnormal taste, soreness or itching of the vagina or vaginal discharge (vaginal thrush), headache, dizziness, tiredness, hot flushes, tooth discoloration, and unusually active (hyperactivity)

*Moderate side effects*

Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following during or after taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid:

- Itching, rash, dark urine or pale stools, yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice), severe stomach cramps, severe watery or bloody diarrhoea, unusual bleeding or bruising.

These may be symptoms of rare but serious side-effects and require urgent medical attention.

Stop taking amoxycillin & clavulanic acid and immediately contact your doctor or go to the emergency department of your nearest hospital if any of the following happens:

- Wheezing, hives, severe skin reaction, fainting, swelling of limbs, face, lips, mouth or throat, difficulty swallowing or breathing, joint discomfort or swelling, swollen lymph glands, nausea and vomiting or fever. These may be signs of an allergic reaction or other reaction to Amoxycillin & clavulanic acid. Allergy to these antibiotics is rare.

- Fits/seizures.

*Rare events that have been reported with amoxycillin & clavulanic acid*

Inflammation of the bowel (colitis), inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), Inflammation of the kidney (nephritis), blood disorders, crystals in the urine (crystalluria)

Remember, you should tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if any of these, or any other unusual events or problems occur during or after treatment with amoxycillin & clavulanic acid.

This is not a complete list of all possible side-effects. Others may occur in some people and there may be some side-effects not yet known.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any side-effects from your medicine which are not mentioned here.

Do not be alarmed by this list of possible side-effects. You may not experience any of them.
Storage

Keep amoxycillin & clavulanic acid tablets in their original pack until it is time to take them. Keep tablets in a cool, dry place and away from children. Ask your pharmacist what to do with any unused or expired medicines.

Product Description

What do they contain?

Active ingredients: Amoxycillin and Clavulanic Acid
Other ingredients: Refer to manufacturer's leaflet

A free and confidential interpreter service, including Auslan, is available 24 hours, 7 days a week.
Ask staff to arrange an interpreter for you.

Carers provide care and unpaid assistance to others. They may be family members, friends or neighbours.
Please tell staff if you have a carer.

All our health facilities and grounds are 100% smoke free. Fines apply.
Contact Quitline: 137 848 or www.icanquit.com.au
Parking is available on the hospital campus for a fee.

We welcome further feedback on this brochure as a way of continually improving our service.
Send your feedback to:
WSLHD-Get_Involved@health.nsw.gov.au