

Gentamicin

Drs. Foster & Smith Educational Staff

Generic Name

Gentamicin

Brand Name

Gentaject, Gentaved, and Gentocin

Type of Drug

Aminoglycoside antibiotic

Form and Storage

Injectable

Store at room temperature.

Indications for Use

Treatment of susceptible bacterial infections.

General Information

Available by prescription. FDA approved for use in dogs and cats.

Aminoglycosides are bacteriocidal. Usually given in a hospital setting as it is an injection. Used to treat infections with gram negative aerobic bacteria. Use with care as bacterial resistance to gentamicin is developing.

Usual Dose and Administration

Always follow the dosage instructions provided by your veterinarian.

Intravenous (IV), intramuscular (IM), or subcutaneous (SQ) injection. Duration of treatment depends on reason for and response to treatment.

Side Effects and Adverse Reactions

May see kidney damage, hearing loss, or vestibular (balance) disorders. May also see facial swelling, pain at injection site, allergic reactions, vomiting, diarrhea, blood disorders, or liver disorders.

Contraindications/Warnings

Do not use in animals hypersensitive (allergic) to aminoglycosides.

Ineffective against most anaerobic bacteria (those that can live without oxygen).

Do not use in animals who require their hearing to perform their work (military dogs, police dogs, seeing eye dogs, hearing dogs, etc.) as the hearing or vestibular (balance) impairment may not be reversible.

Do not use in animals with kidney disease as this group of medications may worsen the disease if present.

Not for use in pregnant or nursing animals.

Not for use in animals with myasthenia gravis or other neuromuscular disorders.

Not for use in animals with fever or dehydration.

Drug or Food Interactions

Do not use with diuretics as it increases the risk of kidney damage.

Do not use in combination with other aminoglycosides.

Do not use with other products that may cause hearing loss, vestibular disease, or kidney disease.

Do not use with general anesthetics.

No known food interactions.

Overdose/Toxicity

Early signs of toxicity include loss of hearing and balance or vomiting. May see symptoms of kidney disease including increase or decrease in drinking, lack of appetite, vomiting, depression, coma, and death.

Summary

Gentamicin is an injectable antibiotic used to treat more resistant bacterial infections in dogs, cats, and other pets. It can be toxic to the ears, vestibular system (balance), and kidneys.