

PATIENT INFORMATION

for Outpatient Treatment of Soft Tissue Infections

You have a simple soft tissue infection that will be treated either by your general practice/ accident and medical centre team or district nurse over the next 2 days. During this time you need to rest and elevate the area involved to allow healing to take place.

Everyday your doctor, practice nurse or district nurse will:

- Administer the antibiotic through the drip (luer plug) and check the site
- Check the Probenecid tablets are taken
- Look at your wound / infection to check that the treatment is working and that it is improving
- Redress your wound as necessary
- Check on your "drip" site

The Drug Treatment

In order to help your body fight the infection, you will need to have 3 doses of an antibiotic (Cefazolin) given directly into the vein in your hand or arm. This way of giving you the antibiotic ensures that the infection is treated directly and most quickly. The antibiotic is put through a "luer plug" ("drip") which was inserted into your vein at the medical facility you attended. This plug will then stay in place until you have received all doses of the antibiotic.

At exactly the same time you are having medication through the drip you will need to take the Probenecid tablets daily.

Do not take them at any other time. These tablets assist the action of the antibiotic by helping it to stay in your system for up to 24 hours so it can fight the infection. If you have a history of gout or of poor kidney function you may not be able to take these tablets and instead will need intravenous antibiotics twice a day.

Once you have received 3 doses of antibiotics into your "drip" you will need to start taking the oral antibiotic tablets (prescribed to you by the doctor) on day 4 of treatment.

Some patients experience nausea and stomach pain as a side effect of the antibiotics. This is common and will pass. Discuss with your GP or district nurse if you have any concerns.

In the unlikely event that you experience serious side effects, such as tongue swelling, shortness of breath or extensive rash, call an ambulance/dial 111 for immediate assistance.

Pain Relief

Your doctor will have discussed appropriate pain relief with you and may have given you a prescription. Rest and elevation of the area involved will not only help relieve the pain, but also help with the healing process and so is very important. Please rest as much as possible with the affected part elevated eg. resting on pillows, arm in a sling.

Wound care

Please keep the wound clean and covered with a dressing. Your wound will be assessed every day to ensure that it is improving.

IV luer "drip" care

Please keep your drip site clean and dry. It will be assessed every day when the antibiotic is administered. If there is anything of concern your GP will review you.

General

- Rest and allow yourself to recover
- Drink plenty of water

Please inform your GP, practice nurse or district nurse if you experience any of the following:

- Extensive rash/shortness of breath/tongue swelling-dial 111
- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Dizziness
- Sore gums
- Needing to pass urine more frequently
- Increased wound pain
- General feelings of being unwell
- Difficulties coping
- Pain at your drip site.

If the district nurse is providing your treatment, they will not be able to visit early in the morning. The most likely time will be between 11am and 2pm. Contact the district nurse on 07 838 3565 if you need to negotiate a time outside these hours.

If you are worried at any time because you feel unwell or you are getting worse please contact your GP or after hours medical centre. If they are unavailable contact either:

Emergency Department (24 hours)
Ph 07 839 8899 ext 8707.

Ask for the Nursing Co-ordinator and say that you are on the GP Outpatient Cellulitis Programme.

Community Health/District Nursing
Ph 07 838 3565