

HOME INTRAVENOUS ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY

BASIC ADVICE

AT THE START OF YOUR TREATMENT

The hospital pharmacy will supply you with antibiotics and the equipment you need for the first 24 to 48 hours of your home treatment.

Afterwards, your community pharmacy will take over your treatment. You will need to pick up your antibiotic and supplies from the pharmacy yourself (unless you have a delivery agreement with the pharmacy).

Most antibiotics are covered by the Quebec Health Insurance Plan (RAMQ) or by your private insurance.

STORING YOUR ANTIBIOTIC

- The antibiotic comes in a syringe or bag.
- Most antibiotics should be kept refrigerated:
 - keep them refrigerated with saline solution (if applicable).
 - Place in an airtight container to avoid contamination with other foods.
 - Remove them from refrigerator before the next scheduled administration time:
 - syringe: 30 to 60 minutes;
 - infuser/perfuser: 3 hours;
 - bag: 60 minutes.

Never use a microwave oven or hot water to heat your antibiotic.

CATHETER AND DRESSING

- Avoid pulling on the catheter or tubing.
- It is not advisable to pull or rub the skin near the dressing.
- Leave the catheter dressing in place.
- Postpone any work requiring scissors or sharp objects near the tubing.
- Keep the tubing away from heat sources.
- Sudden movements that could displace or damage the catheter (e.g., contact sports) are not recommended.
- Avoid contact with your pet, if applicable.
- Make sure the catheter extension tubing is securely fastened.
- Ensure that the tubing is securely fastened with the adhesive bandage to prevent accidental displacement of the catheter. If necessary, attach the tubing again using the bandage.
- Take a bath rather than a shower to avoid wetting the catheter insertion site. Bathing:
 - cover the catheter with plastic wrap and secure the ends with adhesive tape: It is very important not to get the dressing wet.
 - even with these precautions, don't dip your arm in the bath water.

FACTORS TO MONITOR

CATHETER

Ensure that the catheter is intact; not displaced, cut, or broken; and that there is no fluid leakage.

INSERTION SITE

The insertion site is where the intravenous catheter is inserted into the skin. There may be risk of infection. There should be no redness, heat, swelling, tenderness, pus, or discharge at the catheter site.

DRESSING

The dressing must be clean, dry, and watertight at all times.

TEMPERATURE

Take your temperature by mouth:

- Every morning, when you wake up.
- Every night, at bedtime.

How should you take your temperature?

- Wait at least 20 minutes after eating, chewing gum, drinking, or smoking to take your temperature.
- Slide the thermometer under your tongue, leaving it in place for at least three minutes or until you hear a beep.
 - If the thermometer reads over 38°C (100.4°F), follow the recommendations given in the table of possible complications below.
 - In adults, oral temperature usually ranges from 36°C to 37.7°C (96.8°F to 99.9°F).

GUIDELINES IN CASE OF COMPLICATIONS

If you have any questions or concerns, please consult the recommendations for dealing with possible complications (see the table below).

TABLE OF POSSIBLE COMPLICATIONS

COMPLICATIONS	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Infiltration (The medication flows out of the vein under the skin)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling around the catheter. Arm swelling. Cold skin around the catheter. Burning sensation or pain on injection. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the tube clamp on the catheter extension tubing. Contact the CLSC nursing staff. Apply a warm, moist towel to the dressing.
Thrombophlebitis (Irritated vein)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensation of a hard cord along the vein where the catheter is inserted. Redness. Sensitivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the CLSC nursing staff
Infection at catheter insertion site	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Swelling. Sensitivity. Redness. Presence of pus or discharge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the CLSC nursing staff.
Worsening of the infection for which you are being treated	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High oral temperature over 38°C (100.4°F). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take oral temperature again 4 hours later. If your temperature is still 38°C (100.4°F) or higher, contact the CLSC nursing staff.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High oral temperature over 38.5°C (101.3°F). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the CLSC nursing staff.
Damp, loose, or soiled dressing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presence of blood or liquid on the dressing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the CLSC nursing staff.
Catheter displacement - Short peripheral intravenous catheter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The catheter is fully or partially withdrawn from the vein. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the catheter has come completely out: Apply a dressing or absorbent cotton to the site until the bleeding stops. If partially out: Stop the infusion and contact the CLSC nursing staff.
Catheter Displacement Peripherally inserted central catheter E.g., PICC line	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sensation of pain in the ear, neck, or shoulder on the same side as the catheter. Swelling of the neck. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the CLSC nursing staff.

COMPLICATIONS	SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS	RECOMMENDATIONS
Catheter occlusion (blocked catheter)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resistance occurs when the antibiotic is administered. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure the tube clamp on the catheter extension tubing is open. Make sure the tubing is securely fastened. Make sure your arm is extended. Try to administer the antibiotic again. If resistance continues, close the tube clamp on the catheter extension tubing. Contact the CLSC nursing staff.
Catheter damage (cut or broken catheter).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> When administering the antibiotic, blood or fluid may leak from the cut or damaged end of the catheter. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close the tube clamp on the catheter extension tubing. Contact the CLSC nursing staff.

RESOURCES

Explanatory video vignettes for home intravenous antibiotic therapy can be found in the Home Self-Care, Intravenous Therapy section on the santeestrie.qc.ca website.

For any problem not listed in the table of possible complications, please refer to:



Your CLSC.



Info-Santé by calling 8-1-1.



The nearest hospital emergency department.

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Revision and Layout

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Présidence-direction générale

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santeestrie.qc.ca

April 2024 – 4-6-12040 (french version) | 4-6-12041 (english version)