

Oxford Centre for Respiratory Medicine, Churchill Hospital

Information about Amikacin

What is Amikacin

Amikacin is an aminoglycoside antibiotic. Aminoglycosides have an ability to kill a wide range of bacteria, including *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* and *Mycobacterium abscessus*. Sometimes we need to use a combination of antibiotics to control the infection, one of which will be an aminoglycoside.

The blood level of these antibiotics has to be measured to make sure the dose you are taking is high enough to fight the infection but not too high to cause potential side effects.

Tests you will need during your Amikacin course

During your course of Amikacin we need to check that the antibiotic is working towards clearing the infection. Antibiotic blood levels have to be measured at specific times.

The first blood level for Amikacin has to be taken just before the third dose is given – the **trough** level. The blood level needs to be checked again just before the eighth dose.

If the resulting level is too high, the Amikacin is working at its optimum level. However, there is a greater risk of side effects.

If necessary, we can decrease the dose so that you gain the maximum benefit from the course of IV antibiotics with minimal side effects.

Turn over

INFORMATION SHEET

What are the possible side effects of Amikacin?

If you experience any of the following serious side effects, stop taking Amikacin and seek emergency medical attention:

- An allergic reaction – shortness of breath; closing of the throat; hives; swelling of the lips, face tongue; rash; or fainting
- Little or no urine
- Decreased hearing or ringing in the ears
- Dizziness, clumsiness or unsteadiness
- Numbness, skin tingling, muscle twitching or seizures
- Severe watery diarrhoea.

Other, less serious side effects may be more likely to occur. Continue to take Amikacin and talk to the CF/ Bronchiectasis team if you experience:

- Increased thirst
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea or vomiting
- A rash.

Side effects other than those listed above may also occur. Talk to a member of the CF/Bronchiectasis team about any side effect that seems unusual or that is especially bothersome.