

# Co-amoxiclav (Medamox®)

## About Co-amoxiclav

This belongs to the group of medicines known as *antibiotics*.

Co-amoxiclav contains two ingredients, *amoxicillin* and *clavulanic acid*. Co-amoxiclav is used to treat bacterial infections, such as infections of the chest and throat, by killing or stopping the growth of bacteria. It can also be used in high-risk patients to prevent infections occurring.

Amoxicillin is also known as amoxycillin. You may notice either spelling in use on packaging.

**Important** : Because amoxicillin is a type of **penicillin** it should not be used by those who are allergic to penicillin.

Co-amoxiclav is available in tablet, oral liquid and dispersible tablet form.

It is also sometimes known as: *Medamox®*. You may notice the use of this name on the packaging of your medicine.

## Before Taking Co-amoxiclav

Before taking co-amoxiclav make sure your doctor or pharmacist knows:

- if you are pregnant, trying for a baby or breast-feeding
- if you suffer from kidney or liver problems
- if you have ever had an allergic reaction to this or **any** other medicine
- if you are taking **any** other medicines, including those available to buy without a prescription, herbal and complementary medicines

## How to Take Co-amoxiclav

- Take co-amoxiclav exactly as directed by your doctor.
- Always read the manufacturer's information leaflet, if possible, before beginning treatment.
- If you have been supplied co-amoxiclav **dispersible tablets**, dissolve or mix the prescribed dose in water before taking.
- Take co-amoxiclav at regular intervals and complete the prescribed course. It is important to take the full course, even if you feel your infection has cleared up, to prevent the infection reoccurring.
- Take this medicine an hour before food or on an empty stomach.
- If you notice no improvement after completing your course of co-amoxiclav make an appointment to see your doctor.
- Never take more than the prescribed dose. If you suspect that you or someone else has taken an overdose of co-amoxiclav contact your doctor or go to the accident and emergency department of your local hospital **at once**. Always take the container with you, if possible, even if it is empty.
- Co-amoxiclav is for you. Never give it to others, even if their condition appears to be the same as yours.

## Getting the most from your treatment

- Before taking any 'over-the-counter' medicines, check with your pharmacist which medicines are safe for you to take alongside co-amoxiclav.
- Some people develop thrush after taking a course of antibiotics. If you think you have thrush speak to your doctor or pharmacist for advice.
- If you are taking co-amoxiclav **oral liquid**, you may find it stains your teeth. This is not permanent and should disappear shortly after your course of co-amoxiclav has finished.
- **Important:** Oral contraceptives can be less effective when taken with co-amoxiclav. To prevent an unwanted pregnancy you should use a barrier method of contraception such as a condom while you are taking co-amoxiclav and for at least 7 days after the course of treatment has ended. If the week following the antibiotic course runs into your pill free week, the next pack of oral contraceptives should be started immediately, without a break. If you are taking the form of contraceptive pill which is taken every day or need further advice, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

## Can Co-amoxiclav cause problems?

Along with their useful effects all medicines can cause unwanted symptoms. These usually improve as your body adjusts to the new medicine. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following symptoms continue or become troublesome.

*Nausea* (feeling sick), *vomiting* (being sick), diarrhoea, tummy pains, dizziness or headache.

**Important:** If you experience a skin rash, itching, *jaundice* (yellowing of the skin and whites of the eyes), *fever* (high temperature), joint pains or swelling of the tongue, throat or face, stop taking co-amoxiclav and contact your doctor immediately.

If you experience any other worrying symptoms which you think may be due to this medicine, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

## How to store Co-amoxiclav

- Keep out of reach and sight of children.
- Store in a cool, dry place, away from direct light and heat.
- Never keep out of date or unwanted medicines. Discard them safely out of the reach of children or take them to your local pharmacist who will dispose of unwanted medicines for you.

**Any more questions?** If you have any more questions about this or any other medicine your pharmacist will be able to answer them for you.