

Package leaflet: Information for the user

Geramox 125mg/5ml Geramox 250mg/5ml Powder for oral suspension (amoxicillin)

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you (or for your child). Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours.
- If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet(See section 4).

What is in this leaflet

1. What Geramox is and what it is used for
2. What you need to know before you take Geramox
3. How to take Geramox
4. Possible side effects
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6. Contents of the pack and other information

1. What Geramox is and what it is used for

Geramox is an antibiotic. The active ingredient is amoxicillin. This belongs to a group of medicines called “penicillin”.

Geramox is used to treat infections caused by bacteria in different parts of the body. Geramox may also be used in combination with other medicines to treat stomach ulcers.

2. Before you take Geramox

Do not take Geramox if:

- You are allergic to amoxicillin, penicillin or any of the ingredients of this medicine (listed in section 6)
- you have ever had an allergic reaction to any antibiotic. This can include skin rash or swelling of the face or throat.

Do not take Geramox if any of the above applies. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Geramox.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Geramox if:

- You had glandular fever (fever, sore throat, swollen glands and extreme tiredness)
- You suffer from kidney problems
- You are not urinating regularly

Blood and urine tests

If you are having:

- Urine test (glucose) or blood tests for liver function
- Oestriol tests (used during pregnancy to check the baby is developing normally)

Tell your doctor or pharmacist that you are taking Geramox. This is because Geramox can affect the results of these tests

Other medicines and Geramox

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking, have recently taken or might take any other medicines, including medicines obtained without prescription. Geramox can affect the way some other medicines work. Also some medicines can affect the way Geramox work

It is especially important to tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following medicines:

- Probenecid (to prevent gout), you doctor may decide to adjust your dose of Geramox.
- Allopurinol (used to treat gout) can increase the likelihood of allergic skin reactions.
- Anticoagulants, medicines to help stop blood clots such as warfarin, you may need extra blood tests.
- Other antibiotics (such as tetracycline) Geramox may be less effective
- Methotrexate (a chemotherapy medicine used to treat cancer and severe psoriasis). Geramox may cause an increase of side effects

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you are pregnant or breast-feeding, think you may be pregnant or are planning to have a baby, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

Driving and using machines

Geramox can have side effects and the symptoms (such as allergic reactions, dizziness and convulsions) may make you unfit to drive.

Do not drive or operate machinery unless you are feeling well.

Geramox contains aspartame and sodium benzoate

Aspartame (E951) is a source of phenylalanine. This may be harmful for patients with a condition called 'phenylketonuria'.

Sodium benzoate (E211) is a mild irritant to the eyes, skin and mucous membrane and can cause an increased risk of jaundice in new born babies.

3. How to take Geramox

Always take this medicine exactly as your doctor or pharmacist has told you. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.

- Shake bottle well before each dose.
- Space the doses evenly during the day, at least 4 hours apart. .

The recommended dose is:

Children weighing less than 40 kg

All doses are worked out depending on the child's body weight in kilograms.

- Your doctor will advise you how much Geramox you should give to your baby or child.
- The usual dose is 40 mg to 90 mg for each kilogram of body weight a day given in two or three divided doses.
- The maximum recommended dose is 100 mg for each kilogram of body weight a day.

Adults, elderly patients and children weighing 40 kg or more

This suspension is not usually prescribed for adults and children weighing more than 40 kg. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.

Patients with kidney problems

If you have kidney problems the dose might be lower than the usual dose.

If you forget to take Geramox

If you forgot to take a dose, take it as soon as you remember. Do not take the next dose too soon, wait about 4 hours before taking the next dose. Do not double the dose to make up a forgotten dose.

If you take more Geramox than you should

If you have taken too much Geramox, signs might be an upset stomach (feeling sick, being sick or diarrhoea) or crystals in the urine, which may be seen as cloudy urine, or problems urinating. Talk to your doctor as soon as possible. Take the medicine to show the doctor.

How long should you take Geramox for?

Keep taking Geramox for as long as your doctor has told you to, even if you feel better. You need every dose to help fight the infection. If some bacteria survive they can cause the infection to come back.

Once you finish treatment, if you still feel unwell you should go back to see the doctor.

Thrush (a yeast infection of moist areas of the body which can cause soreness, itching and white discharge) may develop if Geramox is used for a long time. If this occurs tell your doctor.

If you take Geramox for a long time, your doctor may perform additional tests to check your kidneys, liver and blood are working normally.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, Geramox can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

Stop taking Geramox and see a doctor straight away, if you notice any of the following serious side effects – you may need urgent medical treatment:

The following are very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- Allergic reactions, the signs may include: skin itching or rash, swelling of the face, lips, tongue, body or breathing difficulties. These can be serious and occasionally deaths have occurred
- Rash or pinpoint flat red round spots under the skin surface or bruising of the skin. This is due to inflammation of blood vessel walls due to an allergic reaction. It can be associated with joint pain (arthritis) and kidney problems
- A delayed allergic reaction can occur usually 7 to 12 days after having Geramox, some signs include: rashes, fever, joint pains and enlargement of the lymph nodes especially under the arms
- A skin reaction known as 'erythema multiforme' where you may develop: itchy reddish purple patches on the skin especially on the palms of the hands or soles of the feet, 'hive-like' raised swollen areas on the skin, tender areas on the surfaces of the mouth, eyes and genitals. You may have a fever and be very tired
- Other severe skin reactions can include: changes in skin colour, bumps under the skin, blistering, pustules, peeling, redness, pain, itching, scaling. These may be associated with fever, headaches and body aches
- Fever, chills, a sore throat or other signs of an infection, or if you bruise easily. These may be signs of a problem with your blood cells
- The Jarisch-Herxheimer reaction which occurs during treatment with Geramox for Lyme disease and causes fever, chills, headache, muscle pain and skin rash.
- Inflammation of the large bowel (colon) with diarrhoea (sometimes containing blood), pain and fever
- Serious liver side effects may occur. They are mainly associated with people having treatment over a long period, males and the elderly. You must tell your doctor urgently if you get:
 - severe diarrhoea with bleeding
 - blisters, redness or bruising of the skin
 - darker urine or paler stools

- yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes (jaundice). See also anaemia below which might result in jaundice

These can happen when having the medicine for up to several weeks after.

If any of the above happens, stop taking the medicine and see your doctor straight away.

Sometimes you may get less severe skin reactions such as:

- A mildly itchy rash (round, pink-red patches), 'hive-like' swollen areas on forearms, legs, palms, hands or feet. This is uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 100 people).

If you have any of these talk to your doctor as Geramox will need to be stopped.

The other possible side effects are:

Common (may affect up to 1 in 10 people)

- Skin rash
- Diarrhoea
- Feeling sick (nausea)

Uncommon (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- Being sick (vomiting)

Very rare (may affect up to 1 in 10,000 people)

- Thrush (a yeast infection of the vagina, mouth or skin folds), you can get treatment for thrush from your doctor or pharmacist
- Kidney problems
- Fits (convulsions), in patients on high doses or with kidney problems
- Lowered white blood cell count and cells involved with blood clotting
- The blood may take longer to clot than it normally would. You may notice this if you have a nosebleed or cut yourself
- An excessive breakdown of red blood cells causing a type of anaemia. Signs include: tiredness, headaches, shortness of breath, dizziness, looking pale and yellowing of the skin and the whites of the eyes
- Dizziness
- Hyperactivity
- The tongue may change to yellow, brown or black and it may have a hairy appearance
- Teeth may appear stained, usually returning to normal with brushing (this has been reported in children)
- Crystals in the urine, which may be seen as cloudy urine, or difficulty or discomfort in passing urine. Make sure you drink plenty of fluids to reduce the chance of these symptoms

Reporting of side effects

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor or pharmacist. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via HPRA Pharmacovigilance, Earlsfort Terrace, IRL - Dublin 2; Tel: +353 1 6764971; Fax: +353 1 6762517; website: <http://www.hpra.ie>; e-mail: medsafety@hpra.ie. By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. How to store Geramox

Keep out of the sight and reach of children

Do not store above 25°C before reconstitution. The reconstituted mixture should be stored in a refrigerator between 2°C and 8°C and used within 14 days.

Do not take Geramox suspension after the expiry date stated on the pack after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of the month.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help protect the environment.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

Your medicine is in the form of a powder for oral suspension. When reconstituted (as instructed) with water each 5ml of suspension contains 125mg or 250mg of the active ingredient Amoxicillin.

The powder also contains; sodium benzoate, sugar free raspberry flavouring (Permaseal 10458-31), sodium citrate, disodium edetate, aspartame E951, propylene glycol alginate, colloidal silicon dioxide and sorbitol E420. Geramox powder is available in 100 ml bottles. To dispense the 250 mg / 5 ml medicine, add 80 ml of water to make up to 100 ml, invert bottle and shake well. To dispense the 125 mg / 5 ml medicine, add 90ml of water to make up to 100 ml, invert bottle and shake well.

Marketing Authorisation Holder:

Generics [UK] Limited, Station Close, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 1TL, United Kingdom

Manufacturer:

McDermott Laboratories ltd, t/a Gerard Laboratories, Baldoyle Industrial Estate, Grange Road, Dublin 13

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General advice regarding the use of antibiotics

Antibiotics are used to treat infections caused by bacteria. They have no effect against infections caused by viruses.

Sometimes an infection caused by bacteria does not respond to a course of an antibiotic. One of the commonest reasons for this to occur is because the bacteria causing the infection are resistant to the antibiotic that is being taken. This means that they can survive and even multiply despite the antibiotic. Bacteria can become resistant to antibiotics for many reasons. Using antibiotics carefully can help to reduce the chance of bacteria becoming resistant to them.

When your doctor prescribes a course of an antibiotic it is intended to treat only your current illness. Paying attention to the following advice will help prevent the emergence of resistant bacteria that could stop the antibiotic working.

1. It is very important that you take the antibiotic at the right dose, at the right times and for the right number of days. Read the instructions on the label and if you do not understand anything ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain.
2. You should not take an antibiotic unless it has been prescribed specifically for you and you should use it only to treat the infection for which it was prescribed.
3. You should not take antibiotics that have been prescribed for other people even if they had an infection that was similar to yours.
4. You should not give antibiotics that were prescribed for you to other people.
5. If you have any antibiotic left over when you have taken the course as directed by your doctor you should take the remainder to a pharmacy for appropriate disposal

Instructions for reconstitution

Check cap seal is intact before use.

Invert and shake bottle to loosen powder.

Fill the bottle with water to just below the mark on the bottle label.

Invert and shake well, then top up with water to the mark. Invert and shake again

Shake well before taking each dose.