

About your medication

ERYTHROMYCIN

(EES® , E-Mycin® 400mg tablets,
200mg/5mL & 400mg/5mL suspension,
Eryc® 250mg capsules)

Other brands may be available

WHAT IS ERYTHROMYCIN?

Erythromycin is an antibiotic. It belongs to a group of medications called macrolides. It is only available on a doctor's prescription.

WHAT IS IT FOR?

Erythromycin is used to treat or prevent bacterial infections. Some types of infections it is used for are:

- Infections of the ears, nose, throat and tonsils (upper respiratory tract), chest and lungs (lower respiratory tract)
- Skin infections
- Infections of the mouth or teeth, or genitals

It is sometimes used to increase gastric motility, or to improve the movement of contents through the gut.

HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICINE

It is important that this medicine is taken only as directed, and not given to other people.

Erythromycin is usually given four times a day but in certain conditions may be given twice or three times daily

Eryc® should be given on an empty stomach (one hour before each meal and at bedtime if the dose is four times a day).

EES® , and E-Mycin® can be given with or without food

It is important to give the full course of treatment.

If you are using the mixture, measure the dose accurately immediately after shaking the bottle.

WHAT TO DO IF A DOSE IS MISSED

If you miss a dose of the medicine it can be taken as soon as you remember. Do not take it if it is less than 4 hours before the next dose. **Do not double-up on any doses.**

STORING THE MEDICINE

It is important to keep erythromycin locked away out of the reach of children. Do not keep the tablets or capsules in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink or in other damp, warm places because this may make them less effective. Store in a cool, dry place, away from heat and direct light.

EES® or E-Mycin® mixture must be stored in the refrigerator. Remember to shake the bottle well before measuring the dose. Be sure to check the expiry date of the mixture – discard any expired mixture, do not use.

USE OF OTHER MEDICINES

Care must be taken when using erythromycin with some other medications. Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any prescription medicine or medicine purchased without prescription from a pharmacy, supermarket, or health food shop. This is important for:

- medicines used to prevent blood clotting, such as warfarin
- some medicines used for epilepsy such as phenytoin (Dilantin), carbamazepine (Tegretol) and valproate (Epilim)
- theophylline (Nuelin), a medicine used to treat asthma
- digoxin (Lanoxin), a medicine used to treat heart failure
- tacrolimus (Prograf) and cyclosporin (Neoral or Sandimmun) used to prevent organ transplant rejection or to treat certain problems with the immune system

This list is not complete. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about possible interactions with any over-the-counter or complementary medicines or recreational substances (e.g. alcohol).

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Do not stop giving the erythromycin without first checking with the doctor. Finish the full course even if your child feels better after a few days.
- Do not give erythromycin to your child if they have had an allergic reaction to a macrolide antibiotic before.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Side effects can occur while taking erythromycin. Some of these are not serious and will go away with time or after the dose has been changed. Others are more serious and require you to check with your doctor.

Less serious side effects include:

- Nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea, stomach pain or cramps
- Headache
- Oral thrush (white, furry, sore tongue or mouth), or vaginal thrush in girls (soreness, itchiness or discharge)

More Serious (Contact doctor *as soon as possible* if any of the following occur):

- Severe or watery diarrhoea
- Yellowing of the skin or eyes (jaundice)
- Fever
- Abnormal heart beats or chest pain

Allergic reaction (Stop medicine and see doctor immediately)

- skin rash, itching or hives, swollen mouth or lips, wheezing or difficulty breathing

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT



***Your Child's Doctor via the RCH Switchboard
on 03 9345 5522***

OR

***Pharmacy Department on 03 9345 5492
IN CASE OF POISONING OR OVERDOSE CONTACT
POISONS INFORMATION CENTRE 13 11 26
(24 hour service)***

This leaflet answers some common questions about your child's medicine. It does not contain all available information. It does not take the place of talking to your child's doctor or pharmacist. The leaflet may differ from information in the manufacturer's Consumer Medicine Information. The information in this leaflet reflects the usage of medicine under medical supervision by patients of The Royal Children's Hospital. Medicine may be used in children in different ways or for different reasons than in adults - for more information see the leaflet "[Medicines for Children](#)". This leaflet includes information current at the time of review of the document – OCTOBER 2010.