

Patient Information:

PENICILLIN VK 500 MG
ORAL TABLET

State Public Health Organization: _____
24-hour Information Telephone Number: _____

This drug treats infections. It belongs to a class of drugs called penicillin antibiotics. You have been given this drug for protection against possible exposure to an infection-causing bacteria. This drug treats:

✓ **Anthrax**

You have been provided a limited supply of medicine. Local emergency health workers or your healthcare provider will inform you if you need more medicine after you finish this supply. If so, upon your follow-up visit, you will be told how to get more medicine. You will be told if no more medicine is needed. You may also be switched from this medicine to a different medicine based on laboratory tests.

Take this medicine as prescribed:

Keep taking your medicine, even if you feel okay, unless your healthcare provider tells you to stop. If you stop taking this medicine too soon, you may become ill.

You may take your medicine with or without food or milk, but food or milk may help you avoid upset stomach.

If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is almost time for your next regular dose, wait until then to take your medicine, and skip the missed dose. ***Do not take two doses at the same time.***

DRUGS AND FOODS TO AVOID:

Make sure your healthcare provider knows if you are taking the medication Probenecid. Probenecid causes penicillin to build up in the blood, which may increase your chance of having side effects.

While you are taking this medicine, birth control pills may not work as well; make sure to use another form of birth control.

WARNINGS:

Make sure your healthcare provider knows if you are pregnant or breast-feeding.

Penicillins as a class are generally considered safe for use in pregnancy. Research suggests that it is unlikely that penicillin causes birth defects when taken by pregnant women. Penicillin passes into breast milk, though only in small amounts, and may cause allergic reactions, diarrhea, fungus infections, and skin rash in nursing babies.

Do not take this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to penicillin or cephalosporin antibiotics such as Keflex or Ceclor.

SIDE EFFECTS:

Call your doctor or seek medical attention right away if you are having any of these side effects: wheezing or trouble breathing; skin rash, hives or itching; swelling of the face, lips, or throat; or severe diarrhea. Less serious side effects include mild diarrhea, nausea, upset stomach, sore throat or mouth, itching of the mouth or vagina lasting more than 2 days. Talk with your doctor if you have problems with these side effects.