

3 Neomycin – Patient Information

Your T.R.U.E. TEST results indicates that you have a contact allergy to neomycin. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance, although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching and fluid-filled blisters.

Neomycin is a commonly used topical antibiotic that may be found in both prescription medicines and over-the-counter first aid preparations.

Where Is Neomycin Found?



At work, you may find neomycin in the manufacturing of topical medicines (skin, eyes and ears) and their use in people and animals.

- Veterinary medicines for skin, eyes and ears
- Topical antibiotics for skin, eyes and ears



At home, you may also find neomycin in first aid medicines and topical preparations used to treat skin, eye and ear infections. Neomycin may be used with other antibiotics and agents that reduce itching and swelling.

- Antibiotic creams, lotions and ointments
- Eye medications
- Pet care and veterinary products
- Ear medications

You may need to avoid other related antibiotics. Some people with neomycin contact allergies will also react to framycetin, bacitracin, or gentamicin. These are also topical medicines used to treat skin, ear and eye infections.

Some people may have reactions to a few antibiotics that are usually given by injection, such as kanamycin. Talk to your doctor if you have any questions or have reacted to these antibiotics.

How can you avoid neomycin?

- Check all topical antibiotic preparations (prescription and over-the-counter) for neomycin. Do not use products that list neomycin or related chemicals on the label, package insert or ingredients list. If there is no information, talk to your pharmacist or contact the manufacturer.
- Tell your physician, pharmacist, dentist and veterinarian that you are allergic to neomycin. Ask for preparations that do not contain neomycin or related substances.
- If you must use or contact neomycin when caring for children or pets, wear protective gloves. Utility gloves made of natural or synthetic rubber, or vinyl, are good for working with most neomycin preparations.
- If you think that you contact neomycin at work, ask your employer for Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) or manufacturer information on the product(s). Talk to your employer about using a different product or wearing protective gloves and clothing.

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What should you look for and avoid?*

Avoid products that list any of the following names in the ingredients, MSDS or package insert.

- **Neomycin sulfate** or neomycin B sulfate

You may also react to other topical antibiotics related to neomycin or that are used with neomycin:

- Framycetin
- Gentamycin
- Bacitracin – many people with neomycin allergies are also allergic to bacitracin

You may also react to neomycin-related injectable antibiotics:

- Kanamycin
- Streptomycin
- Mycifradin
- Butirosin
- Sisomycin
- Spectinomycin
- Paromomycin
- Fradiomycin

What are some products that may contain neomycin and neomycin related substances?*

- Neosporin® Antibiotic Ointment
- Generic neomycin antibiotic ointment
- Neosporin®+Pain Relief Ointment and Cream
- Cortisporin® Cream
- Bactine® Pain Relieving Protective Antibiotic
- Cortisporin® TC Otic Suspension
- Animax® Cream/Ointment (veterinary)
- Cortisporin® Ophthalmic Suspension
- Panalog® Ointment (veterinary)

What products do NOT contain neomycin and neomycin related substances?*

- Otomax® ointment (veterinary; contains gentamycin)
- Polysporin® First Aid antibiotic cream and powder (contains bacitracin)
- Bactroban® Nasal
- Bactroban® cream
- Polysporin® Eye/Ear Drops
- Chloromycetin® Ophthalmic
- Betadine ointment
- Vetrachloracin® ointment (veterinary)

*For additional information about products that might contain neomycin or a related substance, visit the United States National Library of Medicine online (<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/>). These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. They are not comprehensive. Product formulations also change frequently. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have questions. These are general guidelines. Talk to your doctor for more specific instructions.