



Getting Ready for Your Surgery: Using Mupirocin Nasal Ointment to Help Protect You from Infection

To help protect you from infection after surgery, we are giving you a prescription for a nasal ointment called mupirocin (Bactroban[®]). You will need to fill this prescription at your drug store. You will use this medication for the 5 days before your surgery day. You will use it every night and every morning. You will use it right up until the morning of your surgery. This medicine kills bacteria called *Staphylococcus aureus*, including a special kind called *methicillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA). These bacteria can be in your nose and cause infections. By killing these bacteria, mupirocin ointment lowers the chance of your incision (cut) from surgery becoming infected.

Your drug store will give you 10 tubes of the ointment.

Use one tube every night and one tube every morning for 5 days.

Use your last tube on the morning of surgery.

Start using the medication at night. You should start 5 nights before your surgery. For example, you should start using the medication of Sunday night for a surgery on the following Friday morning.

Follow these directions:

1. Open the tube and squeeze one-half of the ointment into one nostril and the other half into the other nostril.
2. Gently press the sides of your nose together and then let go. Continue to gently press your nose closed and let go for about 1 minute. This will spread the medication in your nostril.
3. Throw away the tube after you use it.
4. Wash your hands with soap and water.

IMPORTANT: Do not get the medication in your eyes. If mupirocin (Bactroban[®]) nasal ointment does get in your eyes, flush (rinse) your eyes with water for 5 minutes or more. If your eyes are still sore or your vision is still blurry more than 5 minutes **after** flushing with water, call your doctor's office.

Mupirocin (Bactroban[®]) nasal ointment does not usually cause any side effects. You may get a runny nose, a mild sore throat or a funny taste in your mouth. If these things happen, you do not have to stop using the medication. ***If your nose becomes sore and painful, then you should stop using the mupirocin (Bactroban[®]).***

If you have any questions or problems when using mupirocin (Bactroban[®]) nasal ointment, call the Pre-admission Testing Clinic at (212) 598-6176.