



PENICILLIN-V POTASSIUM

November 2001

BRAND NAMES: V-Cillin K, Pen Vee K, Veetids

REASONS FOR USE:

1. Penicillin-V potassium, an antibiotic, kills susceptible bacteria that cause infection.
2. It is used in the treatment of respiratory tract infections, middle ear infections, skin infections, and scarlet fever.
3. Penicillin-V potassium is also used to prevent bacterial endocarditis (*inflammation of the lining of the heart*) in patients with a history of rheumatic fever or congenital heart disease who plan to have dental work or other surgery.
4. Penicillin-V potassium may be used for the treatment of bacterial anthrax.

HOW TO TAKE THE MEDICATION:

1. Swallow the tablets with a glass of water.
2. You may take liquid penicillin-v potassium by itself or you may mix it with infant formula, milk, gingerale, fruit juice or other cold drinks. Take immediately if mixed with other liquids, and be sure to drink all the liquid to get the full dose of the medication.

WHEN TO TAKE THE MEDICATION:

1. Penicillin-V potassium is best taken on an empty stomach, that is at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.
2. Closely follow the medication schedule prescribed for you. It is best taken at evenly spaced intervals of time.
3. Do not miss any doses to keep the amount of medicine in the bloodstream constant.
4. Continue to take this medication until the full prescribed amount is finished, even if you begin to feel better after a few days. Stopping this medication too soon may not kill all the bacteria, resulting in a relapse of the infection.

DRUG INTERACTIONS:

1. Penicillin-V potassium should **not** be taken with fruit juice.
2. There are no known interactions with specific foods reported with this medication.
3. Because of the potential for drug interaction and/or need for dose adjustment be sure to tell your physician and pharmacist about other prescription and non-prescription medications you are taking especially probenecid, other antibiotics, oral contraceptives, anticoagulants including heparin the classes of drugs known as beta blockers or ACE (*angiotensin converting enzyme*) inhibitors, aldactone, persantine or depakote.
4. Oral contraceptives (birth control pills) containing estrogen may not work properly if you take them while you are taking penicillin-v potassium. Unplanned pregnancies may occur. You should use an additional form of birth control while taking penicillin-v potassium.

STORAGE OF MEDICATION:

1. Store penicillin-V potassium in its original, labeled container, and keep the container tightly closed.
2. Keep the medication in a dry place, out of a child's reach.
3. If you are using the liquid form of penicillin-V potassium, store it in the refrigerator, and do not use after expiration date affixed on the label.
4. Store this medication away from moisture and sunlight. Do not store in the bathroom.

MISSED DOSES:

1. If you miss a dose of penicillin-v potassium, take the missed dose as soon as you remember it and take the remaining doses at evenly spaced intervals throughout the day. However, if almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take the next dose at its regularly scheduled time.
2. If you miss more than one dose, speak with your physician for further instructions.
3. Do not take a double dose to make up for a missed dose.

COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:

1. If skin rash, itching, or shortness of breath, fever, chills or joint pain, occur after taking penicillin-V potassium, discontinue the medication and contact your physician or go to the Emergency Room immediately if your symptoms are severe.
2. If you notice rectal itching, vaginal itching or discharge, or diarrhea while taking penicillin-V potassium, contact your physician as soon as possible. Severe diarrhea may be a sign of a serious side effect. Do not take any diarrhea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

OTHER PRECAUTIONS:

1. If you have had an allergic reaction to any form of penicillin, other medications, foods, or other substances, tell your physician and pharmacist before using penicillin-V potassium.
2. To get the full benefit of penicillin-V potassium, remember to take it for as long as your physician has prescribed even if you feel better.
3. Do not take any unused medication for another infection.
4. Notify your physician if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

If you have any questions about your medications, ask your physician, nurse or Pharmacist.