

Taichung Armed Forces General Hospital Leaflet of Inpatient Nursing Instructions

抗生素藥物指導

Sir/Lady:

Topic of nursing instructions provided here: Information of drug use

Contents: Instructions for antibiotics

- I. Effect: Antibiotics have the effect of killing or inhibiting the growth of microorganisms. They are used to treat diseases caused by microorganisms such as bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and parasites. Examples include well-known penicillin, cephalosporins, tetracyclines, erythromycin, and aminoglycosides.
- II. Precautions:
 - (1) Injectable antibiotics will be administered by a nursing professional at specific treatment times according to the doctor's prescription (e.g., every 4–12 hours), to achieve the best therapeutic effect.
 - (2) Antibiotic treatment is a fixed course of treatment. Even if symptoms disappear, you must continue using the medication to complete the full course. Do not stop or reduce the dosage on your own because you feel better, as this may cause the infection to relapse or lead to the development of drug-resistant bacteria.
 - (3) If you have a history of allergies, are pregnant or breastfeeding, have other conditions (e.g., asthma, favism, hay fever, or liver/kidney diseases), or are taking other medications, please inform your doctor in advance.
 - (4) If you experience symptoms such as difficulty breathing, asthma, urticaria, redness, itching, hearing loss, abnormal bleeding, or yellowing of the skin or eyes, be sure to inform the healthcare professional immediately or stop the medication and seek medical attention.
 - (5) If you experience symptoms such as nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain or bloating, loss of appetite, or altered taste, inform the healthcare professional. Oral antibiotics may be taken with plenty of water or food to reduce gastrointestinal discomfort.
 - (6) Please follow the doctor's or pharmacist's instructions to take the medication. Space out the doses evenly, take the medication at the fixed time, and take it with a large glass of water; fruit juices and sodas are not suitable.
 - (7) Generally, antibiotics are better absorbed when taken on an empty stomach (1 hour before or 2 hours after meals). If they irritate the stomach, they can be

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taken with food.

- (8) If it is an extended-release product, do not crush it.
- (9) If it is an oral suspension, shake well before use, and use a measuring cup or the dropper provided in the package to measure the correct dose.
- (10) Store the medication along with the medication bag in a tightly closed container in a cool, dry, and dark place at room temperature. Do not freeze; except for diluted suspensions, do not refrigerate.
- (11) For antibiotic suspension powders, dilute as instructed on the medication bag and store in the lower part of the refrigerator. The diluted suspension can be kept for 7-14 days depending on the type of medication.
- (12) Store medications in a high place, out of reach of children.
- (13) Some antibiotics (such as tetracyclines and fluoroquinolones) may bind with ions like calcium, magnesium, aluminum, and iron, and lose their effectiveness. Therefore, avoid taking them with milk, dairy products, antacids, or multivitamins containing calcium or iron.
- (14) Some antibiotics (such as tetracyclines) can cause incomplete development of tooth enamel and permanent discoloration. Therefore, they are prohibited in children under 18 years of age, pregnant women, and breastfeeding mothers. In addition, these drugs may make the skin overly sensitive to sunlight, so take sun protection measures when necessary, such as wearing long sleeves and long pants, using an umbrella, or applying sunscreen.
- (15) Do not share your medication with anyone else.
- (16) If you forget a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it's nearly time for your next dose when you realize you've missed a dose, skip the missed dose and take your medication at the next scheduled time. Never take two doses at the same time.

If you are still unclear about something or have any questions, please contact the nursing station in the ward