

bacitracin basics

Helps prevent infection in minor cuts, scrapes, and burns. bacitracin is an effective over-the-counter, first-line infection prevention in minor scrapes, cuts, and burns.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
bacitracin Drug effectiveness					
Possible side effects†					
Allergic skin reaction					

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Wash your hands before and after using bacitracin.
- Make sure you clean and dry the affected area before applying bacitracin.
- Apply a thin layer and rub in gently. You can place a bandage or dressing over the area.
- Talk to your doctor if your wound gets worse or does not get better after 1 week.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Allergic reaction

Do not use bacitracin if you are allergic to it. Stop using and ask a doctor if you experience rashes, hives, or other allergic reactions.

Use in serious wounds

Unless directed by a doctor, you should only use bacitracin on minor cuts, scrapes, and burns. Speak to your doctor before use if you have serious burns, large or deep wounds, or animal bites.

Long-term use

You should not use bacitracin for more than a week. Stop use and speak to your doctor if your wound does not get better or gets worse after 1 week. You may need stronger treatment.