

Bactroban (mupirocin) basics

Treats certain skin infections and kills bacteria in the nose. Compared to over-the-counter first aid topical antibiotics, Bactroban (mupirocin) can kill a larger variety of bacteria and is a good alternative if you're allergic to certain ingredients in OTC products.

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
Bactroban (mupirocin) Drug effectiveness	[Blue gradient bar]				
Possible side effects†	Hours	Days	Weeks	Months	Long term
Headache		[Red gradient bar]			
Stuffy nose	[Red gradient bar]				
Lung or breathing problems		[Red gradient bar]			
Sore throat	[Red gradient bar]				
Taste changes	[Red gradient bar]				
Burning/Stinging	[Red gradient bar]				

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Wash your hands before and after using Bactroban (mupirocin).
- If using for a skin infection, make sure you clean and dry the affected area before applying Bactroban (mupirocin).
- When using for a skin infection, you can place a bandage or dressing over the area.
- Use a clean cotton swab to apply Bactroban (mupirocin) on the affected area.
- Apply half the single-use ointment tube in one nostril and the other half in the other nostril. Press your nostrils gently to distribute the product evenly inside your nose.
- The nose ointment is for use in the nose only. Rinse with water if you accidentally get the ointment in your mouth or eyes.

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Allergic reaction

Rarely, Bactroban (mupirocin) can cause a serious allergic reaction. Stop use and speak to your doctor right away if you experience rashes or hives, fever, swelling, or trouble breathing.

Eye irritation

Keep away from the eye area when applying Bactroban (mupirocin) as it can irritate your eye. In case you accidentally get Bactroban (mupirocin) in your eyes, rinse them well with water. If burning or stinging in your eyes continues after a few days, call your doctor.

Irritation at the application site

Bactroban (mupirocin) can cause some slight irritation at the application site. Let your doctor know if the irritation is bothersome or does not go away.