

## basics

**Treats swelling and infections of the outer ear.** Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone) is used to treat ear infections, but using it for too long can damage your hearing and affect your balance.

## 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
<b>Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone)</b> Drug effectiveness	[Blue bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Possible side effects†</b>					
<b>Skin rash</b>	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Allergic reaction</b>	[Red bar from Hours to Days]				
<b>Growth of resistant bacteria</b>			[Red bar from Weeks to Months]		
<b>Hearing loss or balance issues</b>			[Red bar from Weeks to Months]		

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

## Tips from pharmacists

- Make sure the tip of the Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone) bottle doesn't touch your ear or your skin.
- The ear canal should be clean and dry before you use Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone).
- Wash your hands before and after you use Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone).
- Lie on your side and place Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone) inside your ear canal while holding your earlobe up and back. It's important to stay lying on your side for 5 minutes to make sure the medicine has soaked in. For children that can't sit still, put a small cotton ball at the outside of the ear canal after you put the drops in to stop the medicine from coming out. Change the cotton ball every time you give the medicine.
- If you don't feel better after 7 days, call your doctor.
- If you have the suspension version of Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone), make sure to shake it well before using. You don't have to shake it if you have the solution.

## Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

### Hearing loss or balance issues

Using Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone) for more than 10 days can cause hearing loss or balance issues. This can become permanent. If you're not feeling better after 7 days, call your doctor right away.

### Growth of resistant bacteria

Using Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone) when you don't have an infection can cause bacteria to become resistant to the medication. Make sure to only use it for the exact amount of time your doctor recommends. Don't use it for longer than your doctor tells you. Throw away the unused portion.

### Skin rash

If your ear starts feeling irritated or you see a rash around your ear, stop taking Cortomycin (neomycin / polymyxin B / hydrocortisone) and tell your doctor right away. This can happen as soon as your first dose.