NEOMYCIN

What is it?
Neomycin is an antibiotic used in many creams, ointments, powders, eye and ear medicines, bandages, and veterinary products.

Where might it be found?
- Antibiotic cream
- Antibiotic ointment
- Triple antibiotic salve
- Bandage or gauze
- Pain relief preparation
- Wound care ointment
- Scar treatment
- Ulcer preparation
- Ear drops
- Swimmer’s ear drops
- Eye drops
- Eye ointment
- Nose drops
- Medicated powder
- Dentist root canal filling
- Urinary irrigant
- Pet food
- Veterinary animal feed

(Some brand names are Neosporin, Cortisporin, Maxitrol, Neocidin, and Otocort.)

Note: Neomycin may remain in clothing even after laundering. Consider discarding items like knit socks, gloves, bras, two-ply garments, or shoes that have been against treated areas. They may harbor the drug and produce continued exposure.

Some people develop sensitivity to bacitracin along with their allergy to neomycin, although it is not chemically related. Ask your doctor if you should avoid bacitracin too.

How to avoid it:
Avoid any product that lists neomycin as an ingredient. Inspect the label, box, or package insert to find the complete list of ingredients for everything you use on your skin, eyes, or ears. Neomycin is present in many over-the-counter preparations at your drug store and grocery store. It may also be found in prescription products.

You must tell your doctors, dentist, nurse, and any caretakers about this allergy. Show them the list of safe choices below.

Your allergy to Neomycin means you could react to certain closely related antibiotics. You could develop a rash all over your body if you are given one of these by mouth or injection. DO NOT USE:
- Tobramycin
- Gentamicin
- Butirosin
- Paromomycin
- Framycetin
- Kanamycin
- Amikacin
- Spectinomycin
- Streptomycin
- Dihydrostreptomycin
- Netilmicin
- Sisomicin
- Ribostamycin

What can you use?
Your doctor can prescribe a different treatment that is safe for you to use for your infection. Some safe choices, depending on your condition, may include mupirocin (Bactroban), erythromycin (Ilotycin), retapamulin (Altabax), and silver sulfadiazine (Silvadene). Topical sulfonamides, fluoroquinolones, chloramphenicol, and tetracyclines may also be considered. For some problems, your doctor may recommend simply white petrolatum. You may be instructed how to use povidone-iodine, chlorhexidine, hydrogen peroxide, or compresses with aluminum acetate.