

Patient Information on Nebulised Pentamidine

Pentamidine is an antimicrobial medication given by nebuliser to prevent a serious lung infection (pneumonia). Pentamidine works by killing the organism that causes the infection (*Pneumocystis jirovecii*, formerly known as *Pneumocystis carinii*). People who are immunosuppressed are most at risk of this type of pneumonia, which can be very severe.

Nebulised pentamidine therapy is given monthly. This medicine is given using a special device called a nebulizer. This device changes the solution to a fine mist that you breathe in.

A nurse will supervise your treatment but will not stay in the room with you for the full duration of your treatment.

The most common side effects of nebulised pentamidine are bronchospasm (wheeze), excessive coughing, and dizziness. Treatment guidelines are designed to minimise the risk of these side effects, but if you do experience them, please tell your nurse straight away.

We allow approximately 1 hour for your appointment.

We will give you a call bell to contact your nurse if you need assistance at any time.

1. Before pentamidine, you will be given salbutamol by nebuliser. This is a medication that will open up the airways in the lungs, and works to reduce the risk of bronchospasm (wheezing) and excessive coughing.
2. You will have a 10-15 minute break after the salbutamol has finished.
3. You will then be given pentamidine, with a slightly different type of nebuliser. Please breathe normally through your mouth. You will be shown how to stop the treatment if you need to take a sip of water or to contact a nurse.
4. After 10 minutes, please recline the chair back (being careful not to spill the liquid in the nebuliser) and continue breathing as we described above. This change in position helps the pentamidine reach as many parts of your lungs as possible.
5. After 10 minutes in the reclining position in your chair, return the chair to the upright position for the remainder of the treatment.
6. Pentamidine can cause a metallic taste in your mouth. If you need to, take a sip of water during your treatment and at the end of your treatment.

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