

Meropenem GH

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) Summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I using Meropenem GH?

Meropenem GH contains the active ingredient meropenem. Meropenem GH is used to treat infections of the lungs (pneumonia or bronchitis), infection of the bladder or kidney (urinary tract infection), infection of tissues around the stomach or gut, infections of the ovaries, vagina or womb, skin infections, infections of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord (meningitis), infections of the blood (septicaemia), high fever and significant reduction in white blood cells resulting decreased resistance to infection (febrile neutropenia).

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I using Meropenem GH?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I use Meropenem GH?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to meropenem or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor or pharmacist if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I use Meropenem GH?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with Meropenem GH and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I use Meropenem GH?

- The dose of Meropenem GH is based on your condition, age and type and severity of infection.
- Your doctor will decide how much Meropenem GH to give you. The usual dose is 500 mg to 1 g injected every 8 hours. If you have meningitis you may require more. If you have kidney problems, a smaller dose may be given. Children also require lower doses.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I use Meropenem GH?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while using Meropenem GH?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Meropenem GH.• Call you doctor straight away if you develop severe diarrhoea.
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meropenem may cause headache, tingling or prickling skin and convulsions/seizures (fits) in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything that could be dangerous.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meropenem GH is stored below 25°C.

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using Meropenem GH?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Common side effects include pain with redness and/or swelling at the site of injection, feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting), loose stool (diarrhoea), skin problems such as rash or itching, headache.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

Meropenem GH

Active ingredient(s): meropenem (as trihydrate)

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using Meropenem GH. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using Meropenem GH.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I using Meropenem GH?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I use Meropenem GH?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I use Meropenem GH?](#)
- [5. What should I know while using Meropenem GH?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I using Meropenem GH?

Meropenem GH contains the active ingredient meropenem (as trihydrate).

Meropenem GH belongs to a group of medicines called carbapenem antibiotics. These medicines fight bacteria that cause infections in the body. Meropenem will not work against viral (such as colds and flu) or fungal diseases.

Meropenem GH may have been prescribed to you or your child (aged 3 months or above) for the treatment of the following bacterial infections:

- Infections of the lungs (pneumonia or bronchitis)
- Infection of the bladder or kidney (urinary tract infection)
- Infection of tissues around the stomach or gut
- Infections of ovaries, vagina or womb
- Skin infections
- Infections of the membranes surrounding the brain and spinal cord (meningitis)
- Infections of the blood (septicaemia)
- High fever and significant reduction in white blood cells resulting decreased resistance to infection (febrile neutropenia).

Meropenem GH is given by injection, usually in hospitals, and it's available only with a doctor's prescription.

Meropenem GH is not addictive.

2. What should I know before I use Meropenem GH?

Warnings

Do not use Meropenem GH if:

- you are allergic to meropenem, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.
- You are allergic to similar antibiotics (e.g. other carbapenems like imipenem; or beta-lactam antibiotics like penicillin, amoxicillin, ampicillin, ceftriaxone, cefotaxime etc).

Symptoms of allergic reaction may include skin rash, itchiness or hives, shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty breathing, swelling of the face, tongue, lips or other parts of the body.

- Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you:

- have any other medical conditions especially the following
 - liver problems
 - kidney problems including dialysis
 - disease of the stomach or intestines (in particular inflammation of intestine)
- have allergies to any other medicines, including antibiotics (such as other carbapenems, penicillins, cephalosporins or monobactams).
- have allergies to any foods, preservatives or dyes.
- are on a controlled sodium diet.

Your doctor will discuss with you the benefits and risks of taking it.

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant.

Do not breast-feed if you are being given this medicine.

The active ingredient in Meropenem GH passes into the breast milk. Your doctor may discuss the risk and benefits if you need this medicine while you are breast feeding.

Children

Safety and effectiveness of Meropenem GH in children younger than 3 months of age have not been established. It is not recommended for use in these children.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you or your child.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with Meropenem GH and affect how it works.

- Probenecid (a medicine used to treat gout)
- Sodium valproate (a medicine used to treat fit/seizure or mania)

These medicines may be affected by Meropenem GH or may affect how well it works. You may need different amounts of your medicine, or you may need to take different medicines. Your doctor will advise you.

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect Meropenem GH.

4. How do I use Meropenem GH?

How much to take

The dose of Meropenem GH is based on your condition, age and type and severity of infection.

Your doctor will decide how much Meropenem GH to give you. The usual dose is 500 mg to 1g injected every 8 hours. If you have meningitis you may require more. If you have kidney problems, a smaller dose may be given.

Children also require lower doses.

Meropenem GH should not be given to babies less than three months of age or babies and children with kidney problems.

How Meropenem GH is given

Meropenem GH should only be injected into a vein (intravenous injection). It must always be given by a doctor or a nurse. It can be given either as a slow injection or as a slow drip over 15 to 30 minutes.

Your doctor will decide which is best for you.

How long will you be given Meropenem GH

Meropenem GH will be given as a number of injections over several days. Your doctor will decide how long you will need to have Meropenem GH.

If you use too much Meropenem GH

If you think that you have used too much Meropenem GH, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**); or
- contact your doctor; or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using Meropenem GH?

Things you should do

Call your doctor straight away if you:

- Develop severe diarrhoea, even if it occurs several weeks after you have been given Meropenem GH.

You may have developed a serious bowel condition called antibiotic-associated colitis and you need urgent medical attention. Do not take any medicine for your diarrhoea without checking with your doctor first.

Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using Meropenem GH.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how Meropenem GH affects you.

Meropenem may cause headache, tingling or prickling skin and convulsions/seizures (fits) in some people. If you have any of these symptoms, do not drive, operate machinery or do anything that could be dangerous. Children should be careful when undertaking activities requiring attention such as riding bicycles or climbing.

If you are about to have any blood tests, tell your doctor that you are being treated with Meropenem GH.

It may interfere with results of some tests.

Looking after your medicine

The hospital staff will keep Meropenem GH in a safe place below 25°C. They will also make sure that the expiry date has not passed.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

The hospital staff will dispose of any unused Meropenem GH.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions.

Less serious side effects

Less serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• pain with redness and/or swelling at the site of injection• feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting)• loose stool (diarrhoea)• skin problems such as rash or itching• headache	Speak to your doctor if you have any of these less serious side effects and they worry you.

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• severe diarrhoea, even if it occurs several weeks after you have been given Meropenem GH• allergic reactions, including shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty in breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body; skin rash, itchiness or hives.• chest pain or discomfort• fast or irregular heartbeat; or changes in the rhythm or rate of the heartbeat• convulsions/ seizures (fit)• unexpected breathlessness and/or red/brown urine- this may indicate damage to your red blood cells• muscle discomfort such as swelling, weakness, tender or sore muscles	Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.

Serious side effects are rare.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What Meropenem GH contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	Meropenem (as trihydrate)
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	sodium carbonate
Potential allergens	N/A

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

Meropenem GH vials do not contain lactose, sucrose, gluten, tartrazine or any other azo dyes.

What Meropenem GH looks like

Meropenem GH 500 mg powder for injection is a white to yellowish powder in 20 mL clean glass vial with rubber stopper. (AUST R 203805).

Meropenem GH 1 g powder for injection is a white to yellowish powder in 20 mL clean glass vial with rubber stopper, containing. (AUST R 203806).

Who distributes Meropenem GH

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