

Triple Antibiotic (Neomycin, Bacitracin, Polymyxin) Ophthalmic

Neosporin® and triple antibiotic solution or ointment are other names for this medication.

How Is This Medication Useful?

- Triple antibiotic solution or ointment is a combination of antibiotics that are used to treat bacterial infections of the clear part of the eye (cornea) and the pink parts around the eyelids (conjunctiva). It is mostly used to treat animals with bacterial eye diseases or ulcers of the eye.

Are There Conditions or Times When Its Use Might Cause More Harm Than Good?

- Some cats will have a fatal allergic (anaphylactic) reaction to this combination of drugs. It is not known which of the components is the cause of this fatal reaction. If your cat has swelling of the face or itching or looks like it is having difficulty breathing, you should take your cat to the closest veterinary clinic immediately.
- If your cat's eye looks worse after you start the medication, you should call your veterinarian.

What Side Effects Can Be Seen With Its Use?

- The medication may cause the eye to sting a bit when first put in the eye.
- Ointments will blur your animal's vision for a few minutes after administration. You should watch it for a short time to make sure it does not bump into things and injure itself.
- Side effects are unusual with this medication.

How Should It Be Given?

- Eye drops may be used every 2-6 hours and ointments every 8-12 depending on the condition that your veterinarian is treating.
- If you are giving more than one medication, you should allow 5 minutes between medications to allow the medication to work and to not be washed out by the next medication. If you are placing medications through the catheter system, you should push some air, not liquid, through the tubing between drugs to push the drops to the eye.
- Medication should be applied in the lower eyelid sac (conjunctival sac) without touching the tip of the dropper or tube to the eye as this will contaminate the medication. Do not touch the dropper or tube tip with your fingers as this will also contaminate the medication.

- The successful outcome of your animal's treatment with this medication depends upon your commitment and ability to administer it exactly as the veterinarian has prescribed. Please do not skip doses or stop giving the medication. If you have difficulty giving doses consult your veterinarian or pharmacist who can offer administration techniques or change the dosage form to a type of medication that may be more acceptable to you and your animal.
- If you miss a dose of this medication you should give it as soon as you remember it, but if it is within a few hours of the regularly scheduled dose, wait and give it at the regular time. Do not double a dose as this can be toxic to your pet.
- Some other drugs can interact with this medication so tell your veterinarian about any drugs or foods that you currently give your animal. Do not give new foods or medications without first asking your veterinarian.
- You should always wash your hands after applying this medication to your pet's eyes.
- **Dogs and Cats:** Triple antibiotic is usually administered as an ointment three to four times daily or as a solution four to six times daily.
- **Horses:** Horses will usually receive triple antibiotic solution as a solution administered through an eye catheter (subpalpebral lavage system) every one to four hours or as an ointment once or twice daily.

What Other Information Is Important About This Medication?

- Triple antibiotic solution should be stored in a tight, light resistant, childproof container away from all children and other household pets.
- Your pet's eye should start to look better in 48 hours. If the eye looks the same or gets worse, you should contact your veterinarian for advice.