Nebulized Amphotericin B Conventional

This handout explains what Amphotericin B Conventional is and how to use it. If you have any questions, talk with your doctor, respiratory therapist or pharmacist.

What is Amphotericin B Conventional?
Amphotericin B (am-fo-ter-i-sin) conventional is an antifungal medicine. It is used to treat infections caused by many types of fungus. These include *Candida sp.* or *Aspergillus sp.* Antifungal medicines kill the fungus by stopping its growth. These drugs are sometimes used to control frequent lung infections that occur with cystic fibrosis or after lung transplant surgery.

What You Need
The supplies listed below will provide treatment for one month of inhaled Amphotericin therapy (2.5 mg nebulized twice a day).
- Amphotericin B conventional 50 mg vial (4)
- Sterile Water for Injection without Preservatives 10 mL vial (4)
- Dispensing Pins (8)
- 3 mL syringes (60)
- 10 mL syringes (4)
- Sterile Water for Inhalation Unit Dose Packets 5 mL (60)

How to Mix
Amphotericin B conventional comes as a powder in 50 mg vials. You must dilute it before you can use it. Sterile water from your supplies is used to dilute this medicine. Wipe the tops of both the Sterile Water for Injection and the Amphotericin vial with an alcohol swab.

You can withdraw the medicine from the vial by using one of two methods. The first way is to remove the water and drug using a needle and syringe. If you use this method, be sure to properly dispose of the needle and syringe after use. Ask your health care provider for information on how to safely do this.

A second way to remove fluid from the vial is to insert a dispensing pin in the top. A needle is not used with this method. To do this:
1. Insert one dispensing pin into the sterile water for injection vial and one dispensing pin into the Amphotericin vial.
2. Remove the twist caps. Set the caps sterile side up and do not touch that side with your fingers.
3. Twist on the syringe to the vial with sterile water.
4. Turn over the sterile water vial and pull back on the syringe to 10 mL of sterile water.
5. Add this fluid to the Amphotericin B 50 mg vial.
6. When you are done, return the twist cap to the Amphotericin dispensing pin. The dispensing pin can stay in the vial until the vial is empty or you throw it away.
7. Gently swirl the Amphotericin vial to mix.
8. Place the Amphotericin vial back in the refrigerator.

How to Nebulize
The Amphotericin mixture must be further diluted before you can nebulize. To do this:
1. Pour Sterile Water for Inhalation 2.5 mL (1/2 packet) into the medicine reservoir of the nebulizer.
2. Draw up 0.5 mL (2.5 mg) of Amphotericin B with a 3 mL syringe.
3. Put it into the Sterile Water for Inhalation in the nebulizer cup.
4. Gently swirl to mix. Do not use saline (salt water) to mix with Amphotericin. They are not compatible.
5. Put the nebulizer together and start the treatment.
6. Throw away the leftover Sterile Water for Inhalation packet.
7. You have been told to nebulize 2.5 mg (0.5mL) of Amphotericin 2 times a day.

Important to Know
- Take slow, deep breaths while you inhale the medicines into your lungs.
- A treatment takes about 10-15 minutes (cup is empty).
- Be sure to hold the cup upright so that the medicine does not spill.
- If the medicine sticks to the sides of the cup, gently tap the side of the cup.
- A new syringe and/or needle should be used for each treatment.
- Replace the cap on the Amphotericin vial so that the leftover solution can be used for the next treatment. Follow the instructions from your health care provider to nebulize.

How to Store
Store vials in the refrigerator before (powder form) and after they are diluted. Once diluted Amphotericin B can be stored in the refrigerator for one week. After one week it must be thrown out.

When Should I Use It?
This medicine should be used on a regular basis to help control fungal lung infections.

Side Effects
When inhaled, this medicine may cause some irritation to the lungs, or a cough. If these occur, tell your doctor or respiratory therapist right away.

How to Clean and Disinfect
It is important to keep your nebulizer clean. Take apart the nebulizer and rinse the parts with hot water after each treatment.
1. Take the nebulizer apart and wash the pieces in warm soapy water.
2. Rinse with hot tap water.
3. Place the nebulizer pieces in a bowl and add enough 70% ethyl alcohol to fully cover them.
4. Soak all parts for 20 minutes.
5. Rinse all parts of the nebulizer with sterile water. Do not use water from the faucet, bottled water or distilled water. To make water sterile, you can boil it for 5 minutes.
6. Use this water once, and then throw it out.
7. Place the pieces on a paper towel to dry.

Equipment
If you have questions or need more supplies, call your Home Health Equipment provider.