Nebulized Amphotericin B

Please Read This Sheet with Care
This sheet tells you about the medicine that your doctor has prescribed for you. If any of this information concerns you, check with your doctor, respiratory therapist, or pharmacist.

Use of This Medicine
Amphotericin B (am-fo-ter-i-sin) is an antifungal medicine used to treat infections caused by several types of fungus such as Candida sp. or Aspergillus sp. Antifungal medicines kill the fungus by preventing its growth. These drugs are sometimes used to control frequent lung infections that occur with cystic fibrosis or after lung transplant surgery.

Supplies Needed
The supplies listed will provide treatment for one month of amphotericin inhalation therapy (2.5mg nebulized twice daily).
- Amphotericin B 50mg vial #4
- Sterile Water for Injection Without Preservatives 10mL vial #4
- Dispensing Pins #8
- 3 mL syringes #60
- 10 mL syringes #4
- Sterile Water for Inhalation Unit Dose Packets 5mL #60

How to Use
Mixing
Amphotericin B comes as a powder in 50-mg vials and must be diluted before using. The vials should be stored in your refrigerator before and after diluting. 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.

The medicine can be withdrawn from the vial by using one of two methods. You may be taught to remove the water and drug using a needle and syringe. Be sure to properly dispose of the needle and syringe after use. Ask your health care provider for information on disposal of needles and syringes.

Another 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 follow this method:
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, setting them sterile side up and not touching that side with your fingers.
3. Then, twist on the syringe to the vial with sterile water. Turn over the sterile water vial and pull back on the syringe to 10mL of sterile water and add this fluid to the amphotericin B 50 mg vial.
4. When finished return the twist cap to the amphotericin dispensing pin. The dispensing pin can remain in the vial until the vial is empty or is discarded.
5. Gently swirl the amphotericin vial to mix. Return the amphotericin vial to the refrigerator.

Nebulizing
The amphotericin mixture needs to be further diluted before nebulizing. Sterile
Water for Inhalation unit dose packets are used for this purpose.

1. Sterile Water for Inhalation 2.5ml (1/2 packet) is poured into the medicine reservoir of the nebulizer.
2. Then draw up 0.5 mL (2.5mg) of amphotericin B with a 3mL syringe and put into the Sterile Water for Inhalation in the nebulizer cup.
3. Gently swirl to mix. Do not use saline (salt water) to mix with amphotericin, because it is not compatible.
4. Put the nebulizer together and start the treatment.
5. Discard the remaining Sterile Water for Inhalation packet.
6. You have been instructed to nebulize 2.5mg (0.5ml) of amphotericin 2 times daily.

Take slow, deep breaths while you are inhaling the medicines into your lungs. It takes about 10-15 minutes before the medicine cup is empty. Remember 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 every treatment. Replace the cap on the amphotericin vial so that the solution that remains can be used for the next treatment. Follow the instructions from your health care provider to nebulize. **Take apart the nebulizer and rinse the parts with hot water after each treatment.**

**Storage**
Place unused amphotericin vial in the refrigerator for the next treatment. Diluted amphotericin B can be stored in the refrigerator for one week and then must be thrown out. Undiluted amphotericin (powder) should also be stored in the refrigerator until used.

**When It Should Be Used?**
Amphotericin should be used on a regular basis to control fungal lung infections. Treatments are often scheduled twice daily. If you are using a bronchodilator inhaler, use it before the nebulizer treatment. Your symptoms should improve as you keep doing this treatment. If your infection does not improve, or worsens, you should contact your doctor.

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

**Cleaning and Disinfecting the Small Volume Nebulizer**
All of your nebulizer parts can be cleaned and disinfected in your dishwasher twice a week except for the blue reservoir tubing. The blue tubing cannot be placed in the dishwasher. This piece needs to be cleaned according to the “non-dishwasher” instructions below.

1. Take the nebulizer apart.
2. Place the pieces in a dishwasher basket on the top rack of the dishwasher.
3. After the dishwasher cycle is done, remove the pieces and shake out the extra water.
4. Air-dry the nebulizer pieces on a dry paper towel.

**Can I Clean and Disinfect my Nebulizer without the Dishwasher?**
If you would prefer not to use the dishwasher, follow the steps below.

1. Take the nebulizer apart.
2. Place the pieces in a dishwasher basket on the top rack of the dishwasher.
3. After the dishwasher cycle is done, remove the pieces and shake out the extra water.
4. Air-dry the nebulizer pieces on a dry paper towel.
4. Soak the nebulizer for 5 minutes.
5. Rinse all of the parts of the nebulizer with sterile water. **DO NOT USE WATER FROM THE FAUCET, BOTTLED, OR DISTILLED WATER.** You can make water sterile by boiling it for 5 minutes. Use this water once, and then throw it out.
6. Place the pieces on a paper towel to dry.

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