

Your TRUE TEST results indicate that you have a contact allergy to bacitracin. This contact allergy may cause your skin to react when it is exposed to this substance, although it may take several days for the symptoms to appear. Typical symptoms include redness, swelling, itching and fluid-filled blisters.

Bacitracin is a common antibiotic used for postoperative and general wound care, often a first-line topical remedy for virtually all skin injuries and dermatoses as well as for some ear and eye disorders.

### WHERE IS BACITRACIN FOUND?

#### At Work, you may find bacitracin in or around:

- Topical antibiotics
- Animal feeds

If you suspect you are being exposed to this allergen at work, contact your employer regarding Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).

#### At Home, you may find bacitracin in:

- Prescription and in over-the-counter preparations such as topical antibiotic creams, lotions, ointments
- Paste bandages sold in pharmacies for the treatment of wound infections, infected eczema and mycotic skin infections
- Ophthalmic and otic products

### HOW CAN YOU AVOID BACITRACIN?

- Check all skin antibacterial agents for bacitracin ingredients.
- Inform your healthcare providers that you are allergic to bacitracin and ask that they use products that are free from this allergen. Bacitracin preparations are sometimes used topically in surgical wounds. When a topical antibiotic is required, request a suitable safe alternative.
- Use only products that do not list bacitracin (or synonyms), especially antibiotic preparations.
- Patients who are allergic to bacitracin should also avoid neomycin. Co-reactivity can occur when used simultaneously with neomycin and should be avoided
- Cross-reactions can occur when used simultaneously with polymixin, because both substances are derived from *Bacillus subtilis*.

### WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR AND AVOID?

Avoid products with the following names in the list of ingredients:

- Bacitracin
- Bacitracin A
- Mycitracin
- Bacitracin zinc salt
- ChEMBL1200558
- C15428

When purchasing products that may come in contact with your skin, check the list of ingredients for the above names. If in doubt, contact your pharmacist or physician.

### WHAT ARE SOME PRODUCTS THAT MAY CONTAIN BACITRACIN\*?

- Double antibiotic ointment
- Bactine Antiseptic
- Neosporin<sup>®</sup> First-aid Antibiotic Ointment
- Triple antibiotic ointment
- Eye drops

\*These lists are brief and provide just a few examples. Read product labels carefully and talk to your doctor if you have any questions. Product formulations may change from time to time without notice. Talk to your doctor for specific instructions. For additional information about products that might contain **bacitracin** or a related substance, go to the Household Products Database online ([householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov](http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov)) at the United States National Library of Medicine.