

Your TRUE TEST results indicate that you have a contact allergy to neomycin. 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.

Neomycin is a topical antibiotic that may be found in both prescription medicines and over-the-counter first-aid preparations.

WHERE IS NEOMYCIN FOUND?

At work, you may find neomycin in prescription or over-the-counter topical medicines (skin, eyes, ears) used on humans and animals.

- Veterinary medicines for skin, eyes and ears
- Topical antibiotics for skin, eyes and ears

At home, you may find neomycin in first-aid medicines and topical preparations used to treat skin, eye and ear infections. Neomycin may be used with other antibiotics and agents that reduce itching and swelling.

- Antibiotic creams, lotions and ointments
- Eye medications
- Petcare and veterinary products
- Ear medications

You may need to avoid other related antibiotics. Some people with neomycin contact allergies will also react to framycetin, bacitracin, or gentamicin, which are also topical medicines used to treat skin, ear and eye infections.

Some people may have reactions to a few antibiotics that are usually given by injection, such as kanamycin. Talk to your doctor if you have questions or have ever reacted to these antibiotics.

HOW CAN YOU AVOID NEOMYCIN?

- Check all topical antibiotic preparations (prescription and over-the-counter) for neomycin. Do not use products with neomycin or related chemicals on the label, package insert or ingredient list. If no information is available, talk to your pharmacist or contact the manufacturer.
- Tell your physician, pharmacist, dentist and veterinarian that you are allergic to neomycin. Ask for preparations that do not contain neomycin or related substances.
- If you must use or contact neomycin when caring for children or pets, wear protective gloves. Utility gloves made of natural or synthetic rubber or vinyl are good for working with most neomycin preparations.
- If you think that you contact neomycin at work, ask your employer for Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) or manufacturer information on the product(s). Talk to your employer about using a different product or about wearing protective gloves and clothing.

WHAT SHOULD YOU LOOK FOR AND AVOID?*

Avoid products with the following names in the list of ingredients, MSDS or package insert.

- Neomycin sulphate or neomycin B sulphate

You also may react to other topical antibiotics related to neomycin or that are used with neomycin:

- Framycetin
- Gentamycin
- Bacitracin – many people with neomycin allergies are also allergic to bacitracin

You also may react to neomycin-related injectable antibiotics:

- Kanamycin
- Mycifradin
- Sisomycin
- Paromomycin
- Streptomycin
- Butirosin
- Spectinomycin
- Fradiomycin

*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 **neomycin** or a related substance, go to the Household Products Database online (householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov) at the United States National Library of Medicine.