



Ribavirin Mist

Important information for Caregivers

Ribavirin is a medicine that is given to treat Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV). RSV can cause serious lung illnesses like bronchitis and pneumonia in some patients if we do not treat it.

What is Ribavirin?

Ribavirin is an anti-viral medicine used to treat RSV (Respiratory Syncytial Virus) infections in the lungs.

When will my child get Ribavirin treatment?

If your child has RSV and has a weakened immune system from cancer, chemotherapy, or for other reasons, we may treat them with Ribavirin. It is very important to treat RSV early in patients who have an immune system that is not as strong as usual.

Is Ribavirin treatment safe?

Ribavirin is a safe medicine for your child to take, but it may not be safe for caregivers who are pregnant, planning to get pregnant or who are breastfeeding. Ribavirin may cause birth defects. If you are a caregiver for a child who is receiving Ribavirin and you are pregnant, trying to get pregnant in the next 3 months or breastfeeding, it is important that you avoid being exposed to Ribavirin.

Your child will get Ribavirin as an aerosolized form (breathed in as a mist). The only way that you, the caregiver, would be exposed to Ribavirin would be by breathing it in yourself. Even if you are pregnant or breastfeeding, it is safe to be around your child and to hug and touch them 1 hour after the Ribavirin treatment has finished. It does not get passed from your child's skin to your skin.

Even though Ribavirin is a safe medicine for your child, as with any medicine, it is important not to take it or be exposed to it if you are not sick.

How is Ribavirin given to my child?

Your child will breathe in Ribavirin as a mist. Each day, a respiratory therapist will give your child 3 treatments of Ribavirin for 2 hours at a time. The respiratory therapist will do this using a face mask or hood. Treatment usually lasts for at least 5 days, but it may be more. Talk to your child's provider to find out how long your child needs treatment.

The door of your child's room must stay closed at all times during Ribavirin treatment. Your child's nurse will put a clean sheet on top of your child's bedding before giving each dose. We will put a sign on your child's door asking all visitors to check with the nurse before coming in.

To be safe, your child's respiratory therapist will put a tent over your child's bed during the treatment. This will help to keep the medicine from spreading out into the room.

To Learn More

- Cancer Care Unit
206-987-2032
- Your child's
healthcare provider
- www.seattlechildrens.org

Free Interpreter Services

- In the hospital, ask
your child's nurse.
- From outside the
hospital, call the
toll-free Family
Interpreting Line
1-866-583-1527. Tell
the interpreter the
name or extension you
need.

Your child's healthcare team will wear gowns, gloves and masks. Your child's nurse will try not to disturb your child during treatment and may spend less time than usual in your child's room during treatment.

At the end of each treatment, the equipment will be put in a corner of your child's room. Sheets can be put in the laundry as usual, and hospital staff will still clean your child's room once each day.

What can I do to keep myself safe while my child gets treatment?

It is best if you are not in the room during your child's Ribavirin treatment, and for one hour afterward, if possible. This is especially important if there is any chance you might be pregnant or if you are breast-feeding.

If you wish to stay in the room while your child gets treatment, please talk with your child's nurse or doctor.

Ribavirin can sometimes bother the eyes. If you wear contact lenses, it is a good idea to change into your glasses.

If you have questions or concerns, please ask your child's nurse or healthcare team. You can reach the Cancer Care Unit at 206-987-2032.