Principen is a beta-lactam antibiotic and it has bactericidal effect (killing bacteria). It contains active substance called amoxicillin. It is used to treat infections caused by microorganisms susceptible to Principen. Mostly, this medicine is effective against Gram positive bacteria. Some studies have shown that it is also effective against Escherichia coli.¹

It is one of the most commonly used antibiotics nowadays in the treatment of the following conditions:

- Inflammation of the sinuses
- Inflammation of the ear
- Urinary tract infections such as: glomerulonephritis, cystitis and others.
- Gonorrhea. Plikevich and all shown that Principen is very effective in these patients even if they were previously treated with other antibiotics. Most of patients started feeling improvement after the first day of treatment.²
- Infant fever. Use of this medicine to treat infant fever is justified even in 1-month old newborns.³
- Upper respiratory tract infections (tonsillitis, bronchitis and pneumonia).
- Antibiotic prophylaxis in dental practice.

**Precautions**

Although most of experts claim that amoxicillin reduces effectiveness of oral contraceptives, some studies have shown that most woman taking ethyniloestradiol or levonorgestrel (birth control pills)
do not need to use alternative contraception method. However, this study has also shown that concentrations of these medicines in the blood were lower in two women (13 woman was studied). So we can conclude that this medicine decrease effectiveness of birth control pills.¹

Since Principen can cause asthma and asthmatic status, it should be avoided in these patients.⁵,⁶

It also should be avoided in patients allergic to penicillin antibiotics, such as:

- amoxicillin,
- penicillin,
- cefapan,
- cefdinir,
- cefixime,
- cefadroxil,
- cefopodoxime,
- cefepime,
- ceftazidime,
- ceftibuten and others.

There is an increased incidence of skin rash in patients with leukemia taking Principen.

People often believe that this medicine will help them in the treatment of colds and flu (viral infections). However, Principen is not effective against viral infections.

Take this medicine only under medical supervision.

**Use of Principen during pregnancy and breastfeeding**

One teratologic study has shown that active ingredient of Principen (ampicillin) may cause only cleft palate but warns that further research are necessary. Talk to your doctor before you start using Principen during breastfeeding.⁷

Small amounts of this medicine passes into breast milk. Avoid breastfeeding while taking this medicine.

**How to use**

To see recommended dosage regimens, check this article: Ampicillin

**Use with other medicines (Interactions)**

Principen should be avoided in combination with following medicines:

- Medicine used to treat malaria: Quinine. This medicine may decrease effectiveness of Principen.⁸
- **Atenolol** (medicine used to treat heart diseases). Concomitant use of Principen with this medicine, may cause decrease in concentration of Atenolol in the blood which reduce its effectiveness. This interaction is possible only if high doses of Principen are prescribed.⁹
- **Levonorgestrel** and other oral contraceptives.
- Chloramphenicol.
- Ciprofloxacin.
Before you start taking this medicine, you should tell your doctor about all medicines you are taking.

### Side effects

To see what are the possible side effects of this medicine, visit: Ampicillin.

### References: