Acetic Acid Otic Solution Use, Ear

Acetic acid is used to treatment infections of the outer ear caused by germs (*bacteria*) and fungi. It should not be used with a perforated ear drum. Use only in the ear. It usually helps relieve the itching and discomfort that comes from an outer ear infection.

The Procedure

- Insert the drops when they are warm or at room temperature. In adults, hold the ear up and back. With children, pull the earlobe down and back. This makes it easier for the drops to go in. Then lie with the affected side down for about five minutes.
- Getting help from someone may make the task easier.
- You or your caregiver may put in a wick of cotton. This helps the drops get in contact with the infected surfaces. The wick may saturated with the solution before putting it into the ear canal. Drops can be put in after the wick is in. Do what ever is easiest.

RISKS & COMPLICATIONS OF THE PROCEDURE

Stop using the drops immediately if pain or irritation occurs. There may be temporary stinging or burning when the solution is first put into the sore ear. Stop the drops if the discomfort is too bad and notify your caregiver.

AFTER THE PROCEDURE

Avoid driving or doing things that could cause you injury if you feel dizziness or other side effects from the medication.

HOME CARE INSTRUCTIONS

- Leave the wick in for 24 hours or as instructed. Continue the drops as instructed.
- Generally you can keep the wick moist by adding 3 to 5 drops of the solution every 4 to 6 hours. In pediatric patients, 3 to 4 drops every 4 to 6 hours may be enough. They have a smaller ear canal.
- If a dose is missed, use the missed dose when you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and use the next regularly scheduled dose.

SEEK IMMEDIATE MEDICAL CARE IF THE PATIENT DEVELOPS:

- An allergic reaction with difficulty breathing or shortness of breath.
- Swelling of the throat, lips, tongue, or face.
- A rash or hives.
- Increased drainage or pain from your ear.

MAKE SURE YOU:

- Understand these instructions.
- Will watch your condition.
- Will get help right away if you are not doing well or get worse.

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