

Your Medication and its Side Effects

Information for Patients with Environmental TB

Introduction

You may be on some, or all, of the drugs listed below. A detailed list of common and/or more serious side effects are available in the accompanying leaflets within the antibiotic boxes. You will also find additional patient hints and tips which you may find useful:

Please take all antibiotics as advised by the doctor as problems can occur if treatment taken incorrectly

For all antibiotics - If you develop a rash, it is important you seek medical attention for advice.

Patient tip: Your antibiotics work together as a team, making it very important they are taken every day as prescribed. Set yourself a phone alarm, or identify a way that helps you to remember to take these essential medications. Missing doses reduces their effectiveness, and may require you to start treatment from the beginning again - clearly you want to avoid this.

Remember, every day of treatment is a day closer to completion of your prescription!

Rifampicin



Rifampicin 300mg Capsules

You should take:.....



Rifampicin 150mg Capsules

You should take:.....

How often should I take these?

Take once daily in the morning at least 30 minutes before breakfast.

Possible side effects

- Stomach upset such as nausea (feeling sick) and/or diarrhoea
- Flu-like symptoms such as chills, fever, dizziness and bone pain
- Skin rashes and itchiness
- Disturbance to your periods
- Body secretions (urine, saliva, semen, faeces) will be orange-red. Contact lenses may also get discoloured
- The efficiency of the oral contraceptive pill may be affected by taking rifampicin. Barrier methods are recommended whilst taking this therapy ie condoms.
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin and /or eyes). **If you notice this, please stop taking all your medicines and seek medical attention immediately**

Patient tip: Keep at bedside and get in the habit of taking your dose as soon as you wake up. The blister packs make for easier dispensing first thing in the morning - you can request these, rather than loose capsules, from your pharmacist.

Ethambutol



Ethambutol 400mg Tablets

You should take:.....



Ethambutol 100mg Tablets

You should take:.....

How often should I take these?

Take once daily in the morning at least 30 minutes before breakfast

Possible side effects

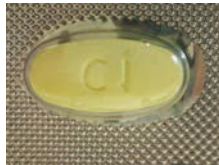
Ethambutol may rarely cause visual (eye) disturbances (blurred and red/green colour change)

If you develop any visual disturbances whilst taking Ethambutol please stop taking it immediately and inform your doctor or nurse immediately.

To help in the prevention of this, we would ask that you consult an optometrist to request colour vision testing every 4 months whilst on ethambutol.

Patient tip: These can either be taken with your rifampicin, or you can spread your tablet load and take them mid-morning, on an empty stomach, at least 30 minutes before lunch.

Clarithromycin



Clarithromycinmg Tablets

You should take:.....

How often should I take these?

You should take the dose listed above **twice daily**

Possible side effects

- Stomach upset such as nausea (feeling sick) and/or diarrhoea
- Change in sense of taste
- Headache
- If any change in your hearing occurs or your balance is affected, **please stop taking it immediately and inform your doctor or nurse immediately**

Patient tip: This antibiotic commonly causes stomach disturbance. It may be better tolerated if doses are evenly spaced throughout the day and taken well before bedtime.

In certain circumstances you may be started on an alternative antibiotic. In the event of this happening, please read the leaflet within the box for information regarding side effects.

Contact Details

My Consultant is _____

For any enquiries please contact their secretary on _____

For concerns outwith office hours please contact your GP or NHS 24 on **111**