

What PRECAUTIONS should I take?

Before taking your medicine, inform your doctor if:

- You are allergic to any food, preservative, dye or medicine, especially penicillin or penicillamine.
- You are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. Penicillamine may cause birth defects when taken during pregnancy.
- You are taking any other medicine.
- You have any other medical condition, including blood disease caused by penicillamine treatment or kidney disease.

It is important that you have your blood tests done when they are scheduled, and that your doctor checks your progress at regular visits.

How should I STORE the medicine?

Keep the medicine in an airtight container. Store away from heat and direct sunlight.



Patient Information Leaflet



Penicillamine

ABOUT your medicine

The medicine is used for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis and Wilson's disease (a condition caused by too much copper in the body). Penicillamine can also be used to prevent kidney stones as well as other conditions.

HOW should I take the medicine?

Your doctor will instruct you on how much and how often you should take your medicine. Do not take more of the medicine or take it more often than your doctor tells you.

This medicine is best taken on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before meals or 2 hours after meals) and at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after any other food, milk or medicine. If you are taking iron or vitamin preparations, be sure not to take them within 2 hours of the time you take this medicine, as this may prevent the penicillamine from working properly.

If you are taking this medicine to prevent kidney stones, you should drink 2 full glasses of water at bedtime and another 2 full glasses during the night.

If you are taking this medicine for rheumatoid arthritis, it may take 2 to 3 months before you see the effect. If you are taking this medicine for Wilson's disease, it may take 1 to 3 months before you notice any improvement.

What should I do if I FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to make up for the missed dose.

What are the possible SIDE-EFFECTS of the medicine?

Call your doctor right away if you experience any of the following side-effects:

- Unexplained fever or sore throat
- Unusual bleeding or bruises
- Skin rash, hives or itching
- Cloudy, foamy urine
- Changes in vision

Other less serious side-effects include:

- Loss of taste or appetite
- Stomach upset, nausea, vomiting or diarrhoea