

**Rifampicin:**

Before taking rifampin,

- you should be aware that rifampicin alters the effectiveness of oral contraceptives. Use another method of birth control while taking this medication. Ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice.
- you should know that rifampicin will cause the urine, stool, saliva, sputum, sweat, and tears to turn reddish-orange to reddish-brown. This effect may cause soft contact lenses to become permanently discoloured. Standard cleaning solutions may not remove the discolouration. Therefore, it is best not to wear soft contact lenses while taking this medicine. This condition will return to normal once you stop taking this medicine. Hard contact lenses are not discoloured by rifampicin.
- you should know that this drug may make you drowsy. Do not drive a car or operate machinery until you know how this drug affects you.

**Ethambutol:**

Before taking ethambutol,

- tell your doctor if you have or have ever had kidney disease, gout or eye disorders such as cataracts.
- be aware that you will have to check with your doctor immediately if blurred vision, eye pain, red-green colour blindness or loss of vision occurs during treatment.

**How should I STORE the medicine?**

Store the medicine in a cool, dry place. Protect from moisture, heat and direct light.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
SINGAPORE



# ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS MEDICATIONS

Rifampicin  
Isoniazid  
Pyrazinamide  
Ethambutol



## ABOUT your medicine

Rifampicin, Isoniazid, Pyrazinamide and Ethambutol are examples of anti-tuberculosis medications. They can kill or stop the growth of the bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB). It is necessary to give several of these drugs in combination to effectively treat TB.

## HOW should I take the medicine?

### Pyrazinamide:

Pyrazinamide comes as a tablet to be taken by mouth. It is usually taken once a day (at the same time each day). Pyrazinamide may be taken with or without food.

### Isoniazid:

Isoniazid comes as a tablet to be taken by mouth. It is usually taken once a day (at the same time each day). Isoniazid is to be taken on an empty stomach.

Your doctor may also want you to take pyridoxine (Vitamin B<sub>6</sub>) every day to help prevent or lessen some of the side-effects of isoniazid. If it is needed, it is very important to take pyridoxine every day along with this medicine. Do not miss any doses.

### Rifampicin:

Rifampin comes as a capsule to be taken by mouth. It is usually taken once a day. Rifampin is to be taken on an empty stomach.

### Ethambutol:

Ethambutol comes as a tablet to be taken by mouth. It is usually taken once a day in the morning. Ethambutol may be taken with or without food.

You will probably have to take this course of antibiotics for at least 6 months. To help clear up your TB infection completely, you must keep taking these medicines for the full time of treatment, even if you begin to feel better. Inadequate treatment can lead to recurrence of infection or result in the development of resistance to treatment. It is also important that you do not miss any doses.

*Keep all medication out of reach of children  
Discard all medication that has expired or is no longer required*

## What should I do if I FORGET a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next usual dose, wait until then to take your medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not take two doses at the same time.

## What are the possible SIDE-EFFECTS of the medicine?

Consult the doctor immediately if you develop any skin rashes, joint or tendon pain or inflammation, swollen face or have difficulty breathing.

Check with your doctor if any of the following side-effects occur.

### Pyrazinamide:

Although side-effects from pyrazinamide are not common, they can occur. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- upset stomach
- fatigue

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- vomiting
- yellowing of the skin or eyes
- darkened urine
- pain and swelling in the joints

### Isoniazid:

Although side-effects from isoniazid are not common, they can occur. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- diarrhoea
- vision problems

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- numbness or tingling in the hands and feet
- swollen glands
- sore throat
- unusual bleeding or bruising
- stomach pains or tenderness

### Rifampicin:

Although side-effects from rifampin are not common, they can occur. Your urine, stools, saliva, sputum, sweat and tears may turn red-orange. This effect is harmless. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- headache
- muscle or bone pain
- vomiting
- chills
- diarrhoea

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- sores on skin or in the mouth
- fever
- yellowing of the skin or eyes

### Ethambutol:

Although side-effects from ethambutol are not common, they can occur. Tell your doctor if any of these symptoms are severe or do not go away:

- upset stomach
- vomiting

If you experience any of the following symptoms, call your doctor immediately:

- blurred vision
- inability to see the colors red and green
- sudden changes in vision

## What PRECAUTIONS should I take?

Before taking these anti-TB medicines,

- tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are allergic to any medicine.
- tell your doctor and pharmacist what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking.
- tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.
- tell your doctor if you have or have ever had liver disease.

### Pyrazinamide:

Before taking pyrazinamide,

- tell your doctor if you have or have ever had gout, liver or kidney disease or diabetes.
- You should know this medicine may cause false test results with urine ketone tests. Check with your doctor before changing your diet or the dosage of your diabetes medicine.
- plan to avoid unnecessary or prolonged exposure to sunlight and to wear protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen. Pyrazinamide may make your skin sensitive to sunlight.

### Isoniazid:

Before taking isoniazid,

- tell your doctor if you have or have ever had kidney disease, diabetes, epilepsy (fits), tingling or burning and pain in the fingers or toes.
- be aware that you should not drink alcoholic beverages while taking this drug.