



Rifampin

Reason for taking this medicine

Rifampin is an antibiotic used to treat or prevent tuberculosis (TB). It may be used alone or in combination with other TB medicines. Rifampin, used over a short period of time, may also be used to prevent other diseases, such as invasive meningococcal disease.

How to Take This Medicine

- It is very important that you take rifampin as prescribed
- If you are pregnant, think you might be pregnant, or are breastfeeding, tell your health care provider before starting rifampin
- Birth control pills (oral contraceptives) may not work properly when taking rifampin. An additional form of birth control should be used (e.g. condoms) while taking rifampin
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible but never take two doses at one time
- Take rifampin on an empty stomach, at least one hour before or two hours after a meal, with a full glass of water
- Rifampin is available in liquid and capsule forms
- Rifampin may be mixed with applesauce or jelly to give to children
- Avoid alcoholic beverages while on rifampin
- Do not store rifampin in areas where there is direct sunlight, heat and/or moisture

Caution

- Any allergies to medicine should be reported to your health care provider and pharmacist before starting rifampin
- Inform your health care provider if you have or have ever had liver disease
- Always tell your health care provider and pharmacist if you are taking other medicines or herbal remedies
- **Urine, stools, saliva, sputum, sweat, and tears can turn reddish-orange in colour while taking rifampin. This side effect is harmless. Soft contact lenses should not be worn while taking this medication as they may become permanently discoloured**

WHILE MOST PEOPLE CAN TAKE RIFAMPIN WITH NO PROBLEM, RIFAMPIN MAY CAUSE SOME SIDE EFFECTS. NOTIFY YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING:

- Nausea, vomiting, decreased appetite, diarrhea, stomach cramps

- headache, drowsiness, dizziness, poor concentration, confusion, visual changes, muscle and/or bone pain
- fever, chills
- skin rash, bleeding or bruising, menstrual changes
- flushing and/or itching of the skin with or without a rash, usually involving the face and scalp;
- may cause redness/watering of the eyes. This reaction usually occurs 2 to 3 hours after taking the drug. An antihistamine can be taken to treat or prevent this flushing reaction.

Rifampin can affect your liver. This is called **hepatitis**. While you are on rifampin, your health care provider will ask you to have regular blood tests (except young children) to monitor your liver.

Stop taking your TB medicines, and call your health care provider **right away**, if you have the following symptoms:

- **yellowing of eyes and skin**
- **loss of appetite**
- **severe nausea and vomiting, with stomach cramps, stomach pain**
- **fever, chills**
- **very dark urine**

Health Care Provider: _____

Phone Number: _____