

Important Notes on Rifampin

(Also known as Rifadin, Rimactane, Rifampicin, Rofact)



COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL

Please read this before taking the medication

Rifampin is a medication that is used to prevent further cases of meningococcal and hemophilus influenzae disease.

Warning

Certain individuals should **NOT** take this medication. These individuals have one or more of the following conditions:

- 1) jaundice
- 2) severe liver disease
- 3) allergy to rifamycins
- 4) pregnancy
- 5) prematurity (in newborns)

Please tell your doctor you are taking Rifampin as it may interfere with the actions of other medications.

How to take this Medication

- Follow the directions on the container label.
- For best results, take on an empty stomach. This means one hour before meals or two hours after meals.
- If you forget a dose, take the usual amount when you normally would and continue this until all medication is used.
- If a half a capsule is to be given, pull the capsule apart and empty it on a small clean piece of paper. Divide the powder in half with a knife. Mix one half of the powder with a small amount of jam or applesauce. Save the other half for the next dose.

- If rifampin syrup is to be given to a child, use the syringe, which is usually supplied, to measure the correct dose. Place the syringe over the tongue or inside the cheek. Squeeze the medicine into the mouth slowly, to prevent choking. Give water to drink after the medicine has been swallowed.
- In between doses, keep the medication tightly capped, away from direct sunlight, and out of reach of children.

Side Effects

- Occasionally rifampin may cause nausea, vomiting, cramps or diarrhea. These can be reduced by taking rifampin immediately after meals.
- Rifampin can cause urine, stool, saliva, sweat, tears and teeth to become red-orange. This is harmless and will disappear after you stop taking the medication. Soft contact lenses can become permanently stained. Soft contact lenses should not be worn while taking rifampin.
- As rifampin may interfere with the effectiveness of birth control pills, women should use an additional method of birth control for the remainder of their present and following menstrual cycles.
- In some instances, rifampin may interfere with menstrual periods. There may be abnormal bleeding, absence of periods, or increased time between them.

Further Questions

Contact your local Public Health Nurse or family doctor.