

# Rifampin

## What is rifampin for?

Rifampin is used to treat tuberculosis. It may also be used to prevent tuberculosis in some cases. It is taken for 4 months or more. It is taken in combination with other medications when used to treat tuberculosis.

## How should I take rifampin?

Take rifampin as instructed by your doctor. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed.

Take it regularly each day and avoid missing doses.

It is best to take rifampin on an empty stomach. It should be taken 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal. If stomach upset occurs, rifampin can be taken with food or milk.

## How should I store rifampin?

Rifampin should be stored at room temperature, away from light, heat and moisture. Do not store it in the bathroom.

Keep this medication out of the reach of children.

## What should I tell my doctor before starting rifampin?

TELL YOUR DOCTOR:

- If you are taking any other prescription or over-the-counter medications. Rifampin may interfere with some drugs.
- If you are or think you may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have liver or kidney problems.
- If you have abused or are using alcohol.
- If you have other serious medical problems.

**See over...**

### **What are the side effects to watch for?**

Rifampin will likely turn your tears, saliva, sputum, urine and bowel movements reddish-orange. This will appear very soon after starting the medication and does not cause any serious problems. You may want to avoid wearing contact lenses since they will become discolored while on the medication.

There are other side effects that should be reported to your doctor including:

- upset stomach which does not go away or is serious
- skin rashes
- fever and chills
- changes in vision, dizziness, headache, difficulty concentrating
- symptoms of liver problems such as: tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, yellowing of the eyes or skin
- **any other serious symptoms that develop**

### **What other information should I know?**

- You should not get pregnant while taking rifampin. Rifampin may lower the effectiveness of the birth control pill. Be sure to talk to your doctor about birth control choices.
- If you are already pregnant, rifampin can be taken if it is clearly needed. Discuss the risk and benefits with your doctor.

Keep all appointments with your doctor and **be sure you do not run out of medication**

*For further information, contact your Doctor or call the Middlesex-London Health Unit at (519) 663-5317 ext. 2330*