



Durham Region Health Department

Facts about...



Ethambutol

Brand names

Etibi

Reasons for taking this medicine

Ethambutol is used to treat **tuberculosis** (TB). It is used with other TB drugs.

How to take this medicine

- It is **very important** that you take ethambutol **exactly as ordered**
- If you think you might be **pregnant**, or you are **breastfeeding**, tell your doctor
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible but **never** take two doses at one time
- Ethambutol can be taken **with or without food**
- **Do not drink alcohol** while taking ethambutol

Caution

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have any **drug allergies** before starting ethambutol
- Always tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are taking other medicines or vitamins
- Tell your doctor if you have ever had kidney disease, gout, pre-existing optic neuritis, eye disease, or any visual changes (e.g., cataracts, changes in colour recognition)
- Do not store ethambutol in areas where there is direct sunlight, heat or moisture
- Keep all follow up appointments with your doctor in order to check your response to ethambutol
- Have your blood work done as ordered by your doctor to check your liver

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Most people can take ethambutol without any problems. Ethambutol may have some side effects.

Tell your doctor if you have:

- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Metallic taste
- Swelling of face
- Fever, chills
- Headache, dizziness, confusion
- Joint pain, gout

Stop taking ethambutol and call your doctor **right away** if you have the following symptoms:

- Blurred or changed vision
- Inability to see the colours: red or green
- Eye pain
- “Spots” in your vision
- Signs of an allergic reaction: hives, difficulties breathing, swelling of face, lips, tongue or throat

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