



# Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



## Rifampin

### Brand Names

Rifadin, Rofact

### Reason for taking this medicine

Rifampin is used to treat or prevent **tuberculosis** (TB). It is used alone or with other TB drugs.

### How to Take This Medicine

- **It is very important that you take rifampin as ordered**
- If you think you might be **pregnant** or you are **breastfeeding**, tell your doctor
- Take the drug at the same time every day. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can but **never** take two doses at one time
- Take this drug on an **empty stomach (one hour before a meal or 2 hours after)** or as directed by your doctor
- If you get an upset stomach from rifampin, you can take it with foods that are low in fat and sugar
- Antacids may help your stomach upset, but they must be taken one hour before or after rifampin
- **Do not drink alcohol** when taking rifampin

### Caution

- Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you have any **drug allergies** before starting rifampin
- Always tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are taking other drugs or vitamins
- Birth control pills may not work as well when taking rifampin. Use condoms or other birth control methods
- Tell your doctor if you have HIV, liver or kidney disease, diabetes or drink alcohol
- Urine, stools, saliva, phlegm, sweat, and tears can turn reddish-orange-brown in colour while taking this drug. This side effect is normal. Soft contact lenses may get stained while on this medication and should not be worn
- Flushing and/or itching of the skin with or without a rash, usually on the face and scalp, and/or redness/watering of the eyes. This reaction usually occurs 2-3 hours after taking rifampin. An anti-allergy pill can be taken to treat this

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If you require this information in an accessible format, contact 1-800-841-2729.



- Do not store rifampin in areas where there is direct sunlight, heat and/or moisture
- Have your blood work done as ordered by your doctor to check your liver

Most people can take rifampin without any problems. Rifampin may have some side effects and can also affect your liver. Tell your doctor if you have:

- Headache
- Dizziness
- Upset stomach
- Nausea and vomiting

**Stop** taking your TB drugs and call your doctor **right away**, if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Yellowing of eyes and/or skin
- Bleeding or bruising
- Lymph node swelling
- Loss of appetite
- Severe nausea and vomiting
- Stomach cramps or severe stomach pain
- Fever, chills
- Very dark urine
- Feeling very tired or weak
- Rash

January 5, 2024

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