



## Durham Region Health Department Facts about...



# Rifampin

## Brand names

Rifadin, Rofact

## Reason for taking this medicine

Rifampin is an antibiotic and it is used to treat or prevent **tuberculosis** (TB). It can be 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 food that is low in fat and sugar
- Antacids may help your upset stomach, 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 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
- 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

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



## Caution - continued

Most people can take rifampin without any problems. Rifampin may have some side effects and can affect your liver. This is called hepatitis. 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

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