



Tuberculosis medications

Fixed dose combinations

You are about to start a course of treatment for tuberculosis disease (TB). You will need to take the medicine as recommended by your doctor.

TB can be cured in almost all cases by taking your medication without interruption.

If taken correctly this medicine can reduce your risk of developing TB disease.

You will be allocated a TB case manager (nurse) from the Anita Clayton Centre who will help monitor your treatment.

Fixed dose combination medications

Your medication will include a combination of different antibiotics combined in the one tablet. This is called 'fixed dose combination' medication.

The fixed dose combination tablets will be supplied either as:

- a four-drug combination in one tablet of **isoniazid, rifampicin, pyrazinamide** and **ethambutol**

or

- a two-drug combination in one tablet of **rifampicin** and **isoniazid**.

Take these tablets on an empty stomach; at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.

Swallow each tablet whole with a drink of water.

General information

You must take all the medicine each day and inform your TB case manager as soon as possible if you miss any.

Do not stop taking your medications even when you feel better. Failure to take your medicine as prescribed can lead to bacterial resistance and/or treatment failure.

Avoid drinking alcohol as it may cause side effects.

This medication may reduce the effectiveness of the contraceptive pill. A second form of contraception may be indicated and should be discussed with your GP.

Rashes and photosensitivity (i.e. sunburn) can occur, so you should avoid unnecessary or prolonged exposure to sunlight and wear protective clothing, sunglasses and sunscreen.

It is normal for your urine, saliva or tears to become orange coloured. Soft contact lenses may also become stained and it is advisable to avoid wearing them while taking the medicine.

All medicine for TB treatment is supplied free of charge from the TB clinic



Side effects

Contact your case manager **immediately** if you experience any of the following:

- Any change to your vision
- Decreased appetite for food.
- Upset stomach or stomach cramps.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Irritability, fatigue and lack of concentration.
- Mild flushing, itching, rash or worsening ache.
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet.
- Fever.
- Head, muscle or joint aches.
- Severe weakness or tiredness.
- Easy bruising or bleeding.
- Yellowing of skin or eyes.

Regular medical visits

While you are taking TB treatment, you will be required to attend regular visits at the TB clinic to:

- check your weight and general health
- check for any side effects from the medicines
- check you are taking the medicines correctly
- collect further supply of the medicines.

Precautions

Inform your TB doctor of your past medical history and if you are taking any additional medication (including over the counter medications) and if your medications change.

Be sure to inform your other doctor(s) that you are being treated for TB using this medicine.

Notify your doctor or case manager if you become pregnant while on this medication.

Keep your medication out of reach of children in a cool, dry place.

Western Australian Tuberculosis Control Program

1/311 Wellington Street Perth 6000

Phone 9222 8500

Fax: 9222 8501

Email: ACCadmin@health.wa.gov.au

Opening hours: 8:15-4:15 Monday to Friday (closed weekends and public holidays)



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