

RIFAMPIN (RMP)



Rifampin (RMP) is an antibiotic medicine. There are two ways that it is used:

1. To treat inactive (latent) TB
2. To cure active TB disease in combination with other medicines

The TB germs are very strong and are hard to get rid of. You will need to take this medicine for four or more months in order to kill the TB bacteria. Your doctor will decide how many months you will need to take the medicine.

HOW TO TAKE RIFAMPIN (RMP)

- Take this medicine as directed by your doctor.
- Even if you start to feel better, it is important to keep taking this medicine until the doctor tells you to stop.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time to take your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Do not take two doses at the same time.
- This medicine works best on an empty stomach. However, if it upsets your stomach you may take it with food.
- Store the medicine at room temperature in a cool, dry place. Do not put it in the refrigerator.

SAFETY MEASURES

- Do not drink alcohol. Drinking alcohol can increase the chance of liver problems while you are taking Rifampin.
- Birth control pills may not work while taking this medicine.
- Do not wear soft contact lens while taking this medicine. Rifampin will stain soft contact lenses.
- Talk to your doctor about other medicines you are taking or any new medicines that you start taking.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Most people do not experience problems while taking Rifampin. You will need to be monitored regularly by your doctor while taking this medicine.

- Orange or red coloured saliva, tears, urine, stool (this is not harmful)
- Skin rash, itching
- Flu-like symptoms (fever or chills, dizziness, shortness of breath)
- Nausea, vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Tiredness, weakness
- Yellow skin or eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Very dark urine

If you have any of these side effects speak with your doctor immediately. If you are unable to reach your doctor, stop taking the medicine until you do speak with your doctor.

If you have any questions about TB or your medicines, contact your doctor or York Region Public Health.

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