

Rifampin



UHN

What is the name of the medicine my doctor has prescribed?

Generic Name	Brand Name
Rifampin 300mg or 150mg	Rifadin® - 300/150

Before taking Rifampin

As with any medication, it is important to discuss with the TB clinic doctor or nurse the possible risks and benefits of the medication, along with any concerns that you might have.

For Rifampin, you might want to consider/discuss the following:

- Any allergies that you have
- Any special diet that you are on
- Any medications that you are currently or will be taking (this includes over-the-counter medications and/or herbal products)
- Any past or current medical conditions

How to take Rifampin

Take Rifampin as directed by the TB clinic doctor or nurse. It is best taken on an empty stomach, with a full glass of water. However, if you experience stomach upset with Rifampin, it may be taken with a small amount of food.

It is important that you do not miss any doses!

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Author: TWH Tuberculosis Clinic

Created: 04/2006

Form: D-5346



If you do happen to miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule. **Do not double dose** in an attempt to make up for the missed dose. Continue to take Rifampin as prescribed.

Possible Side Effects of Rifampin

Most people do not have side effects while taking Rifampin. However, please call the TB clinic immediately if you experience any of the following:

- Chills
- Difficulty breathing
- Itching
- Muscle and bone pain
- Skin rash and redness
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Fever

Other side effects may occur that usually do not need medical attention. These side effects may go away during treatment as your body adjusts to the medicine. However, check with the TB clinic if any of the following side effects continue or are bothersome:

- Diarrhea
- Stomach cramps
- Sores on mouth or tongue

Important: Rifampin commonly causes reddish-orange to reddish-brown discoloration of urine, stool, saliva, sputum, sweat, and tears. This is normal and will stop when you finish the medication.

Precautions while taking Rifampin

If you are taking any contraceptive pills (birth control) containing estrogen, Rifampin may interfere with the effectiveness of this medication. Consider using an alternative method of contraception while on this medication.

Because Rifampin causes urine, feces, saliva, sputum, sweat, and tears to turn a reddish-orange to reddish-brown colour, it may permanently stain soft contact lenses. Avoid wearing soft contact lenses while taking Rifampin.

It is important to limit your alcohol intake while on Rifampin. Alcohol may increase your chances of experiencing an adverse reaction, and may keep it from working properly. It is best not to drink alcohol while taking Rifampin.

Rifampin can delay the clotting time needed for cuts and bruises, resulting in slower healing. Be careful when using a regular toothbrush, dental floss, or a toothpick. Check with your medical doctor or dentist if you have any questions about proper oral hygiene (mouth care) during treatment. Rifampin may also interfere with certain laboratory tests. Be sure to inform all of your health care providers of your TB treatment.



Storing Rifampin

- Keep this medication out of the reach of children.
- Store away from heat and direct light. Keep at room temperature.
- Do not store it in the bathroom, near the kitchen sink, or in other damp places. Heat or moisture may cause the medicine to break down.
- Do not keep outdated medicine or medicine you no longer need.

IMPORTANT

If you have **any** questions or concerns while taking Rifampin please call one of the TB clinic nurses:

Judith Lang, TB Clinic Nurse Practitioner (416) 603-5395

OR

Peggy Howorth, TB Clinic Nurse Clinician (416) 603-5800 ext: 3844

This medication sheet does not provide medical advice.

These sheets are developed by the Toronto Western Hospital Tuberculosis Clinic. They are provided for informational purposes only. These sheets are meant to supplement a discussion with the pharmacist. Please contact a pharmacist or other health care professionals if you have any further questions regarding this medication.

