

Medication Information

Rifampin (Rih – fam – pin)

Other names for this medication

Rifadin[®]
Rofact[®]
Rimactaine[®]

How this medication is used

This medication is used to treat tuberculosis or TB. It may be used with other medication to treat TB. You may need to take rifampin for up to 2 years.

This medication is also used to treat or prevent some infections.

How to take this medication

Take this medication exactly as directed by your doctor. It must be taken regularly, even if you feel well. Do not stop taking this medication without checking with your doctor first.

Tell your doctor about any medications you take, even the ones you buy without a prescription. Tell your doctor if you take blood thinners, estrogen, birth control pills, medication for heart disease or diabetes, verapamil, cyclosporin or phenytoin.

To avoid stomach upset, take this medication with food.

If you cannot swallow capsules, you can open them up and mix the contents with applesauce, jam or jelly.

How to take this medication (continued)

Regular use of alcohol may keep this medication from working properly and cause liver damage. Talk to your doctor about drinking alcohol such as wine, beer or liquor.

You can take the total daily dose all at once or split it up during the day.

If you miss a dose of this medication, 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 time. Do not take 2 doses at one time.

This medication will prevent oral contraceptives (birth control pills) to not work properly. To avoid unwanted pregnancy, talk to your doctor about using another form of birth control.

Keep all clinic appointments so your response to the medication and any side effects can be checked. Schedule visits to a lab to have your blood tested as directed by your doctor.

While taking this medication you may notice

- red-orange colour of urine, stool, saliva, sweat and tears. This is normal when taking rifampin.
- headache
- muscle pain
- diarrhea

Contact your doctor if you notice

- loss of appetite
- nausea or vomiting
- abdominal pain
- yellow eyes, skin, or dark urine
- skin rash
- mouth or skin sores for more than 1 week
- signs of infection such as fever, chills, sore throat