

ISONIAZID

Other NAMES: INH, Isotamine®, PMS-Isoniazid, Rifater® (contains a fixed combination of isoniazid, rifampin, and pyrazinamide)

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Isoniazid is an antibiotic that eliminates the bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB). It is generally used in combination with other drugs to treat TB and it can be given alone to prevent the development of TB in people who have had contact with the TB bacteria.

HOW should this drug be taken?

Isoniazid is commercially available as 50 mg, 100 mg or 300 mg white tablets. It is also available as a 10 mg / mL syrup. It is usually taken once a day. The suggested dose is based on your weight.

Your dosage is:

50 mg tablet
100 mg tablet
300 mg tablet

___ tablet(s)(___mg)___ times a day

or

10 mg / mL syrup

___ mL (___mg)___ times a day

Isoniazid works best on an empty stomach (one hour before or two hours after a meal.)

If you take antacids containing aluminum hydroxide gel (Amphojel®, Maalox®), it should be taken at least 1 hour after taking your isoniazid dose.

In patients who have problems absorbing the oral form of isoniazid, the intravenous form of isoniazid may be used. The intravenous form is an investigational drug in Canada.

Isoniazid must be taken regularly to be effective. Take all of your doses even if you begin to feel better. To avoid missing doses, try to take this drug at the same time that you perform another regular daily activity, such as brushing your teeth at bedtime.

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of isoniazid, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is time for your next dose, do not double the dose, just carry on with your regular schedule.

What ADVERSE EFFECTS can this drug cause? What should you do about them?

Isoniazid can sometimes cause **nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite**. Although isoniazid works best on an empty stomach, adverse stomach effects may be relieved by taking it with a snack. If

these effects remain bothersome, please call your doctor or pharmacist.

Isoniazid may cause **tingling, prickling, burning, or a numbness sensation in the hands and feet**. Contact your doctor if you experience any of these symptoms. Your doctor may prescribe pyridoxine (vitamin B6) to treat or prevent this problem.

Isoniazid can **increase liver enzymes**. This usually does not give any symptoms. Rarely, **hepatitis** (an inflammation of the liver) can occur. Signs of hepatitis are yellowing of the eyes and skin, dark urine, fever, nausea and / or vomiting, pale stools, fatigue, and abdominal pain. Inform your doctor if these symptoms appear. Your doctor will do regular blood tests to verify your blood as well as your liver enzyme levels.

Rarely, an **allergic reaction** with symptoms such as **rash, fever, chills, joint aches, and swollen glands** may occur. If these effects occur, stop taking isoniazid and **immediately** contact your doctor.

In rare cases, isoniazid can cause **vision problems or eye pain**. Contact your doctor if this occurs.

It is important that you keep your doctor appointments and come for your laboratory tests so that your progress can be followed.

What other PRECAUTIONS should you follow while using this drug?

Before taking isoniazid, tell your doctor if you have ever been treated for tuberculosis. If you have already received isoniazid in the past and developed adverse effects, please inform your doctor.

Also, inform your doctor if you have a history of kidney or liver disease, diabetes, or alcoholism.

Certain drugs can increase or decrease the effect of isoniazid. Also, isoniazid might influence the effect of other drugs you are taking. Inform your doctor and pharmacist of all prescribed and non-prescribed drugs you are taking. In particular, they should be informed if you are taking **antacids containing aluminum hydroxide gel (Amphogel®, Maalox®), disulfiram (Antabuse®), phenytoin (Dilantin™), and carbamazepine (Tegretol®)**. As well, you should inform them of natural products you are taking. If you wish to start a new drug or natural product, please consult with your pharmacist before doing so.

Diabetics should not use Clinitest to test their urine for sugar because isoniazid can cause false results in this test.

Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

How should this drug be STORED?

Isoniazid tablets and syrup should be stored in a cool (15-25°C) dry place, protected from light and well out of the reach of children. Ensure that the drug has not expired by checking the expiry date (“EXP”) shown on the outside of the package.

Do not store in your bathroom or kitchen, as heat and moisture may cause the drug to be less active.

If you have any questions or concerns about this drug or if you are experiencing adverse effects, please discuss them with your pharmacist, doctor or nurse.

Write questions or concerns down to ensure they are addressed.

The following pharmacist is available to answer questions:

Pharmacist: _____
Telephone: _____

Reference: Product Monograph. Isotamine® (isoniazid). Montréal, Qc, Canada: ICN Canada Ltd., 2001. Prepared by the Ontario HIV Pharmacy Professional Specialty Group, 2003. Reviewed 2009.

Additional medication fact sheets and updates may be found at: www.hivclinic.ca

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MEDICATION

FACT SHEET