

PYRAZINAMIDE

Other NAMES: Tebrazid™

WHY is this drug prescribed?

Pyrazinamide is an antibiotic that eliminates the bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB). It is generally used in combination with other drugs to treat TB. It can also be given in combination with another drug to prevent the development of TB in patients who have been in contact with TB.

HOW should this drug be taken?

Pyrazinamide is commercially available as a 500 mg white tablet. It is usually taken once a day. The suggested dose is based on your weight. Your dosage is:

500 mg tablet

___tablet(s)(___mg)___times a day

Pyrazinamide can be taken with or without food.

Pyrazinamide must be taken regularly to be effective and to prevent the development of resistance. Take all of your doses even if you begin to feel better.

What should you do if you FORGET a dose?

If you miss a dose of pyrazinamide, 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?

Pyrazinamide may sometimes cause joint pain and swelling of the joints, especially in the big toe, ankles or knees. If these effects are bothersome, please call your doctor or pharmacist.

Pyrazinamide 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.

Pyrazinamide can make your skin more **sensitive to sunlight**. Be sure to cover up or apply a sunscreen (minimum SPF 15) while outdoors. Avoid the use of tanning beds or sunlamps.

Rarely, an **allergic reaction** with symptoms such as a **rash, skin itchiness, and fever** may occur. If these effects appear, please contact your doctor.

Your doctor will do regular blood tests to verify your blood, your uric acid level, as well as your liver and kidney function.

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 pyrazinamide, tell your doctor if you have ever received this drug in the past and if you have developed adverse effects such as an allergic reaction or liver problems.

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

Pyrazinamide 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 colchicine, allopurinol (Zyloprim®), probenecid (Benuryl™), sulfipyrazone, and cyclosporine (Neoral®, Sandimmune®). 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.

It is best to avoid alcohol while you are taking pyrazinamide as your liver may become more sensitive while on this drug.

The safety of pyrazinamide has not been established during pregnancy or breastfeeding. Please discuss this with your doctor or pharmacist if this is a concern.

How should this drug be STORED?

Pyrazinamide tablets should be stored in a cool (15-30°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. Tebrazid™ (pyrazinamide). 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