

# RIFABUTIN

**Other NAMES:** Mycobutin®

## **WHY is this drug prescribed?**

Rifabutin is an antibacterial drug used to prevent or treat *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infection. When used to treat MAC, it is usually used in combination with other agents.

Rifabutin may also be used to treat other types of infections, including tuberculosis.

## **HOW should this drug be taken?**

When used to prevent or treat MAC, the usual dose is 300mg once daily. It can be taken as 150mg twice daily with food to minimize stomach upset. To treat tuberculosis, the dose is based on your weight.

Your dose may need to be adjusted if you are taking other drugs.

Rifabutin is available as a 150mg capsule. The capsules should be swallowed whole and can be taken with or without food.

Your dosage is:

150 mg capsule  
\_\_capsule(s)(\_\_mg)\_\_time(s) daily

Rifabutin 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 rifabutin, 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?**

Most adverse effects of rifabutin are mild, and may include **nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain, rash, and headache.**

Rifabutin causes a **red-orange discolouration** of urine, stools, saliva, lung secretions, sweat, tears, and skin. This adverse effect does not usually require medical attention. However, if you wear contact lenses, you may consider wearing glasses instead to prevent discolouration of your contact lenses.

Serious effects of rifabutin that may occur include **neutropenia and leukopenia** (a reduced number of white blood cells so that you have a

higher risk of bacterial infection), or **anemia** (a reduced number of red blood cells that can make you feel tired and short of breath). In rare cases it can also cause **thrombocytopenia** (a reduced number of platelets so that you bleed or bruise more easily), or changes in **liver function**. Blood tests will be done regularly to check for any changes in these values. Inform your doctor or pharmacist if you have symptoms such as fever, chills, shortness of breath, racing heartbeat, fatigue, bleeding or bruising.

Rifabutin may cause **uveitis** (an inflammation of the eye causing pain, redness and loss of vision). It may also cause **joint stiffness or swelling**. Please notify your doctor or pharmacist if these symptoms occur.

**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?**

Many other drugs can interfere with rifabutin. As well, rifabutin may decrease the effect of other drugs. Inform your doctor and pharmacist of all prescribed and non-prescribed

drugs you are taking. 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.

The efficacy of birth control pills or other hormones used to prevent becoming pregnant may decrease if you are taking rifabutin. An alternative or additional method of contraception, such as condoms, should be used.

The safety of rifabutin 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?**

Rifabutin 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:** \_\_\_\_\_

***RIFABUTIN***

***MEDICATION***

***FACT SHEET***

Reference: Product Monograph. Mycobutin® (rifabutin). Kirkland, QC, Canada: Pfizer Canada Inc., 2008. 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](http://www.hivclinic.ca)