



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Provincial Tuberculosis Services

Main Switchboard  
TB Services Fax

604 707 2692  
604 707 2690

www.bccdc.ca

## ETHIONAMIDE

Ethionamide is an antibiotic used to treat tuberculosis (TB).

### When should I take this?

- Take with food or milk to reduce stomach upset.
- Take this medicine at the same time every day. This will help you remember to take the medicine.

### How should I take this?

- It is very important that you take this medicine regularly.
- Take as directed by your doctor.

### What should I do if I miss a dose?

- If you miss a dose, take that dose as soon as you remember. But if it is almost time for the next day's dose, skip the missed dose.
- **Do not take a double dose.**

### Is there anything I should avoid when taking this?

- Alcohol

Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any over-the-counter (non-prescription) products.

### What are some possible side effects?

- headache
- nausea and vomiting
- diarrhea, stomach upset
- metallic taste in the mouth
- excessive salivation
- dizziness or drowsiness
- weight loss
- mouth irritation or mouth sores
- burning, tingling, or numbness in your hands or feet

## ETHIONAMIDE (cont'd)

Your doctor may prescribe pyridoxine (Vitamin B6) to lessen some of the side effects of ethionamide. Tell your doctor if you experience burning, tingling, or numbness in your hands or feet.

**Caution: Call your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience any of the following symptoms:**

- blurred vision or any loss in vision with or without eye pain
- fever
- persistent nausea or vomiting
- yellowing of skin or eyes
- unusual tiredness or weakness
- loss of appetite
- dark urine
- mental, mood, or behavior changes that are new or worse
- rash, itchiness, or hives

**What else do I need to know about taking ethionamide?**

- If you are **diabetic**, have your blood glucose levels checked regularly while taking this medication.
- If you are on **thyroid** medication, periodic monitoring of thyroid function is recommended.
- Tell your doctor if you are **pregnant**, plan to become pregnant, or if you wish to **breastfeed** your baby.

**Where should I store this medication?**

- Keep away from the reach of children
- Protect from light
- Store at room temperature in a tightly closed container in a cool, dry place

**Where do I call if I have any other questions?**

Your doctor, clinic or Public Health Unit: \_\_\_\_\_  
Vancouver TB Services Clinic: 604-707-2692  
New Westminister TB Services Clinic: 604-707-2698  
BCCDC Vaccine and Pharmacy Services: 604-707-2580