



BC Centre for Disease Control
Provincial Health Services Authority

Provincial Tuberculosis Services

Main Switchboard
TB Services Fax

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www.bccdc.ca

RIFABUTIN

Rifabutin (Mycobutin®) is an antibiotic used in the prevention and treatment of tuberculosis (TB) and other related infections.

When should I take this?

- Rifabutin may be taken with food to lessen 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

Before taking **RIFABUTIN**, make sure you tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist all the medications (including non-prescription) you are taking. **DO NOT** start a new medication without consulting a doctor or a pharmacist.

What are some possible side effects?

- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach upset and pain, gas, burping
- rash
- headache
- changes in taste

RIFABUTIN (cont'd)

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

- unusual tiredness or weakness
- fever and sore throat
- sore mouth or tongue
- loss of vision or eye pain
- nausea (urge to vomit)
- stomach upset or bloody diarrhea
- yellowing of skin or white part of the eyes
- muscle or joint pain
- bruising of skin
- rash

Tell your doctor if you have any unusual symptoms not mentioned above.

This medicine may cause your tears, saliva, sweat, urine and feces to be **colored brown-orange**. This is harmless but may permanently stain soft contact lenses.

Rifabutin can decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use an alternate method of birth control (barrier method e.g., condoms or diaphragms). Continue to use the barrier method for at least 28 days after discontinuation of rifabutin. Shorten the oral contraceptive hormone free days to 4 days.

It is important that you go for all lab tests ordered by your doctor and that you attend all appointments with your doctor or nurse.

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
- Capsules: Store at room temperature (between 15°C and 30°C) 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 Westminster TB Services Clinic:	604-707-2698
BCCDC Vaccine and Pharmacy Services:	604-707-2580