RIFAMPIN

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

When should I take this?
- Take on an empty stomach, 1 hour before or 2 hours after food.
- 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 RIFAMPIN, 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, heartburn
- dizziness or headache

Caution: Call your doctor or nurse immediately if you experience the following symptoms:
- unusual tiredness or weakness
- fever
- loss of appetite
- nausea (urge to vomit)
RIFAMPIN (cont’d)

- stomach pain or diarrhea
- dark urine
- yellowing of skin or white part of the eyes
- sore mouth or tongue
- bruising of skin
- rash
- any other persistent side effects

Tell your doctor if you experience any unusual symptoms not mentioned on this information sheet.

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

Rifampin can decrease the effectiveness of birth control pills. Use an alternate method of birth control (barrier method e.g. condoms/diaphragms). Continue to use the barrier method for at least 28 days after discontinuation of rifampin. 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
- Suspension: Refrigerate. Shake well before use.

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