

RIFAPENTINE and ISONIAZID

Rifapentine and isoniazid are two antibiotics used in combination to treat latent (inactive or sleeping) tuberculosis (TB) infection and to prevent the infection from progressing to active TB disease.

How should I take this?

- **Rifapentine and isoniazid are given ONCE a WEEK for 12 weeks (12 doses in total).**
- These pills are taken by mouth in the presence of a trained health care provider. This is known as Directly Observed Preventative Therapy (DOPT).
- These pills should be taken with a small snack (i.e. tea and toast) to lessen stomach upset.

What should I do if I miss a dose, appointment, or visit?

- It is important for you to receive all your prescribed doses. Missing or skipping doses may reduce the effectiveness of this therapy.
- **If you miss receiving a dose, speak to your TB healthcare provider as soon as possible to receive instructions for managing the missed dose.**

Is there anything I should avoid when taking this?

- It is best to avoid alcohol to limit liver problems.
- If taking aluminum or magnesium containing antacids, take at least **1 hour after** taking isoniazid.

Before taking **RIFAPENTINE and ISONIAZID**, 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 of this treatment?

- hypersensitivity reactions (fever, headache, dizziness, muscle, pain, flu-like illness, rash, or skin reactions)
- stomach problems (nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of appetite)
- unusual tiredness or weakness
- dark (cola- or tea- coloured) urine
- yellowing of skin or white part of the eyes
- burning, tingling, or numbness in your hands or feet
- This medicine may cause tears, saliva, sputum, sweat, urine, feces, breast milk, skin, teeth and tongue to be colored red-orange. This is harmless but may permanently stain soft contact lenses and dentures.

Tell your TB health care provider if you experience any of the above or anything else unusual.

What else do I need to know about taking rifapentine and isoniazid?

- It is important that you go for all **lab tests** ordered by your doctor and attend, or are available, for all of your appointments with your doctor or nurse.
- Tell your doctor or nurse if you are **pregnant**, plan to become pregnant, or if you wish to **breastfeed** your baby.
- Rifapentine 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 rifapentine. Shorten the oral contraceptive hormone free days to 4 days.
- Pyridoxine (Vitamin B6) is prescribed with this treatment to prevent burning, tingling, or numbness in your hands or feet.

Where do I call if I have any other questions?

TB Care Provider: _____

Vancouver TB Services Clinic: 604-707-2692

New Westminster TB Services Clinic: 604-707-2698

BCCDC Vaccine and Pharmacy Services: 604-707-2580