

RIFAMPIN (RMP) FACT SHEET

A patient's guide to taking medicine for Latent Tuberculosis (TB) Infection

What is Rifampin (RMP)?

Rifampin (RMP) is one of the antibiotic medicines used to *treat* Tuberculosis (TB). Other names for Rifampin include Rofact and Rifadin.

There are two ways it is used:

1. To **treat** Latent TB Infection (LTBI).
2. To **treat** active TB disease in combination with other TB medicines.



Why do I need to take this medicine?

Your doctor has ordered RMP to treat your **Latent TB Infection**. This is when the TB germ is inactive in your body.

Taking this medicine will reduce your risk of developing active TB disease in the future. TB germs are very strong, so you may need to take this medicine for up to 6 months. RMP slowly kills the germs that cause TB. Your doctor will decide exactly how long you will take the medicine.

RMP is available in capsule form, but liquid (syrup) can be arranged for specific situations.

What are some of the side effects I should look for?

Most people have no problems taking RMP.

You need to be monitored regularly by your doctor while taking RMP. This may include blood tests to ensure your liver is healthy.

If you have any of the following common side effects call your doctor:

- Bone/joint pain
- Rashes/itching
- Flu like symptoms (fever, chills, dizziness, weakness)
- Nausea/upset stomach

If you have any of the following more ***serious*** side effects call your doctor ***immediately***:

- Fever for three days or more
- Yellowing of skin or eyes
- Loss of appetite
- Vomiting
- Weakness/fatigue

In the event that you have any of the above listed side effects and cannot reach your doctor, you should **STOP** the medicine on your own and call your doctor as soon as possible.



Tips for taking your Latent TB medicine

- It is important to take this medicine every day or as instructed by your doctor. If you do not, some germs may stay in your body and make you sick.
- Take the medicine at the same time every day, for example first thing in the morning or at bedtime.
- If you forget to take the medicine, take it as soon as you can that day. Never take two doses at one time.
- Try to take the medicine on an empty stomach (1 hour before food or 2 hours after food).
- Store RMP in a cool, dry place, but not in the refrigerator.
- Remember to tell your doctor about other medicines you are taking. Some medicines cannot be taken at the same time.
- DO NOT drink alcohol while taking this medicine. You could damage your liver.
- RMP may turn your urine, sweat, stool and your tear drops red or orange. This is not harmful and will go away when you finish the medicine.
- Contact lenses should not be worn while taking RMP, as it will permanently discolour the lenses.

- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant.
- Birth control pills may not work as well while taking RMP. Clients are advised to use other birth control methods.
- Prior to starting your medicine inform your doctor of any travel plans which may interrupt your treatment.
- Do not share your medicine with others.
- Call your doctor's office when you have a 3-week supply left, to order the next supply.

Can I get active TB disease after I complete the RMP treatment?

Yes, but taking the medicine as prescribed, significantly reduces the risk of developing active TB disease in the future.

You should still be aware of the signs and symptoms of active TB disease and when to call your doctor.

Refer to the **STOP TB brochure** for signs and symptoms of active TB disease.

Remember to keep a written record of any TB skin test result and TB medicine taken.

Note: Because you have been exposed to TB, your TB skin test will always stay positive even after taking medicine.

**TB medicine is free from the health department.
For more information about RMP, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.**

For any additional information, call Peel Public Health or visit www.peel-stoptb.ca.