

Understanding Your Tuberculosis Medicines – First Line



Patient and Family Education

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Anti-Tuberculosis Medications

Tuberculosis (TB) is caused by bacteria (*Mycobacterium tuberculosis*) that most often affects the lungs but can also affect other body parts.

TB is curable and preventable.

Two TB-related conditions exist:

- A. Latent TB (inactive) infection
- B. Active TB disease

Anti-tuberculosis medications are antibiotics that can kill or stop the growth of bacteria that cause tuberculosis (TB).

Rifampicin and Isoniazid are medications commonly used in TB treatment. Pyrazinamide and Ethambutol are additional medications often needed for active TB treatment.

First Line Anti-Tubercular Medications

These are the common anti-tubercular medications which are effective in treatment of TB infections:

- Rifampicin
- Isoniazid
- Pyrazinamide
- Ethambutol
- Rifapentine

Common Fixed Dose Combination Anti-Tb Brands Available In CDC

- RIFAFOUR, AKURIT-4 (Rifampicin, Isoniazid, Pyrazinamide, Ethambutol)
- RIFATER (Rifampicin, Isoniazid, Pyrazinamide)
- RIFINAH (Rifampicin, Isoniazid)

Refer to medication's details below:

Name	How To Take	When To Take	Common Side Effects
Rifampicin	Once daily by mouth (At the same time each day)	1 hour before (or) 2 hours after food with a glass of water	Skin rash, nausea and vomiting, headache, yellowing of the skin or eyes, diarrhea, muscle or bone pain, chills, fever
Isoniazid	Once daily by mouth (At the same time each day)	1 hour before (or) 2 hours after food with a glass of water	Skin rash, nausea and vomiting, numbness or tingling in the hands and feet, stomach upset or pain, diarrhea, unusual bleeding or bruising
Pyrazinamide	Once daily by mouth (At the same time each day)	1 hour before (or) 2 hours after food with a glass of water	Skin rash, nausea and vomiting, joint pain and swelling, stomach upset or pain, fatigue, Yellowing of the skin or eyes
Ethambutol	Once daily by mouth (At the same time each day)	1 hour before (or) 2 hours after food with a glass of water	Stomach upset or pain, nausea and vomiting, blurred vision, inability to see the colors red and green
Rifapentine	Once daily by mouth (At the same time each day)	To be taken with food	Stomach upset or pain, nausea and vomiting, Fever, headache, cough, yellowing of the skin or eyes, joint pain

Tips:

- Rifampicin & Rifapentine change the color of body fluids like urine, sweat and tears to orange/red color during treatment which is reversible after completion of treatment.



- Please do not wear contact lenses while on treatment with Rifampicin or Rifapentine.



- It is necessary to take vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) while taking Isoniazid to prevent the numbness or tingling sensation in hands and feet.



- Visual acuity may be assessed during clinic follow-up for patients receiving ethambutol



- Liver function tests will be requested by your physician during treatment to ensure that anti-TB medications are not affecting your liver.



In case you experience signs of an allergic reaction (such as skin rash, redness or itching, difficulty in breathing, wheezing, nausea, vomiting or dizziness) or any of the medication side effects mentioned above, please stop taking your anti-TB medicines and visit the CDC Walk-in Clinic on weekdays from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM, the Treatment Room on weekdays from 3:00 PM to 8:00 PM and weekends from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM, or the Emergency Room after 8:00 PM.

What Should I Do If I Forget A Dose?

- Take the missed dose as soon as you remember
- If it is almost time for your next usual dose, wait until then to take your medicine and skip the missed dose.
- Do not take two doses at the same time.

What Precautions Should I Take Before Taking These Anti-Tb Medicines?

- Tell your doctor/pharmacist/nurse if you are allergic to any medicine.
- Tell your doctor/pharmacist/nurse what prescription and nonprescription medications you are taking.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breastfeeding.
- Tell your doctor if you have or ever had liver disease

How Should I Store The Medicine?

- Store the medicine in a cool dry place.
- Protect from moisture, heat, and direct light
- Keep all medication out of reach of children

