

TB medication used:

Or Sometimes 2-3 antibiotics are combined within one tablet

Rifater



Rifinah



Ethambutol



TB medication may also be prescribed as follows:

Rifampicin



Isoniazid



Pyrazinamide



Pyridoxine
(vitamin B6)



REMEMBER:

TB is curable with the correct treatment

TB tablets must be taken every day as prescribed

Tablets must not be stopped unless by the doctor or nurse

TB



A guide to Anti -Tuberculosis Treatment

For advice contact:

Tuberculosis (TB)

Tuberculosis(TB) is a bacteria (germ) which can affect any part of the body but most commonly affects the lungs.

TB can be completely cured with the correct antibiotic treatment taken for the correct length of time.

Only stop the tablets when you have been told to by the doctor or TB nurse.

TB Medication

You will need to take medication for at least 6 months, sometimes longer.

TB is treated with antibiotic tablets. 3 or 4 different types of antibiotics initially then reduced to 2 or 3 for the remaining length of treatment.

How to take TB medication

- The tablets must be taken everyday (30 minutes before breakfast).
- Take all tablets together as a single dose in the morning.
- Do not miss a dose. (Take them later in the day if you forget your tablets in the morning).
- Don't run out of tablets, get a new supply before they are finished.

Avoid

Sun beds should not be used during the course of TB treatment. Please use a higher factor sun cream when skin is exposed to strong sunlight. (Some anti-tuberculosis tablets can make your skin more sensitive to the sun's rays).

Side effects

- You may notice your urine/sweat/tears will become a red/orange colour. This is a harmless side effect. (Soft contact lenses may become discoloured).

- Anti tuberculosis medication can make the oral contraceptive 'pill' and other contraception work less well. This means that you will need to use a reliable barrier method in addition, such as 'condoms'. Please speak to your doctor or pharmacist for advice about a different method of contraceptive.
- Other medication doses may need to be altered while taking these antibiotics. (Warfarin, anticonvulsants, steroids, methadone are some examples but your doctor will adjust these as necessary).

If you have difficulty with the anti TB medication, do not stop taking them or miss doses.

Contact your doctor or TB nurse for help.

Contact the TB nurse or your doctor at once for advice if you experience any of the side effects listed below:

- Vomiting
- Fever
- Visual disturbance
- Persisting rash / itch
- Tingling of fingers or toes

Don't

Don't be tempted to stop the medication early because you begin to feel better.

Why?

If you stop the treatment early the bacteria will continue to grow and become **more difficult** to treat.

You may require **more** tablets for a **longer period** of time as the bacteria may have **become resistant** to the antibiotic treatment.

This means the antibiotics can no longer kill the bacteria inside your body.

You may also run the **risk of spreading** the TB bacteria to your **family**, friends or other people you spend time with.