



BC Centre for Disease Control  
Provincial Health Services Authority

Provincial Tuberculosis Services

Main Switchboard  
TB Services Fax

604 707 2692  
604 707 2690

www.bccdc.ca

## 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)

Last Reviewed by BCCDC Pharmacy June 2019

Page 1 of 2

## 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