

Medicine for Tuberculosis (TB) Disease

General Information

Your health care provider has prescribed medicine to kill the tuberculosis (TB) germ in your body. TB disease can be cured by taking medicine to kill the bacteria, but the bacteria are strong.

You need to take the medicine for many months to make sure all of the bacteria are dead. Take your medicine exactly as your health care provider told you.

You will probably start to feel better in a few weeks, but you must keep taking your medicine to be cured. If you stop taking the medicine too soon, the TB bacteria that are still alive can become even stronger.

As a result, you may need to take stronger and more expensive medicine to kill the stronger bacteria.

Medicine Side Effects

The medicines for TB are usually safe, but sometimes they can cause side effects. If you have any of the following symptoms, call or see your health care provider right away:

- loss of appetite
- vomiting (throwing up)
- abdominal pain
- nausea (upset stomach)
- jaundice (yellowing of the eyes or skin)
- tingling in your hands and feet
- blurred vision or changes in your vision
- ringing in your ears
- hearing loss
- aching joints
- skin rash
- bleeding easily
- bruising easily
- fatigue.

Your Medicines

Your health care provider has prescribed the medicines checked below.

- isoniazid (INH)
- rifampin (RIF)
- pyrazinamide (PZA)
- ethambutol (EMB)
- other

TB medicine may cause the following.

- Rifampin may cause urine, saliva or tears to become orange-colored. Soft contact lenses may become stained.
- Your skin may become more sensitive to the sun. Use sunscreen on exposed areas of skin whenever you go outside.
- Birth control pills and implants become less effective. Women who take rifampin should use another form of birth control.

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- Alcohol use can cause an increased risk of liver damage if you are taking isoniazid. Talk with your doctor about drinking alcohol **before** you start taking this medicine.

What To Tell Your Health Care Provider

Tell your health care provider:

- about all the medicines and remedies you are currently taking
- if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

You can get medicine for TB at no cost. Your health care provider can call the Minnesota Department of Health at 651-201-5414 or the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at 608-261-6319 for more information.

Follow-up Care

Your health care provider may want to:

- evaluate you for side effects and to see if you are taking the TB medicine
- take another chest X-ray
- take a sputum sample to see if the bacteria are being killed.