

MERCAPTOPURINE



This leaflet should be used in conjunction with the complete consumer medicine information (CMI) which is available from any pharmacy.

This leaflet contains information about Mercaptopurine including details of known side effects. It does not include every possible side effect.

The type and severity of side effects experienced differs for each child. Some side effects are minor and easily treated at home. However, others may be more serious and require prompt medical assessment. Side effects from treatment are routinely monitored with blood tests and clinical examination. If you have any questions about side effects during treatment, please speak to your doctor. Also, if your child experiences any problems or side effects during treatment, please contact your doctor, clinical nurse consultant/coordinator or pharmacy staff for advice.

OTHER NAMES

- 6-MP
- Puri-Nethol®

PRESENTATION

- Yellow 50mg tablets
- Oral liquid 20mg/mL

ADMINISTRATION

- Oral

SIDE EFFECTS

Common

DELAYED

(within 1-2 weeks of receiving drug)

- Decrease in blood count (when dose is too high)

Less common

- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Mucositis (inflammation or ulceration of the mouth and gut)

Rare

- Allergic reactions which may be life-threatening. Symptoms of a severe reaction may include skin rash or hives, swelling or tingling of the lips and face, difficulty breathing and low blood pressure which may lead to collapse. Seek medical attention **immediately** if any of the above symptoms occur.
- Liver damage

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Mercaptopurine should be given on an empty stomach, either 30 minutes before OR 2 hours after a meal.
- Mercaptopurine should not be given within 2 hours of drinking milk or eating milk products as this may lead to inactivation of the medication.
- Preferably, the dose should be given in the evening.
- Drink plenty of water on the day the medicine is taken.
- Tablets should not be crushed; tablets may be dispersed in water. Discuss how to do this with your pharmacist. The oral liquid may be used if your child has difficulty swallowing tablets.
- The liquid has an 8 week expiry once opened. Ensure you write the date opened on the bottle.
- Wash your hands immediately after handling the medicine.
- Avoid excessive exposure to sunlight, wear sun-protective clothing, and use a high SPF sunscreen.
- If you have forgotten to take a dose, do not take an extra dose. Speak to your doctor or pharmacist for advice about managing the missed dose.
- Keep ALL medication out of the reach of children.

CONTACT

For further information, or to discuss any concerns you may have about your child's medication, please feel free to contact the Children's Cancer Centre of your child's treating hospital:

- The Royal Children's Hospital Oncology Pharmacy (03) 9345 6290
- Monash Children's Hospital Cancer Centre (03) 8572 3456 or Pharmacist desk (03) 8572 3464

Disclaimer: This information has been prepared by the Paediatric Integrated Cancer Service, with input from the Children's Cancer Centre Pharmacy Departments at The Royal Children's Hospital and Monash Children's Hospital. This information is for educational purposes only and should not be seen as a substitute for advice from your doctor or other professional healthcare provider. If you have specific questions about the content of this information, or any other medical matter, it is recommended that you consult your doctor, pharmacist or other professional healthcare provider. This information is considered to be true and correct at the date of publication, however changes in circumstances after the time of publication may impact on the accuracy of this information.

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Available at www.pics.org.au/families