



# CYCLOSPORINE

## Neoral<sup>®</sup>

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### Patient Information Leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about Cyclosporine. It does not contain all the available information. It also does not take the place of talking to the doctor or pharmacist.

### What is Cyclosporine used for?

Cyclosporine is used for prevention of rejection in organ transplant and treatment of severe rheumatoid arthritis, which is unresponsive to conventional therapy.

### When should the medication be taken?

- Take dose at the same time each day.

### What should be done if a dose is missed?

- Take the dose as soon as you remember and then continue to take it as one normally would. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose that is missed and administer the next dose at the usual time.
- Do not double or increase the dose without your doctor's advice.
- Do inform the doctor about the missed dose if it is 1-2 days before taking your cyclosporine level.

### What side effects can this medicine cause? What can be done about them?

- Unusual hair growth or deepening of voice (reversible when drug is discontinued)
- Susceptible to infection (avoid crowds and exposure to infection and do not have any vaccinations without consulting your doctor)
- Mouth sores or swollen gums (can be prevented by having good oral hygiene)

### Contact the doctor as soon as possible if any of the following are noticed:

- Severe headache
- Signs of infection (e.g. fever of 38.5°C)
- Persistent nausea, vomiting, or abdominal pain
- Muscle pain or cramping
- Severe tremors
- Unusual swelling of extremities, weight gain, or change in urination
- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or rapid heartbeat
- Increase in blood pressure

### Special Instructions

- Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you want to use any other medication, including over-the-counter medicines, supplements or herbal products.
- Do not change one brand of cyclosporine for another unless instructed by doctor
- Dilute Neoral<sup>®</sup> solution with orange juice or apple juice if cannot tolerate the taste. Avoid changing what you mix with your cyclosporine. Mix thoroughly and drink at once. Use only syringe provided specially for Neoral<sup>®</sup> solution to measure dose.
- Mix in a glass container (do not use plastic or styrofoam) and rinse container with more juice/milk to ensure total dose is taken.