

About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed dapsone for you.

What is this medicine used for?

Dapsone is an anti-infective medication that also has an anti-inflammatory effect and is used in a variety of skin conditions.

How should I take this medicine?

Take each dose with a full glass of water.

Take this medicine with food or milk if stomach upset occurs.

It is important to take dapsone regularly to get the most benefit.

If you feel that the medicine is not working well, do not take more than the prescribed dose. Consult your doctor.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

If you are directed by your doctor to take this medicine regularly, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose.

Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.

What possible side effects may it cause?

Certain side effects of this medicine are not unusual and may even disappear during treatment. If any of the following effects persist or are severe, consult your doctor.

- Stomach pain
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Headache

The most common main side effect of dapsone is haemolytic anaemia. Your doctor will do regular monitoring of your blood counts. Consult your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following:

- An allergic reaction (difficulty breathing; closing of the throat; swelling of the lips, tongue, or face; or hives)
- Rashes developing during the first two to six weeks of starting the drug
- Tingling of the hands or feet
- Dizziness
- Incoordination
- Muscle weakness
- Blurred vision
- Ringing in the ears
- Fever
- Sore throat
- Jaundice (pale skin, yellowing of the skin or eyes)
- Muscle weakness
- Fatigue (unusual tiredness)
- Rapid heartbeat
- Bluish skin color
- Dark colored urine or pale colored stools

What precautions should I take?

- *Inform your doctor if you have heart, lung, liver, or kidney disease; blood disorders; glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase (G6PD) deficiency; any allergies to dapsone or sulfonamides.*
- *For women: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.*
- Inform your doctor if you are taking other medication, especially any of the following: probenecid, rifampicin, trimethoprim/sulphonamides (in cotrimoxazole, Bactrim[®], Septrin[®]), or pyrimethamine.
- Inform your doctor if you are taking over-the-counter medicines, including vitamins, minerals, and herbal products.
- Do not allow anyone else to take this medication.

How do I store this medicine?

- Keep this medicine away from heat and direct sunlight in a cool, dry place, out of reach of children
- Do not keep this medicine with other medications in the same container. Keep each medicine separately in labeled containers.

When in doubt, consult your doctor or pharmacist:
National Skin Centre
1 Mandalay Road, Singapore 308205.
Tel: 63508454

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