

About your medicine

Your doctor has prescribed mycophenolate (or mycophenolate mofetil) for you.

What is this medicine used for?

Mycophenolate belongs to a group of medicines known as immunosuppressive agents. It works by slowing down your body's defense system (immune system) to prevent your body from rejecting a transplanted organ.

This medicine is also used for other conditions, including the management of skin conditions, as determined by your doctor.

How should I take this medicine?

You may take this medicine on an empty stomach, half to one hour before meals.

What should I do if I forget a dose?

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.

- diarrhoea, constipation, nausea, vomiting or stomach pain
- back/joints/muscle pain
- blurred vision
- cough, shortness of breath
- difficulty sleeping (insomnia)
- dizziness
- excessive fluid retention in the body tissues, resulting in swelling (oedema)
- headache
- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), jaundice
- tremor, pins and needles sensations

Tell your doctor immediately if any of these unlikely but serious side effects occur:

- allergic reaction with symptoms such as: rash, itching/swelling (especially of the face/tongue/throat), difficulty breathing
- chest pain
- black/tarry stools
- easy bleeding/bruising
- fast/irregular heartbeat
- mental/mood changes
- muscle weakness
- swelling of the feet or ankles
- unusual tiredness
- vomit that looks like coffee grounds

What precautions should I take?

- *Inform your doctor if you have any type of cancer, kidney disease, liver disease, stomach/intestinal problems (e.g., ulcers).*
- *For women: Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan to become pregnant, or are breast-feeding.*
- This medicine is not recommended for use during pregnancy because of possible harm to the unborn baby. Women of childbearing age should have a negative pregnancy test within 1 week of starting this medication. Also, use two reliable forms of birth control starting 4 weeks before beginning therapy, and continue for at least 6 weeks after mycophenolate is stopped.
- It is not known whether this drug passes into breast milk, but it may have undesirable effects on a nursing infant. Therefore, breast-feeding is not recommended while using this drug and for 6 weeks after stopping mycophenolate.
- This drug may make you dizzy or cause blurred vision; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Limit alcoholic beverages.
- Mycophenolate may cause swelling and growth of the gums. Brush and floss your teeth daily, and see your dentist regularly.

- Do not get any immunizations (vaccinations) without your doctor's approval while you are being treated with mycophenolate and after you stop treatment with it as mycophenolate lowers your body's resistance to infections. For some immunizations, there is a chance you might get the infection the immunization is meant to prevent. In addition, other persons living in your household should not take oral polio vaccine since there is a chance they could pass the polio virus on to you. Also, avoid persons who have recently taken oral polio vaccine.
- While taking mycophenolate, you may be more susceptible to infections. Avoid direct contact with persons having an infection. See a doctor immediately if you develop fever or if you feel generally unwell.
- Avoid prolonged sun exposure. Use a sunscreen and wear protective clothing when outdoors.
- Some medicines may reduce the absorption of mycophenolate from the gut and may therefore reduce the amount in the blood. As this could make mycophenolate less effective, the following should not be taken at the same time of day as mycophenolate: indigestion remedies (antacids), cholestyramine, iron tablets.
- Inform your doctor if you are taking other medication. Drugs that may interact with mycophenolate include: antivirals (e.g., acyclovir, valaciclovir), aspirin, azathioprine, ciclosporin, metronidazole, norfloxacin, probenecid, and rifampicin.

- Mycophenolate may decrease the effectiveness of combination-type birth control pills. This can then result in pregnancy. You may need to use an additional form of reliable birth control while using this medication.
- 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

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

MYCOPHENOLATE

