

# Common Questions About Isoniazid and Rifapentine

## My Tuberculosis Infection Treatment

Your health care provider has prescribed **Isoniazid and Rifapentine** to treat your tuberculosis (TB) infection. **This medicine must be taken once per week for 12 weeks**, within five to 10 minutes after eating. Isoniazid and rifapentine can help prevent you from getting sick with active TB disease, a more serious illness, in the future.

### My TB test is positive, but my chest X-ray is normal. I feel fine. Do I need to start taking Isoniazid and Rifapentine?

Yes. Even if you do not feel sick right now, you do have TB germs in your body. Taking medicine is the only way to kill the TB germs in your body.

### What are the side effects of Isoniazid and Rifapentine?

Most people can take these medicines without any problems. Rifapentine may cause your urine (pee), saliva (spit), tears or sweat to turn an orange-red color. This is normal. The color may fade over time.

### Can I still take my other medicines, herbal medicines, vitamins or supplements?

It depends. Some medicines, vitamins and supplements are safe to take with Isoniazid and Rifapentine. Some are not safe. Tell your provider, nurse or pharmacist about other medicines you take, including over-the-counter medicine, prescription medicine (including birth control), herbal medicine, traditional medicine, vitamins and supplements.

### Are there any foods or drinks that I should avoid while taking Isoniazid and Rifapentine?

Yes. Do not drink alcohol during your 12 weeks of treatment. Combining alcohol with Isoniazid and Rifapentine can damage your liver.

Foods that contain the chemical tyramine or histamine, such as aged cheese, fish, cured or smoked meat, should be avoided. These may cause symptoms, such as flushing of the skin, fast or pounding heartbeat, increased blood pressure or headache. Talk to your provider to see if you need to have a special diet.



**Stop taking both Isoniazid and Rifapentine and call your provider's office right away if you have any of the following side effects:**

- Not wanting to eat any food
- Nausea or vomiting
- Stomach pain
- Brown (not red or orange) urine (pee)
- Light-colored stools (feces/poop)
- Diarrhea
- Pain in your lower chest or heartburn
- Flu-like symptoms with or without fever
- Headaches or body aches
- Severe weakness or tiredness
- Fevers or chills
- Dizziness
- Skin or eyes turning yellow
- Skin rash or itching
- Bruising easily, or red or purple spots on your skin that you cannot explain
- Bleeding easily, nosebleeds or bleeding from your gums or around your teeth
- Shortness of breath
- Pain or tingling in your hands, arms, feet or legs
- Feelings of sadness or depression

If you have bad side effects, you may be able to take a different medicine to treat TB infection. Talk to your provider, nurse or pharmacist if you have any concerns.

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### What should I do if I forget to take my medicine?

If it is still the same week, take your medicine as directed as soon as you remember. If you miss a week, continue taking your medicine as directed. If you forget to take your medicine call your provider for guidance.

### How can I remember to take my medicine?

Take your medicine once a week (for example, every Monday with breakfast). There are different ways to keep track of your medicine:

- ✔ Use a medicine log, such as the Tuberculosis Infection Medicine Tracker, to keep track of how and when you take your medicine.
- ✔ Use a calendar application (app) on your cellphone or computer to keep track of how and when you take your medicine.
- ✔ Set a daily alarm to take your medicine.
- ✔ Always keep your medicine in the same place, such as a bedside table.
- ✔ Use a weekly pillbox.
- ✔ Ask a friend or family member to remind you to take your medicine.

### How should I store Isoniazid and Rifapentine?

Store your Isoniazid and Rifapentine at room temperature. Do not store these medicines where it will get very cold (such as in the refrigerator), very hot (such as near your stove) or very humid (such as in your bathroom cabinet). Keep it out of children's reach. For more information, visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health) and search for **medicine safety**.

### Can my prescription for Isoniazid and Rifapentine be filled for more than 30 days at a time?

Your provider will most likely want to see you every month while taking Isoniazid and Rifapentine to make sure the treatment is working and discuss any side effects. Together, you and your provider can decide what will work best.

### Can I take less medicine if I feel healthy? Can I stop treatment early?

No. It is important to finish taking all of your TB infection medicine to give you the best chance of killing the TB germs in your body. If you stop treatment early, you could still get sick later. Talk to your provider first before stopping treatment or taking less of your medicine.

### When can I stop taking Isoniazid and Rifapentine?

After you complete your entire 12-week treatment. If you are having trouble taking the medicine, talk to your provider so they can help you complete your treatment.

Please talk to your provider if you have any questions or concerns about your TB infection treatment. In case of emergency or if the side effects get worse, contact your provider or go to your nearest emergency room.

### Provider/Clinic Contact Information

Name of provider/clinic:

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Phone number:

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Address:

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