How to use this medication

What is it

Colchicine is a medication used to prevent and treat attacks of gout. It is also used to treat other conditions such as Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) and Behcet’s Disease.

Take it once to twice a day

This medicine is taken once or twice a day. Your doctor will tell you how often to take your colchicine.

Tablets

It comes in 0.6 mg tablets. Your doctor will tell you how many tablets to take.

What you need to do

Blood tests

Your doctor may order blood tests to make sure colchicine isn't affecting your blood counts. This is rare.

Watch how much alcohol you drink

Drinking alcohol can flare gout. It is best to avoid alcohol completely.

Side effects & important facts

Diarrhea

The most common side effect of colchicine is diarrhea. This can get better by lowering the dose.

Nausea & vomiting

Colchicine can upset the stomach causing nausea and vomiting.

Muscles

When used for long periods of time, colchicine can affect the muscles. Let your doctor know if you have muscle pain or weakness while taking colchicine.

Pregnancy & breastfeeding

Colchicine has not been studied in pregnancy. Let your doctor know if you are planning to get pregnant or if you are breastfeeding.

Drug interactions

Some medicines are not safe to take while taking colchicine. Examples are: clarithromycin, cyclosporine, itraconazole, ketoconazole, telithromycin, nefazodone, and HIV protease inhibitors. Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medication.

When should I call my doctor

Please call if you need to stop

• If you feel sick and want to stop
• If you are concerned about any side effects
• If you want to or have already stopped the medicine

Other reasons to call your doctor:

Severe diarrhea
New muscle pain or weakness
Pregnant or Planning Pregnancy

Other important information

Stopping colchicine

You can simply stop taking colchicine. Please call your doctor if you stop the medication.