

Colchicine

[Coal-CHI-seen]
Colcris®

<http://Rheuminfo.com>
your rheumatology resource

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.

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