

# Colchicine

[Coal-CHI-seen]  
Colcrys®

<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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