

Mycophenolate mofetil

[My-co-FENO-late]
Mycophenolic acid, Cellcept®

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

How to use this medication

What is it



Mycophenolate is a medication used to treat rheumatic diseases like lupus. While taking this medicine it is important to have your blood tests done and see your doctor on a regular basis.

Take it every a day



The normal dose of mycophenolate mofetil is between 500 and 1500 mg twice per day. Mycophenolate is available as 250 & 500 mg tablets.

Be patient



It will take 6 to 12 weeks for the mycophenolate to work. It is important for you to keep taking the medicine.

What you need to do

Stop if you have an infection



Mycophenolate can make it harder for you to fight infections. It is best to stop taking it if you have a fever or think you have an infection. Phone your doctor for advice.

Get regular blood tests



Have your blood tested **regularly**. This is important to make sure mycophenolate isn't affecting your liver or blood counts.

Side effects & important facts

Nausea & feeling unwell



Some people can feel sick to their stomach or develop diarrhea when they take mycophenolate. Please let your doctor know if this happens.

Headaches



Mycophenolate can cause headaches, dizziness, and difficulty sleeping.

Rare brain infection



Patients have very rarely developed a rare brain infection called PML while taking mycophenolate. This is very rare.

Pregnancy



Mycophenolate is not normally taken during pregnancy. If you become pregnant or are planning to become pregnant please let your doctor know.

Cancer



When used for long periods of time, mycophenolate may be associated with a small increased risk of skin or blood cancers.

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:



Nausea or Diarrhea



Fever or think you have an infection



Pregnant or Planning Pregnancy



If you plan to get any vaccinations



If you are having surgery

Other important information

Stopping mycophenolate



You can simply stop taking mycophenolate. You do not need to wean off it.