Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

PYRAZINAMIDE

pye-rah-zin-ah-mide

What does it do?

Pyrazinamide is an antibiotic used with other medicines to treat tuberculosis (TB).

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems, or gout.

How should you take it?

Take *pyrazinamide* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food. Keep taking it until the course is finished.

It is important to take it regularly. If you often forget to take it, it may not work as well.

What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. Do not take two doses at the same time.

Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

What side effects might you notice?

Side Effects	Recommended action
Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain Reduced number of blood cells that help your blood to clot - symptoms include: easy or unusual bruising or bleeding	Tell your doctor immediately
Joint or muscle aches or pains	Tell your doctor
More sensitive to sunlight (sunburn or rash) Stomach upset	Tell your doctor if troublesome

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

Other information:

- Limit alcohol intake while taking *pyrazinamide*. Alcohol may increase the risk of liver problems.
- You will need regular blood tests while taking *pyrazinamide* to check if it is causing problems with your liver.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *pyrazinamide*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.