

TIOGUANINE (for inflammatory conditions)

tye-oh-gwa-neeen

What does it do?

Tioguanine is an immunosuppressant medicine used to treat inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. It may be an option if you are unable to tolerate other medicines for IBD such as azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine. It is also sometimes used for other conditions.

Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
- You will need a blood test to check if *tioguanine* is suitable for you.
- *Tioguanine* weakens your immune system, making it harder for your body to fight infections. You may need tests before you start to make sure you don't have any infections like tuberculosis (TB), HIV, or hepatitis B and C.
- Ask your doctor what vaccines you might need before you start and while you are taking *tioguanine*. You should not have a live vaccine while taking *tioguanine*.

How should you take it?

Take *tioguanine* regularly as directed with a glass of water. You can take it with or without food.

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?

Some medicines available without a prescription may react with *tioguanine* including:

- trimethoprim

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

What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Pain, sores, or redness in mouth or on lips | Tell your doctor |
| Nausea, stomach upset | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

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

Other information:

- You will need regular blood tests while you are taking *tioguanine* to check if it is causing problems with your liver or blood, and to make sure you are on the right dose.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while taking immunosuppressant medicines (they may increase your risk of skin cancer). Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- Women using *tioguanine* for a long time may need cervical screening more often. Discuss with your doctor.
- It is important to tell anyone who gives you medical or dental treatment that you are taking *tioguanine*.