Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand
Waitaha Canterbury

# RIFABUTIN

*rif-ah-bew-tin*

## What does it do?

*Rifabutin* is used to treat or prevent tuberculosis and other infections.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have liver or kidney problems.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *rifabutin* regularly as directed with a glass of water. Keep taking it until the course is finished, even if you start to feel better.

## What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as normal. Do not take two doses at the same time. If you often forget to take *rifabutin*, your infection may not be fully treated.

## Can you take other medicines?

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

- fluconazole (e.g. Diflucan®)
- levonorgestrel emergency contraceptive pill (e.g. Postinor-1®)

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products (e.g. St John's wort) 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<br>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<br>Changes in vision, eye pain | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Skin rash | Tell your doctor |
| Joint, muscle or bone aches and pains<br>Nausea, stomach upset | Tell your doctor if troublesome |
| Red/orange body fluids | Do not wear soft contact lenses (they may be permanently stained) |

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

## Other information:

- Limit alcohol intake while taking *rifabutin*. Alcohol may increase the risk of liver problems.
- If you are taking an oral contraceptive you will need to use additional birth control methods while taking *rifabutin*, and for four weeks after stopping. Talk to your doctor.
- Do not stop taking *rifabutin* without talking to your doctor first.