

## AUROTHIOMALATE SODIUM ('Gold')

*or-oh-thy-oh-mal-ate so-dee-um*

### What does it do?

*Aurothiomalate sodium* is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and sometimes other conditions.

### Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have blood, blood pressure, kidney, liver, lung, or skin problems, diabetes, an inflammatory bowel condition, or if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

### How is it given?

*Aurothiomalate sodium* is given as an injection into a muscle. At first it is usually weekly. Later it may be given less often.

### What if you forget a dose?

The missed dose should be given as soon as possible and treatment should continue as directed. Two doses should not be given at the same time. *Aurothiomalate sodium* is usually given to you by a health professional. If you miss an appointment, contact the health professional as soon as possible.

### Can you take other medicines?

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

- aspirin (e.g. Disprin®, in doses used for pain relief)

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
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 Pain or ulcers inside mouth or on tongue Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain	Tell your doctor immediately
Flushing, fainting, sweating Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, change of appetite, indigestion Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes Increased joint pain one to two days after injection	Tell your doctor
Irritation/redness of the eyes, changes in vision Changes in taste, hair loss or thinning Pain, tenderness or redness at injection site	Tell your doctor if troublesome

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

### Other information:

- *Aurothiomalate sodium* may affect your kidneys and blood. Regular blood and urine tests will be necessary to monitor these effects.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *aurothiomalate sodium*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- To reduce the risk of side effects, take care of your teeth and gums (brush and floss your teeth).
- You may not notice the effects of *aurothiomalate sodium* straight away – discuss this with your doctor.

***This leaflet contains important, but not all, information about this medicine.***

*Prepared by the MyMedicines Committee at Christchurch Hospital, Te Whatu Ora - Waitaha, New Zealand. March 2023*