

NITROFURANTOIN

nye-troh-few-ran-toe-in

What does it do?

Nitrofurantoin is an antibiotic used to treat and prevent urine infections, often called UTIs (urinary tract infections).

Before you start

- Tell your health professional if you have kidney or liver problems, or if you have G6PD deficiency.
- Tell your health professional if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

How should you take it?

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

Slow-release capsule: Swallow whole – do not crush or chew.

What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible and continue as directed.

Can you take other medicines?

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

- magnesium trisilicate (e.g. Quick-Eze®)

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 |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Short of breath, persistent dry cough Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain Numbness or tingling of the fingers or toes Symptoms of allergy including: skin rash, itching, swelling, trouble breathing Headache, changes in vision, pounding in one or both ears (may be intracranial hypertension) Severe stomach pain, nausea | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Stomach upset, loss of appetite | Tell your doctor if troublesome |
| Change in urine colour (dark yellow or brown) | This is harmless |

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

Other information:

- Side effects such as lung problems are more likely if you take *nitrofurantoin* long-term to prevent infections. Check with your doctor how long you need it for. Tell your doctor if you develop a dry cough or shortness of breath.