

# TREATMENT FOR LATENT TB (TUBERCULOSIS) INFECTION

## YOU HAVE LATENT TB INFECTION

This means you have come into contact with the TB germ (bacteria) some time in your past. Your body has built a “wall” around the TB germ and it is now “sleeping” (dormant). The TB germ is not making your body sick and you cannot spread the germ to anyone else.

Your health care provider has prescribed a medicine that will kill the TB germ while it is sleeping. You are taking this medicine to reduce your risk of the TB germ waking up in the future and making you sick with TB disease. The medicine is free from the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit.



## ISONIAZID (INH)

This medicine must be taken daily for a minimum of 6 months, usually 9 months.



## RIFAMPIN

This medicine must be taken daily for 4 months.

## IMPORTANT TO KNOW

- You may need to have blood work done before you start the medicine and during treatment.
- You need to take your medicine every day. Use a dosette (pill box) to help you to remember.
- Take your medicine on an empty stomach (1 hour before or 2 to 3 hours after eating).
- Do not drink alcohol while taking this medicine because it can hurt your liver.
- You must finish all of the medicine. If you miss taking your medicine or stop before your treatment is done, your body may build a resistance to the medicine.

## *What happens if I forget to take my medicine?*

- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time to take your next dose, do not take the missed dose. **Do not take 2 doses at the same time.**



## Possible side effects

Both INH and Rifampin are safe. Most people can take either of these medicines without having problems. Liver problems are the most serious concern. Tell your doctor if you have liver disease, are taking any other medication, or drink alcohol. People who are older may be more sensitive to these medicines.

Call your health care provider if you are experiencing any of these symptoms:

- Loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, or weakness for more than 3 days.
- Brown or very dark urine.
- Yellow skin or eyes.
- Fever for more than 3 days.
- Abdominal tenderness, especially right upper abdominal discomfort.
- Rash and/or itching.

### *Other side effects for INH could include:*

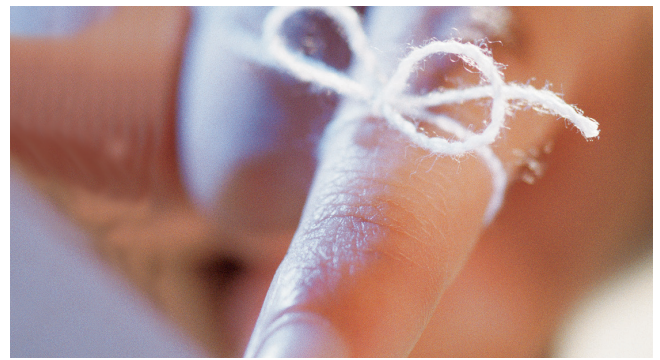
- Change in vision. You should see an eye specialist.
- Headache.
- Numbness and tingling in the hands and feet occurs rarely. Your health care provider may prescribe pyridoxine (vitamin B6) to prevent this from happening.

### *Other side effects for Rifampin could include:*

- Your tears, urine, saliva, sweat and feces may be coloured red-orange by the medicine. This side effect is common and occurs only while you are taking the medicine. You may not be able to wear contact lenses during this time as they may become permanently stained.
- This medicine can make birth control drugs less effective. If you are taking a birth control drug, you should use an additional birth control method, such as a condom.

**If you have side effects that may be from the medicine and can not contact your health care provider immediately, stop your medicine until you have had a medical evaluation.**

References available upon request.



## I MUST REMEMBER...

- To take my medicine on an empty stomach.
- To take my medicine at the same time every day.
- To use my dosette and keep it in a safe place.
- Not to drink alcohol.
- To see my health care provider if I have any problems.
- Not to take the pain medicine acetaminophen (Tylenol or other medicine that contains it).
- To pick up more medicine before I run out.
- To check with my health care provider or pharmacist before taking any new medicines.

Your public health nurse is:

---

and they can be reached at:

519-258-2146 ext. \_\_\_\_\_

You may pick up medication by appointment  
Monday to Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH UNIT**

519-258-2146 ext. 1420

Toll free: 1-800-265-5822

1005 Ouellette Avenue, Windsor, ON N9A 4J8



wechu.org