

Rifabutin

rif-a-BYOO-tin

Brand Name: Mycobutin

Rifabutin, also known as Mycobutin, belongs to the class of medicines called antimycobacterials. These medicines prevent or treat infections caused by a certain type of bacteria.

HIV/AIDS-Related Uses

Rifabutin was approved by the FDA on August 23, 1996, for use with other medications to prevent and treat *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC). Rifabutin also is used with other medications to treat tuberculosis (TB) in HIV infected patients who are taking certain anti-HIV drugs and also in some HIV uninfected patients. MAC and TB are opportunistic infections that commonly affect patients with HIV or AIDS.

Dosage Information

Rifabutin comes in a 150 mg capsule form and is taken 300 mg once a day with or without food. However, if this causes stomach upset, the dose may be divided and taken 150 mg twice a day with food.

Contraindications

Patients should tell a doctor about any medical problems before taking this medicine.

Possible Side Effects

Along with its desired effects, rifabutin can cause some serious unwanted effects. A doctor should be notified if an individual taking this medicine has any of the following side effects: eye problems, including pain, redness, and loss of vision; skin itching, redness, or rash; stomach problems that are severe or last a long time, including diarrhea, heartburn, loss of appetite, nausea, or vomiting; and yellowing of the eyes or skin.

Other side effects may not be serious and may lessen or disappear with continued use of this medicine. Less serious side effects of this medicine include headache and trouble sleeping. Rifabutin may change urine, feces, spit, sweat, tears, or skin to a red-orange or red-brown color. Colored tears may permanently stain soft contact lenses.

Drug and Food Interactions

A doctor should be notified of any other medications also being taken, including prescription, nonprescription (over-the-counter), or herbal medications.

Clinical Trials

For information on clinical trials that involve Rifabutin, visit the ClinicalTrials.gov web site at <http://www.clinicaltrials.gov>. In the Search box, enter: Rifabutin AND HIV Infections.

Manufacturer Information

Rifabutin
Pharmacia Corporation
100 Route 206 North
Peapack, NJ 07977
(888) 768-5501

Mycobutin
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Peapack, NJ 07977
(888) 768-5501

For More Information

Contact your doctor or an AIDSinfo Health Information Specialist:

- Via Phone: 1-800-448-0440 Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 5:00 p.m. ET
- Via Live Help: http://aidsinfo.nih.gov/live_help Monday - Friday, 12:00 p.m. (Noon) - 4:00 p.m. ET