

What do I need to know about Mycophenolate mofetil?

(say “mye-koh-FEN-oh-late MOE-fah-til”)

Other names for this medicine include: CellCept®

Medicine is one of the tools your doctor has to treat your lupus. Taking medicine as your doctor suggests will improve your lupus and may prevent more serious health problems in the future. If you don't take your medicines correctly, you may be putting your health, and perhaps your life, at risk.

Why am I taking this medicine?

This medicine helps control your serious lupus symptoms so you feel better. And it helps to prevent flares.

Mycophenolate mofetil works to help stop your immune system from attacking your body, especially your kidneys (the part of your body that cleans your blood). When you're taking this medicine, it's harder for your body to fight off infections.

How do I take this medicine?

- Your doctor wants you to take _____ mg tablets.
- Take _____ tablets by mouth; _____ times each day.
- Take this medicine exactly as directed by your doctor.
- Take this medicine on an empty stomach. That means you should take this medicine 1 hour before you eat or 2 hours after you eat.

How fast does it work?

It may take 8-12 weeks before you start to feel better. Your doctor may need to adjust the amount of medicine you take.

I'm feeling better. Can I stop taking my medicine?

No, even if you're feeling better, keep taking your medicine. Do not stop unless your doctor says it's O.K. to stop. You may need to take it for quite a while until your lupus is very well controlled.

Are there any side effects?

Side effects are unplanned symptoms (signs) or feelings you have when taking a medicine. Some side effects happen just when you start taking a medicine. Some happen only once in a while.

IMPORTANT

Call your doctor as soon as possible if you have:

- Nausea (feeling sick to your stomach)
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea (watery poop)
- Headache
- Dizziness
- Tremors (unsteady or shaky muscles)

Most side effects are not serious and go away on their own. Others can be more bothersome and even serious. Keep track of side effects. **Tell your doctor right away about any unexpected signs or changes in the way you feel.**

- Have your doctor look at any new rashes. It could be the medicine or your lupus.
- This medicine can decrease the number of infection-fighting cells and other blood cells in your body. You will need regular blood tests to check for these problems.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this medicine?

- Tell your doctor about all medicines you use. This includes prescriptions, medicines you buy off the shelf at the store, vitamins, and herbal products. Do not start a new medicine without telling your doctor.
- It is important to know that many medicines do not mix well with alcohol.
- Talk with your doctors if you are pregnant or if you're thinking of getting pregnant. The medicine can harm the unborn baby. Talk with your doctors before getting pregnant.
- Tell your doctor if you are breastfeeding.
- If you're taking oral contraceptives (birth control pills), they may not work as well when you're taking this medicine. Be careful when using this medicine and birth control pills. And use additional contraceptive barriers (such as condoms).



Keep this and all other medicines out of the reach of children. Never share your medicines with others. Use this medicine only for the reason your doctor said to.

What follow-up do I need?

Keep your regular appointments with your doctor. Keep your regular appointments for your blood tests. The blood tests help your doctor check for side effects from the medicine.

What's the doctor's phone number? (585) 486-0901

◆ 400 Red Creek Dr., Suite 240, Rochester, NY 14623 ◆ 125 Lattimore Rd., Suite G-110, Rochester, NY 14620 ◆