

# RIMYCIN

*rifampicin*

## Consumer Medicine Information

### What is in this leaflet

This leaflet answers some common questions about RIMYCIN. It does not contain all the available information. It does not take the place of talking to your doctor or pharmacist.

All medicines have risks and benefits. Your doctor has weighed the risks of you taking RIMYCIN against the benefits they expect it will have for you.

**If you have any concerns about taking this medicine, talk to your doctor or pharmacist.**

**Keep this leaflet with your medicine.**

You may need to read it again.

### What Rimycin is used for

RIMYCIN is an antibiotic that is used in combination with other medicines to treat tuberculosis, also known as TB.

TB is a bacterial infection, which mainly affects the lungs, but it can also spread to other organs in the body.

RIMYCIN is also used to treat leprosy, a skin condition that has many forms.

RIMYCIN can also be used to prevent certain diseases occurring where you may be in contact with, or have had contact with, a person known to have the disease or is known to be able to pass it on to others.

Examples of such diseases are meningitis (a serious infectious

disease involving inflammation of the membranes that cover the brain and spinal cord) which affects children and young adults, pneumonia, conjunctivitis and meningitis caused by *Haemophilus influenzae*, a bacterium in the respiratory tract.

**Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why this medicine has been prescribed for you.**

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another reason.

This medicine is available only with a doctor's prescription.

### Before you take RIMYCIN

*When you must not take it*

**Do not take RIMYCIN if you have an allergy to:**

- any medicine containing rifampicin
- any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet

Some of the symptoms of an allergic reaction may include:

- shortness of breath
- wheezing or difficulty breathing
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or other parts of the body
- rash, itching or hives on the skin

**Do not take this medicine if you have jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin).**

**Do not take this medicine if you are taking combination saquinavir/ritonavir medications.**

**Do not breast-feed if you are taking this medicine.**

The active ingredient in RIMYCIN passes into breast milk and there is a possibility your baby may be affected.

**Do not take this medicine after the expiry date printed on the pack or if the packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

If it has expired or is damaged, return it to your pharmacist for disposal.

**If you are not sure whether you should start using Rimycin, talk to your doctor.**

*Before you start to take it*

**Tell your doctor if you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, preservatives or dyes.**

**Tell your doctor if you have or have had any of the following medical conditions:**

- any type of liver disease
- problems with bleeding or tendency to bruise easily
- diabetes
- have a history of lung inflammation (interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis)

**Tell your doctor if you are currently taking any other antibiotics.**

**Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant or are breast-feeding.**

Your doctor can discuss with you the risks and benefits involved.

**If you have not told your doctor about any of the above, tell them before you start taking RIMYCIN.**

Urine, faeces, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears and teeth may be a red-orange,

yellow or brown colour when you are taking RIMYCIN. Soft contact lenses may be permanently stained.

### *Taking other medicines*

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any that you get without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.**

Some medicines and RIMYCIN may interfere with each other. These include:

- antacids, used for heartburn and indigestion
- atovaquone, used to treat a respiratory infection in acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS)
- ketoconazole, used for fungal infections
- aspirin used as a pain killer or for preventing blood clots
- isoniazid, used for TB (tuberculosis)
- p-aminosalicylic acid (PAS)
- decreasing the clotting of the blood such as clopidogrel
- controlling and preventing seizures
- heart disease and high blood pressure such as enalapril
- breast cancer treatment or prevention
- sedation
- bacterial infections
- fungal infections
- inflammatory conditions
- contraception
- high blood cholesterol
- diabetes
- tuberculosis and leprosy
- malaria
- rejection of transplanted organs
- thyroid deficiency states
- pain
- nocturnal cramps
- breathing difficulties
- anxiety or depression

- treatment of certain mental illnesses
- treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) infections
- nausea and vomiting

Some drugs should not be taken with RIMYCIN. These include:

- halothane, a general anaesthetic (a sleep-inducing drug)
- the combination of saquinavir and ritonavir, antiviral agents used to treat acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) and human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infections
- daclatasvir, simeprevir, sofosbuvir and telaprevir, antiviral medicines used to treat Hepatitis C
- cefazolin and other cephalosporin antibiotics used to treat infection
- oral contraceptives
- dapsone (an antibiotic), it may cause methemoglobinemia (decrease in oxygen in your blood caused by changes in red blood cells)
- paracetamol, it can increase the risk of liver damage

Your doctor or pharmacist have more information on medicines to be careful with or to avoid while taking this medicine.

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## How to take RIMYCIN

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**Follow all directions given to you by your doctor or pharmacist carefully.**

They may differ from the information contained in this leaflet.

**If you do not understand the instructions on the bottle, ask your doctor or pharmacist for help.**

### *How much to take*

Your doctor will decide what dose and for how long you will take RIMYCIN for.

### *How to take it*

**Swallow the capsules whole with a glass of water.**

### *When to take it*

**Take your medicine at about the same time each day.**

Taking it at the same time each day will have the best effect. It will also help you remember when to take it.

**RIMYCIN should be taken 30 minutes before or 2 hours after a meal.**

### *How long to take it*

**Continue taking your medicine for as long as your doctor tells you.**

### *If you forget to take it*

**Take the dose as soon as you remember, and then go back to taking your medicine as you would normally.**

**Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose that you missed.**

**If you are not sure what to do, ask your doctor or pharmacist.**

**If you have trouble remembering to take your medicine, ask your pharmacist for some hints.**

### *If you take too much (overdose)*

**Immediately telephone your doctor or the Poisons Information Centre (telephone 13 11 26) for advice, or go to Accident and Emergency at the nearest hospital, if you think that you or anyone else may have taken too much RIMYCIN. Do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.**

You may need urgent medical attention.

Symptoms of an overdose may include nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, itchy skin, headache, fatigue, dizziness, swelling and abnormal heart beating.

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## While you are using RIMYCIN

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### *Things you must do*

**If you are about to be started on any new medicine, remind your doctor and pharmacist that you are taking RIMYCIN.**

**Tell any other doctors, dentists and pharmacists who treat you that you are taking this medicine.**

**Take RIMYCIN exactly as your doctor has prescribed. Keep all of your doctor's appointments.**

**If you develop itching with swelling, a skin rash or have difficulty breathing, or if you turn yellow while you are taking RIMYCIN, stop taking it and tell your doctor immediately.**

**If you get severe diarrhoea tell your doctor or pharmacist immediately. Do this even if it occurs several weeks after you have stopped taking RIMYCIN.**

Diarrhoea may mean that you have a serious condition affecting your bowel. You may need urgent medical care. Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

**If you get a sore white mouth or tongue while taking or soon after stopping RIMYCIN, tell your doctor.**

**If you get vaginal itching or discharge while taking or soon after stopping RIMYCIN, tell your doctor.**

This may mean you have a fungal infection called thrush. Sometimes the use of RIMYCIN allows fungi to grow and the above symptoms to occur. This medicine does not work against fungi.

**If you become pregnant or are breastfeeding while taking this medicine, tell your doctor immediately.**

**If you are using oral contraceptives you should change to alternative methods of birth control while you are taking RIMYCIN.**

**If you are about to have any blood or urine tests, tell your doctor that you are taking this medicine.**

It may interfere with the results of some tests.

**If you develop a new or sudden worsening of shortness of breath, possibly with a dry cough or fever that is not responding to antibiotic treatment.**

These could be symptoms of lung inflammation (interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis) and can lead to serious breathing problems due to collection of fluid in the lungs and interfere with normal breathing which can lead to life threatening conditions.

### *Things you must not do*

**Do not take RIMYCIN to treat any other complaints unless your doctor tells you to.**

**Do not give your medicine to anyone else, even if they have the same condition as you.**

**Do not stop taking your medicine or lower the dosage without checking with your doctor.**

If you do not complete the full treatment as prescribed by your doctor, some of the bacteria causing your infection may not be killed. These bacteria may continue to grow and multiply so that your infection may not clear completely or it may return.

### *Things to be careful of*

**Be careful driving or operating machinery until you know how RIMYCIN affects you.**

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## Side effects

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**Tell your doctor or pharmacist as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking RIMYCIN.**

This medicine helps most people, but it may have unwanted side effects in a few people. All medicines can have side effects.

Sometimes they are serious, most of the time they are not. You may need medical attention if you get some of the side effects.

**Do not be alarmed by the following lists of side effects. You may not experience any of them.**

**Ask your doctor or pharmacist to answer any questions you may have.**

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice any of the following and they worry you:**

- yellow discolouration of skin or eyes
- heartburn, anorexia, nausea, vomiting, wind, cramps or diarrhoea
- drowsiness, fatigue, inability to concentrate or confusion
- mental problems
- problems with your period
- urine, faeces, saliva, sputum, sweat, tears and teeth may be coloured red-orange, yellow or brown. Soft contact lenses may be permanently stained.
- poor coordination, muscle weakness, pain in the fingers or toes, or numbness
- oral thrush - white, furry, sore tongue and mouth
- vaginal thrush - sore and itchy vagina and/or discharge
- conjunctivitis or visual disturbances
- menstrual disturbances

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you notice any of the following:**

- red and/or itchy skin, blisters or pimples, bleeding, peeling or bruising of the skin
- itching, weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, stomach or gut pain, yellowing of the eyes or skin or dark urine
- swelling of the face, lips, tongue or throat which may cause difficulty in breathing or swallowing
- shortness of breath and wheezing

- blood in the urine or any other urination disturbances
- severe bleeding or bruising more easily than normal
- fever, chills, headache or dizziness
- bone pain
- develop itching with swelling or skin rash or difficulty breathing, or if you turn yellow
- new or sudden worsening of shortness of breath, possibly with a cough or fever (interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis)

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything that is making you feel unwell.**

Other side effects not listed above may also occur in some people.

### *After finishing RIMYCIN*

**Tell your doctor immediately if you notice any of the following side effects, especially if they occur several weeks after stopping treatment with RIMYCIN:**

- severe abdominal cramps or stomach cramps
- watery and severe diarrhoea, which may also be bloody
- fever, in combination with one or both of the above

These are rare but serious side effects. You may have a serious condition affecting your bowel, which may need urgent medical attention. However, this side effect is rare.

Do not take any diarrhoea medicine without first checking with your doctor.

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## After using RIMYCIN

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### *Storage*

**Keep your capsules in the bottle until it is time to take them.**

If you take the capsules out of the bottle they may not keep well.

**Keep your capsules in a cool dry place where the temperature stays below 25°C.**

**Do not store RIMYCIN or any other medicine in the bathroom or near a sink. Do not leave it on a window sill or in the car.**

Heat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

**Keep it where children cannot reach it.**

A locked cupboard at least one-and-a-half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

### *Disposal*

**If your doctor tells you to stop taking this medicine or the expiry date has passed, ask your pharmacist what to do with any medicine that is left over.**

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## Product description

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### *What it looks like*

RIMYCIN comes in different 2 strengths:

- 150 mg capsules - size 3 hard gelatin capsule, maroon body with black cap
- 300 mg capsules - size 1 hard gelatin capsule with maroon body and cap

RIMYCIN comes in bottles of 10 and 100 capsules.

### *Ingredients*

RIMYCIN contains the active ingredient rifampicin:

The capsules also contain the following inactive ingredients:

- lactose monohydrate
- ascorbic acid
- purified talc
- magnesium stearate
- colloidal anhydrous silica
- sodium lauryl sulfate
- gelatin
- erythrosine CI 45430 (127)

- brilliant blue FCF CI 42090 (133)
- titanium dioxide CI 77891 (171)

RIMYCIN 150 capsules also contain:

- iron oxide red CI 77491 (172)
- iron oxide yellow CI 77492 (172)

RIMYCIN contains galactose and sulfites. The capsules are gluten free.

### *Manufacturer*

RIMYCIN is made in Australia by:

**Alphapharm Pty Ltd trading as Viatris**

Level 1, 30 The Bond  
30-34 Hickson Road  
Millers Point NSW 2000  
www.viatris.com.au  
Phone: 1800 274 276

Australian registration numbers:

RIMYCIN 150 - AUST R 48230

RIMYCIN 300 - AUST R 48231

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