



Mycophenolate

Information For Patient With Glomerulonephritis

Generic Name	Brand Name
Mycophenolate sodium (MYE-koe-FEN-oh-late SO-dee-um)	Myfortic®
Mycophenolate mofetil (MYE-koe-FEN-oh-late MOE-fe-til)	Cellcept®

What is Mycophenolate and why is it being recommended for me?

- Mycophenolate is used to control diseases of the immune system such as glomerulonephritis (inflammation of the kidneys) or vasculitis (inflammation of the blood vessels).
- It works by lowering your immune system.
- It can reduce the leakage of protein from the kidneys into the urine.

How should I take Mycophenolate?

- The number of Mycophenolate tablets/capsules can change so make sure you are taking the correct dose.
- Myfortic® and Cellcept® are 2 different medications and are not interchangeable.
- Take Mycophenolate twice daily. Space doses evenly apart unless otherwise instructed.
- Take Mycophenolate with or without food, but be consistent. Take with food, if it causes upset stomach.
- Swallow tablets/capsules whole. Do not cut, crush or chew the tablets/capsules.
- If medication is individually wrapped, do not remove from packaging until immediately prior to use.
- Supplements and antacids containing magnesium should be separated from Mycophenolate by at least 2 hours.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. But, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the dose you missed and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not take 2 doses at the same time.
- Avoid switching between brand name and generic Mycophenolate.

What else do I need to know before taking Mycophenolate?

- Always contact the clinic before starting any new prescription and/or nonprescription medications (including vitamins and herbal products).
- Avoid pregnancy and breastfeeding while taking Mycophenolate.
- Speak to your doctor about birth control options before taking Mycophenolate.
- Contact the clinic before receiving any vaccines. Mycophenolate may increase your chance of an infection and/or make the vaccine not work as well.

What monitoring will I need?

- The clinic will order regular blood tests and 24 hour urine collections to check your response to Mycophenolate and to monitor for side effects.

What are the possible side effects of Mycophenolate?

- All medications may cause side effects; however, many people only experience mild side effects or none at all. Contact the clinic if you have any concerns about the following possible side effects:

Side effects and what to do

	Side Effects
Most Common (20–50% of people experience)	Stomach upset, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may improve as your body gets used to Mycophenolate. Taking Mycophenolate with food may help. This may be related to the dose. Contact the clinic if this occurs as it can sometimes improve with lower or spaced out doses.
Less Common (1–20% of people experience)	Headache <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This may improve over time. May take acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help with headaches.
	Lower blood cell counts (red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The clinic will monitor your blood cell counts.
	Increased risk of infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mycophenolate lowers your body's ability to fight infection. Avoid close contact with people who have an infection, a cold or the flu. Wash your hands with soap often and/or use hand sanitizer. Report any signs and symptoms of infection (such as fever, chills, bad sore throat, pain with urinating, etc.) to your doctor immediately. Shingles—is caused by the chicken pox virus and can present as a painful skin rash. If this occurs, please contact your doctor immediately. Warts—if this occurs, please contact your doctor as soon as possible.
Rare (less than 1% of people experience)	Cancer <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mycophenolate may increase your risk of cancer. This risk is present with most medications that can decrease your immune system. Avoid sunlamps and tanning beds. Use sunscreen and wear clothing and eyewear that protect you from the sun.

Questions? Contact the Clinic at: _____

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