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Company Registration No. 198500843R

Medication Information Sheet  
for Patients

### What if I miss a dose?

If you miss a dose or forget to take your medicine, take it as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. **Do not double the next dose to make up for the missed dose.**

### Should I continue or stop Allopurinol during an acute attack of gout?

If you have been taking Allopurinol, you should continue taking it during an acute attack of gout together with the other medication for acute gout.

### Does Allopurinol affects pregnancy?

As with all medicines, it is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breast-feed while taking this medicine.

## ALLOPURINOL



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## Why am I being prescribed Allopurinol?

Allopurinol is used to treat chronic gout where high uric acid in the blood crystallizes to deposit in the joints and skin. Uric acid is one of the body's waste products. Allopurinol reduces the production of uric acid in the body by inhibiting the action of xanthine oxidase (an enzyme). Allopurinol is used to prevent gout attacks, not to treat them once they occur.

Certain medicines or medical treatments (e.g. chemotherapy) can increase the amount of uric acid in the body. Allopurinol can be used to prevent gout or kidney problems that may be caused by such therapies.

## When do I take Allopurinol?

Allopurinol is taken once or twice a day with or after food to avoid stomach irritation.

Drink as least 2 to 2.5 litres of fluids a day (unless contraindicated) to help your kidneys excrete uric acid.

## What dose do I take?

Usually, you will start on a low dose which may be increased if necessary.

## When does Allopurinol work?

Allopurinol does not work immediately. It may take several weeks before you notice any benefit, Gout attacks may continue for a while. However, if you take this medicine regularly, the attack will gradually become less frequent and less painful.

## What are the possible risks associated with Allopurinol?

| Side effects   | Warning signs   | Things you need to do  |
|--|---|--|
| Nausea, loss of appetite or diarrhoea  |   | Take medication after food or divide the dose into two to be taken within the day  |
| Drowsiness or headache   |   | These symptoms can occur at the start of the therapy, but your body usually get used to it. Do not drive or operate machinery if affected.                                 |
| Skin reactions ( may occurs within the first 7 to 21 days of treatment but maybe delayed up to 2 years after starting Allopurinol) | Skin rashes, itching, redness, peeling or burning of skin.<br><br>Rarely, skin reactions can be followed by fever, chills, nausea, vomiting, muscle ache, sore throat, swelling of eyes or lip, or jaundice (yellow eyes, skin, tea coloured urine) | Stop drug immediately, see a doctor immediately.<br><br>If the rash is mild, your doctor may decide to re-introduce Allopurinol at a lower dose at another period of time. |
| Blood disorder (rare)  | There may be no warning signs but   | Inform your doctor immediately if these symptoms occur.  |

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|  | unusual bleeding or bruising, lip or mouth ulcers with "flu-like symptoms may occur |  |
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**Please seek medical attention if you experience any symptoms mentioned above.**

## Do I have to do any blood tests while taking Allopurinol?

Periodic blood tests for kidney functions e.g. Serum creatinine and serum uric acid levels.

## Are there any medications to avoid while on Allopurinol?

Allopurinol may increase the effects of warfarin, Azathioprine and Mercaptopurine. Allopurinol may increase the incidence of skin rashes in patients taking Ampicillin.

Renal failure and concurrent thiazide therapy predispose to hypersensitivity. In patients with renal failure, dose of Allopurinol may be reduced.

## May I drink alcohol while taking Allopurinol?

Avoid or limit your alcohol intake while on this medicine as alcohol can increase the amount of uric acid in your blood and cause stomach problems. Alcohol can also trigger attacks of acute gout.