

MYFORTIC[®]
(enteric coated mycophenolate sodium)

| GENERIC NAME | BRAND NAME | REASON FOR USE |
|---|-----------------------|---|
| Enteric coated mycophenolate sodium Strengths: 180 mg and 360 mg tablets | MYFORTIC [®] | Myfortic [®] is an <u>anti-rejection</u> drug. It works to suppress your immune system in order to prevent rejection of your transplanted organ. |

SIDE EFFECTS

1. DIARRHEA

This side effect is common especially at higher doses. It can often be managed by taking smaller doses more frequently throughout the day. This should only be done on the advice of the transplant team.

2. STOMACH UPSET

Nausea, vomiting, and abdominal pain can sometimes occur. These effects usually decrease with time. Report this to your transplant team if any of these become problematic.

3. DECREASED BLOOD CELL COUNTS

Your blood cell counts will be monitored closely. Inform your transplant team if you develop symptoms of infection, feel very tired, or experience any unusual bleeding or bruising.

4. INCREASED SUSCEPTIBILITY TO INFECTION

Try to avoid close contact with people who have active infections. Report any symptoms of infection such as fever, sore throat, chills, or fast pulse to a doctor or your transplant team *immediately*.

5. INCREASED RISK OF DEVELOPING CANCER

The risk for developing certain types of cancers is higher. It is important to be aware of and report any changes in your body that could indicate a problem.

MYFORTIC[®] (enteric coated mycophenolate sodium)

TAKING YOUR MEDICATION

- Take this medication twice daily. Doses should be spaced 12 hours apart in order to maintain a consistent amount of drug in your body, e.g. 9:00 am and 9:00 pm. Always take your doses at the same times every day.
- Always be consistent with respect to Myfortic[®] dosing and meal consumption (i.e. if you take the medication with food, always take it with food).
- Tablets should not be cut, crushed or chewed.

INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER MEDICATIONS

Myfortic[®] may interact with other medications including:

- Products containing iron such as ferrous gluconate, ferrous sulphate, ferrous fumarate or multivitamins plus minerals
- Products containing magnesium such as Maalox[®] or Milk of Magnesia[®]
- Cholestyramine (Questran[®]), a cholesterol-lowering agent

All of these medications can decrease the absorption of Myfortic[®] if taken at the same time. It is important that these medications be spaced at least 2 hours apart from Myfortic[®] (and at least 4 hours apart in the case of cholestyramine).

Please speak with your doctor, pharmacist or transplant coordinator before taking **any** new medications, including non-prescription drugs or prescriptions given to you by anyone other than your transplant doctors. Your pharmacist or transplant coordinator can help you plan your dosing schedule to avoid these interactions.

REMEMBER

Wear/carry identification (i.e. Medic Alert) stating that you are immunocompromised.

