

WHO-PQ recommended clinical and preclinical information for the patient

This information reflects the recommendations of current WHO guidelines and the scope of WHO's prequalification programme.

Information for the patient

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]* Isoniazid/rifampicin

Carers or parents looking after the person who takes this medicine should use this information to give the medicine correctly and take note of the warnings and side effects

1. What [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] is and what it is used for

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] is a medicine used to treat tuberculosis (TB), an infection caused by bacteria called *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] is also used to prevent TB if there is a high chance you could catch tuberculosis.

This medicine contains two tuberculosis medicines, rifampicin and isoniazid. These are antibiotics that work in different ways to kill the bacteria that cause TB.

2. What you need to know before you take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

Do not take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] if you:

- are allergic (hypersensitive) to isoniazid or rifampicin, or any of the other ingredients of this medicine (see section 6, *What [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] contains*)
- have current liver disease, including yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice) or severely reduced liver function
- have had liver problems after taking isoniazid or rifampicin before
- have had severe side effects with isoniazid or rifampicin before that include fever, chills or inflammation of the joints
- are taking certain medicines:
 - voriconazole (a medicine used to treat fungal infections)
 - HIV medicines: atazanavir, darunavir, doravirine, elvitegravir/cobicistat, etravirine, fosamprenavir, lopinavir, nevirapine, rilpivirine, ritonavir, tipranavir
 - chronic hepatitis C medicines: daclatasvir, elbasvir/grazoprevir, glecaprevir/pibrentasvir, ledipasvir/sofosbuvir, ombitasvir/paritaprevir/ritonavir, sofosbuvir
 - lurasidone (a medicine for mental problems)

Check with your health care provider if you are not sure whether your medicine is included.

Speak to your health care provider if you think you should not take this medicine.

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your health care provider before taking this medicine. Tell your health care provider before starting the medicine if you have:

- liver problems such as long-term liver disease
- kidney problems
- diabetes
- epilepsy
- porphyria
- mental problems (psychosis)
- damage to your nerves (peripheral neuropathy) that causes a sensation of tingling in the hands or feet

* Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's responsibility.

- HIV infection
- malnutrition
- been told you are a ‘slow acetylator’ (your body breaks down certain medicines more slowly than usual)

Also tell your health care provider if you are allergic to the medicines ethionamide, pyrazinamide, or niacin (nicotinic acid) – this may make it more likely that you will also be allergic to [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg].

If any of these apply, your health care provider will discuss your treatment with you, and explain whether you will need additional checks in case you get side effects.

While taking this medicine your health care provider will regularly check for any problems with your liver. Speak with your health care provider straightaway if you get **symptoms that might suggest liver damage**, especially if you:

- lose your appetite, or get nausea (feel sick), or feel tired all the time, or you have a rash

and you have any of the following:

- belly pain, usually on the right side and near the chest
- unexplained itching
- yellowing of the white parts of your eyes, your nails or your skin
- passing dark urine
- passing stools that are very pale.

You may be at higher risk of liver problems if:

- you are older than 35 years
- you drink alcohol daily (see “Taking [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] with food and drink”)
- you have a long-term liver disease
- you use recreational drugs by injection (e.g. heroin).

If any of these apply to you, your health care provider will test for liver problems more often. If serious liver problems develop your health care provider may change your treatment and ask you to stop taking this medicine.

If you get flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache and muscle aches, you should report this to your health care provider, since this medicine may be the cause.

Serious skin reactions (often with other symptoms like chills and fever) may happen in some people taking isoniazid/rifampicin. Stop taking this medicine and tell your health care provider right away if you have any of the following symptoms: rash; red and painful skin; blistered, peeling or bleeding skin; sores or blisters on the inside of your mouth or lips or on your genitals; swollen face, lips, mouth, tongue or throat; flu-like symptoms.

Tingling, pricking or numbness in the hands and feet (**peripheral neuropathy**) is the most common side effect of isoniazid, one of the active substances in this medicine (see “Possible side effects”). If you have kidney or liver problems, you may be at higher risk of isoniazid side effects including peripheral neuropathy. You are also more likely to get peripheral neuropathy if you are malnourished, have diabetes, are dependent on alcohol, have HIV infection, or are pregnant or breastfeeding. Your health care provider will check on you regularly if any of these apply. Speak with your health care provider right away if you get tingling in your hands and feet.

Your health care provider may recommend that you take vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) if you are more likely to develop peripheral neuropathy.

Tell your health care provider if you get new or worsening **cough and breathlessness** after starting treatment with this medicine or if other TB symptoms (e.g. tiredness, headache, loss of appetite, weight loss, or weakness) seem to get worse.

If you are taking cortisone or any cortisone-like drug, you should report this to your health care provider, since the cortisone dose may have to be increased while taking [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg].

This medicine may cause a reddish orange discoloration of body fluids such as urine, sputum and tears. This is due to rifampicin, and does not require medical attention. Also, contact lenses or dentures may become stained due to this medicine.

Tell your health care provider about any illness you get, even if you think it is not related to tuberculosis infection or your medicine.

Other medicines and [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

Tell your health care provider if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. These may affect the action of this medicine, or this medicine may affect their action. Side effects of either medicine may become worse and/or the medicines may become less effective.

Medicines you must not take with [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

- **You must not take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] with** certain medicines (see the full list of these medicines above under ‘Do not take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] if you’).

This is because this medicine may significantly decrease the amount of these medicines in your blood, preventing them from working well enough.

Check with your health care provider if you are not sure you can take your medicines with this one.

Other medicines that can interfere with [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

You should avoid using antacids (for heartburn or indigestion) that contain aluminium hydroxide as it can interfere with your body’s ability to take up this medicine.

The active substances in [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] may also interfere with a great number of other medicines, including for instance:

- other medicines to treat HIV infection (e.g. dolutegravir, maraviroc, raltegravir,)
- other medicines to treat fungal infections (e.g. ketoconazole, fluconazole, itraconazole)
- antibiotics (e.g. clarithromycin, chloramphenicol, doxycycline, trimethoprim)
- ethionamide (another TB medicine)
- medicines to treat malaria (e.g. amodiaquine, artemether, artesunate, dihydroartemisinin, lumefantrine, quinine)
- immunosuppressant drugs (e.g. ciclosporin, tacrolimus)
- medicines to treat heart conditions (e.g. verapamil, digoxin, clopidogrel)
- medicines to treat blood lipids (e.g. atorvastatin, simvastatin)
- some medicines to treat diabetes (e.g. glibenclamide, glimepiride, repaglinide)
- oral contraceptive pills
- mifepristone (a medicine for abortions)
- medicines to treat epileptic seizures (e.g. phenytoin, carbamazepine, valproate)
- medicines used to help you sleep (benzodiazepines, e.g. diazepam, flurazepam, nitrazepam, triazolam, midazolam; also zolpidem or zopiclone)
- medicines for the treatment of certain psychiatric conditions (neuroleptics, e.g. chlorpromazine, haloperidol; antidepressants such as amitriptyline or nortriptyline)
- medicines for prevention of blood clots (warfarin)
- medicines used in surgery (narcotics or anaesthetics, e.g. alfentanil, enflurane)
- corticosteroids (e.g. prednisolone, medicines for the treatment of inflammations and other diseases, such as asthma or rheumatoid arthritis)
- levothyroxine for thyroid problems
- medicines to treat pain (e.g. morphine, paracetamol)
- codeine (medicine to treat cough)
- methadone (medicine for drug addiction)
- disulfiram (medicine used for the treatment of chronic alcoholism)

- praziquantel for worm infections.

Taking any of these medicines together with [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] may be unsuitable or your health care provider may need to alter your dose.

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] with food and drink

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] should be taken on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal).

You should not drink alcohol while taking this medicine as it increases the risk of liver damage.

When taken with cheese or fish (histamine- or tyramine-rich food), this medicine may cause redness/itching of the skin, hot feeling, rapid or pounding heartbeat, sweating, chills or clammy feeling, headache, and/or light-headedness. If you get these side effects, you should avoid eating cheese and fish while taking this medicine.

Pregnancy, breast-feeding and contraception

This medicine can be used during pregnancy. However, you may need to be carefully monitored for side effects. If you become pregnant, think you might be, or are planning a pregnancy, tell your health care provider right away, so you can discuss your treatment.

You can breast-feed while taking this medicine. Isoniazid and rifampicin pass into breast milk but only in very small amounts. No negative effects have been reported in breast-fed-infants whose mothers were receiving this medicine. However, amounts in breast milk are so low that you cannot rely upon breast-feeding to prevent or treat tuberculosis in your child.

As a precaution, your health care provider may recommend that you take vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) while you are pregnant and breast-feeding; your baby may also be given vitamin B6. Because rifampicin can interfere with vitamin K, which affects blood clotting, your health care provider may also give you or your baby extra vitamin K around the time the baby is born.

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] may reduce the effects of **contraceptive** pills, implants or injections. As a precaution, if you need contraception you should use a different or additional method (condoms, intra-uterine device, pessary) during treatment with this medicine.

Driving and using machines

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] is not likely to affect your ability to drive or operate machinery. However, make sure you feel well enough to take on any skilled tasks.

3. How to take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

Your health care provider will decide on the right doses and combination of medicines for your TB, based on your age, weight and condition.

Always take this medicine exactly as your health care provider has told you. Check with your health care provider if you are not sure.

Do not change the dose unless your health care provider tells you to. Your treatment will go on for several months, but it is important to take the full course of treatment recommended by your health care provider, even if you feel better.

For information on how to take any other medicines you need for your TB treatment, discuss with your health care provider and see the leaflets that come with those medicines as well.

Treatment of tuberculosis

To treat TB, you will need to take a combination of medicines for the first 2 months of treatment. After that, you will take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] on its own for another 2 or 4 months. Your health care provider will explain how long you need to take the medicine for, and what other medicines you need.

The dose of [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] needed to treat TB depends on weight, as follows:

Patient's weight	Number of [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] tablets
25 to less than 30 kg	2 tablets once daily
30 to less than 35 kg	3 tablets once daily
35 to less than 65 kg	4 tablets once daily
65 kg and over	5 tablets once daily

This medicine is not recommended for children weighing less than 25 kg; your health care provider will recommend a different medicine to make sure you get the right dose.

Prevention of tuberculosis

To prevent TB, [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] is taken once a day on its own, for 3 months. The dose is the same as for treatment, above.

Instructions for taking [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] tablets

[Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] should be swallowed with water or another drink.

The tablets should be taken on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal). Try to take this medicine at the same time each day.

If you take more [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] than you should

If you accidentally take too many tablets, immediately contact your health care provider or the nearest hospital emergency department. Take your medicine with you so that you can easily describe what you have taken.

If you forget to take [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

It is important not to miss a dose of [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]. If you miss or forget to take a dose, the missed dose should be taken as soon as possible, unless it is less than 6 hours till your next dose, in which case skip the missed dose and just take the next regular dose.

If you vomit less than 1 hour after taking this medicine, take another dose. You do not need to take another dose if you were sick more than 1 hour after taking this medicine.

If you stop taking [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

Don't stop taking this medicine without checking with your health care provider. Talk to your health care provider before you stop taking this medicine for any reason, particularly if you get any side effects or have another illness.

If you have stopped your treatment with [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] for any reason, speak to your health care provider before you start taking this medicine again.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your health care provider.

4. Possible side effects

Like all medicines, [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. When treating tuberculosis, it is not always possible to differentiate between unwanted effects caused by isoniazid/rifampicin and those caused by any other medicines you may be taking at the same time. For this reason, it is important that you inform your health care provider of any change in your health.

The most important adverse effects of isoniazid and rifampicin are nerve injuries (peripheral neuropathy, see below) and inflammation of the liver (hepatitis) which can sometimes be severe or even fatal. **Tell your health care provider right away** if you get signs of *liver problems* (see Warnings and Precautions, in

section 2, above). Other important side effects you need to tell your health care provider about right away are *severe skin reactions* and *new or worsening breathlessness*.

The following side effects have been reported in patients treated with isoniazid/rifampicin:

Very common side effects

(may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- fever and chills

Common side effects

(may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- low levels of blood platelets (needed for blood to clot normally), sometimes with small purplish spots on the skin
- headache, dizziness
- feeling sick (nausea)
- vomiting
- worsening of TB symptoms that had previously been getting better
- increased liver enzymes or bilirubin as measured in blood tests. Usually, liver enzyme increases occur during the first 1-3 months of therapy and return to normal despite continued treatment. When the values rise above a certain level, your health care provider may decide to stop treatment with [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg].

Uncommon side effects

(may affect up to 1 in 100 people)

- low levels of white blood cells in blood tests (leukopenia)
- convulsions (fits)
- brain problems leading to confusion or reduced consciousness (toxic encephalopathy)
- inflammation or damage to the optic nerve
- memory problems
- psychosis (abnormal thinking, sometimes with delusions or hallucinations)
- dizziness
- increased seizures (fits) in people with epilepsy
- bleeding in the brain (cerebral haemorrhage)
- diarrhoea
- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis), which can be severe.

Side effects of which it is not known how often they may occur

- infection of the bowel leading to pain and severe diarrhoea (pseudomembranous colitis)
- flu
- formation of tiny clots in the blood vessels, which can affect circulation and lead to damage to the kidneys (thrombotic microangiopathy, thrombocytopenic purpura, haemolytic-uraemic syndrome)
- changes in the white blood cell counts (eosinophilia, agranulocytosis), possibly resulting in an increased risk of infection
- anaemias (low red blood cell counts), sometimes with breakdown of red blood cells (haemolytic anaemia) or problems with bone marrow (aplastic anaemia)
- problems with blood clotting
- swollen lymph glands (lymphadenopathy)
- life-threatening allergic (anaphylactic) reactions with breathing difficulties and low blood pressure
- problems with adrenal glands
- breast enlargement in men (gynaecomastia)
- decreased appetite
- high blood sugar (hyperglycaemia)
- a vitamin deficiency syndrome called pellagra (with e.g. dementia, loose stools and skin inflammation)

- sensations of tingling, pricking, or numbness of the skin, especially in the feet and hands (peripheral neuropathy). Your health care provider may recommend you take vitamin B6 (pyridoxine) to reduce the risk (see above, “Warnings and Precautions”).
- problems with walking and balance (possible signs of a brain problem called cerebellar syndrome); this is more likely if you already have kidney disease
- shock (loss of blood flow to your organs)
- flushing
- inflammation of blood vessels (vasculitis)
- unexpected bleeding
- shortness of breath, wheezing
- reddish discoloration of body fluids such as urine, phlegm, tears, saliva and sweat, staining of soft contact lenses, dentures or teeth
- inflammation of the lungs (pneumonitis)
- belly pain or discomfort
- constipation
- dry mouth
- inflammation of the pancreas (usually with severe pain in the back or stomach)
- severe skin reactions with fever and flu-like symptoms, blisters or pustules, or involvement of the mucous membranes of mouth or genitals
- itching or itchy rashes, nettle rash (urticaria)
- acne
- hair loss
- muscle weakness or soreness
- bone pain
- rheumatic condition with rashes, kidney problems (lupus-like syndrome)
- kidney damage
- excess bleeding after delivery of a baby
- menstrual disturbances
- porphyria (a condition where the body cannot break down certain chemicals called porphyrins)
- swelling of the feet or ankles (oedema)
- low blood pressure.

Reporting of side effects

If you get a side effect, talk to your health care provider. This includes side effects not listed in this leaflet. You may also be able to report such effects directly to your national reporting system if one is available. By reporting side effects, you can help to improve the available information on this medicine.

5. How to store [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg]

Product specific information on the storage conditions can be found in the product information as approved by the reference authority, stated in WHOPAR part 1.

6. Contents of the pack and other information

What [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] contains

What [Isoniazid/Rifampicin tablet 75mg/150mg] looks like and contents of the pack

Supplier and Manufacturer

This leaflet was last revised in September 2025.

Product specific information on the composition, visual appearance of the formulation, appearance and size of packs as well as on the supplier, can be found in the product information as approved by the reference authority, stated in WHOPAR part 1.