

Pyrazinamide

What is pyrazinamide for?

Pyrazinamide is used to treat tuberculosis. It is taken for 2 to 6 months or more. It is taken in combination with other medications.

How should I take pyrazinamide?

Take pyrazinamide as instructed by your doctor. Do not take more or less of it or take it more often than prescribed by your doctor.

Take it regularly and avoid missing doses.

Pyrazinamide can be taken at the same time as your other tuberculosis medication.

How should I store pyrazinamide?

Pyrazinamide should be stored at room temperature, away from light, heat and moisture. Do not store it in the bathroom.

Keep this medication out of the reach of children.

What should I tell my doctor before starting pyrazinamide?

TELL YOUR DOCTOR:

- If you are taking any other prescription or over-the-counter medications. Pyrazinamide may interfere with some drugs.
- If you are or think you may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have liver or kidney problems, diabetes or gout.
- If you have abused or are using alcohol.
- If you have other serious medical problems.

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What are the side effects to watch for?

There are several side effects that should be reported to your doctor including:

- symptoms of liver problems such as: tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, yellowing of the eyes or skin, dark urine
- swelling or pain of any joints
- unusual bruising
- stomach upset which does not go away or is serious
- skin rashes
- increased sensitivity of the skin to the sun
- fever or chills
- difficult urination
- **any other serious symptoms that develop**

Other important facts about pyrazinimide

- You should not get pregnant while taking pyrazinamide. Be sure to talk to your doctor about birth control.
- If you are already pregnant, pyrazinamide can be taken if it clearly is needed. Discuss the risk and benefits with your doctor.
- Pyrazinamide may make your skin sensitive to the sun. Avoid unnecessary or prolonged exposure to sunlight and wear protective clothing, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- If you are monitoring your diabetes with urine tests, you should discuss this with your doctor since pyrazinamide may affect this test.
- Your doctor may do the occasional blood test to check for side effects of the pyrazinamide.

Keep all appointments with your doctor and **be sure you do not run out of medication.**

For further information, contact your Doctor or call the Middlesex-London Health Unit at (519) 663-5317 ext. 2330