

Ethambutol

What is ethambutol for?

Ethambutol 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 ethambutol?

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

Take it regularly and avoid missing doses.

Ethambutol can be taken on an empty stomach or with food if an upset stomach occurs.

How should I store ethambutol?

Ethambutol 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 ethambutol?

TELL YOUR DOCTOR:

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

See over...

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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:

- changes in vision including color changes or eye pain
- skin rashes or itchiness
- fever and tiredness
- stomach upset that does not go away or is serious
- metallic taste
- headache, dizziness, mental confusion or hallucinations
- pins and needles feeling in your hands and feet
- symptoms of liver problems such as: tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, yellowing of the eyes or skin, or dark urine
- swelling or pain in any joint
- **any other serious symptoms that develop.**

What other information should I know?

- It is best not to get pregnant while taking ethambutol. Be sure to talk to your doctor about birth control.
- If you are already pregnant, ethambutol can be taken if it is clearly needed. Discuss the risk and benefits with your doctor.
- Your doctor may do the occasional blood and eye tests to check for side effects from ethambutol.

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