

Isoniazid

What is isoniazid (INH) for?

INH is used to prevent or to treat tuberculosis. It is taken for 6 months or more. When it is taken for prevention, it is often taken in combination with vitamin B6. It is taken in combination with other medications when used to treat tuberculosis.

How should I take isoniazid?

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

This medication should be taken regularly and avoid missing doses.

It is best to take isoniazid on an empty stomach (1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal). However, if stomach upset occurs, isoniazid can be taken with food or milk.

How should isoniazid be stored?

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

Liquid isoniazid should be protected from freezing.

Keep this medication out of the reach of children.

What should I tell my doctor before starting isoniazid?

TELL YOUR DOCTOR:

- If you are taking any other prescription or over-the-counter medications. Isoniazid may interfere with some drugs.
- If you are or think you may be pregnant.
- If you are breast feeding.
- If you have liver, kidney problems, diabetes, or HIV.
- If you have had seizures.
- 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?

You may experience some mild side effects as your body adjusts to the medication. These may include upset stomach or heartburn. If these are severe or do not go away, you should contact your doctor.

Other side effects that should be reported to your doctor include:

- Symptoms of liver problems such as: tiredness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, yellowing of the eyes or skin, or dark urine
- pins and needles feelings in your hands and feet
- skin rashes
- fever
- changes in vision
- joint pain
- **Any other serious symptoms that develop.**

What other information should I know?

- It is best not to get pregnant while taking isoniazid. Be sure to talk to your doctor about birth control.
- If you are already pregnant, isoniazid can be taken if it is clearly needed. Discuss the risk and benefits with your doctor.
- Your doctor may do the occasional blood test to check for side effects of the isoniazid.
- If you are monitoring your diabetes with urine tests, you should discuss this with your doctor since isoniazid may affect this test.

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