## PATIENT INFORMATION

The 12-Dose Regimen for Latent Tuberculosis (TB) Infection



## You have been diagnosed with latent TB infection.

To treat your latent TB infection, take two medicines (rifapentine and isoniazid) once a week, for 12 weeks. It is important to take all of your medication. If you miss taking your pills for the week, call your doctor/clinic right away.

The 12-dose regimen is not recommended for children less than 2 years old, pregnant women or women who expect to become pregnant during treatment, or some persons taking medicine for HIV.



#### What is Latent TB Infection?

"TB" is short for a disease called tuberculosis. TB is spread through the air from one person to another. People who become infected with TB germs, but do not feel sick have what is called latent TB infection. The reason a person does not feel sick is because the TB germs are latent, or inactive (sleeping), in their body. A person with latent TB infection has no symptoms and cannot spread TB germs to others.



## Why Take Treatment for Latent TB Infection?

- A person with latent TB infection can have TB germs in their body for years before getting sick.
- Taking TB medicines is the only way to kill the TB germs in your body.
- Taking your medicines for latent TB infection can prevent you from developing TB disease in the future.



## What are the Medicines You Will Take for 12 Weeks?

You will take two medicines (rifapentine and isoniazid) once a week, for twelve weeks. Your doctor may have you meet with a healthcare staff member to take your medicine, or they may tell you to take the medicine on your own.

One of the drugs, isoniazid, may cause tingling or numbness in hands and feet. Your doctor may add Vitamin B6 to your treatment plan to prevent this.

Before you start this treatment plan, tell your doctor if you are taking any other medicines, including birth control medications and medicine for HIV. Isoniazid and rifapentine may interact with certain medications, so it is very important for your doctor to know what medicines you are taking.

If you see another doctor, be sure to tell him or her that you are being treated for latent TB infection.



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When taking your TB medicine, it is important to follow all instructions given by your doctor or nurse.



## **Take Your Medication: Every Dose Matters**

- Schedule a day and time to take your medicine. Use these tips to help you remember:
  - Use a medication tracker or calendar to check off the days you have taken your medicine.
  - Set an alarm for the time you need to take your medicine.
  - Write yourself a note as a reminder to take your medicine. Put it in a place where you can see it, like on your bathroom mirror or on your refrigerator.
  - · Ask a family member or friend to help you remember.
- Take your pills after eating. Eating before taking your latent TB infection medicine helps your body absorb the pills better.
- You will need to swallow all the pills in one sitting, within 5-10 minutes.



#### **Store Your Pills**

- Keep the medicine at room temperature.
- Keep the rifapentine pills in the blister pack until you are ready to take them.
- Store your medicine away from children.
- Keep your medicine in one place where you can't miss it.



### **Limit Alcohol Use**

- Alcohol use is associated with an increased risk of liver damage when taking isoniazid.
- You should discuss drinking alcohol with your doctor before starting your medicine.



### **Side Effects**

- It is normal if your urine (pee), saliva, tears, or sweat becomes orange-red colored.
- Isoniazid may cause tingling or numbness in hands and feet. Your doctor may add Vitamin B6 to your treatment plan to prevent this.
- Review the checklist of signs and symptoms that may develop if your body does not tolerate this treatment.
- People react differently to medicines. If you are having any reaction to your treatment, stop taking your medicine and call your doctor or nurse right away!



#### Women

- This medication may interfere with hormone based birth control (including birth control pills, rings, and shots).
- During treatment, non-hormonal barrier forms of birth control (condoms or diaphragms) should be used to avoid pregnancy.
- If you become pregnant, stop taking your medicine and speak with your doctor or nurse.



www.cdc.gov/tb