





MYCOPHENOLATE [MY-KO-FEN-O-LATE]

- Mycophenolate Mofetil (MMF, Teva-Mycophenolate®, Apo-mycophenolate®, Sandoz-mycophenolate®, Cellcept) tablet and capsules
- Mycophenolate Sodium (Apo-mycophenolate sodium, Myfortic®) tablets
- Mycophenolate oral suspension (CellCept®)
 - **Be careful not to mix up mycophenolate mofetil and mycophenolate sodium.**
 - **Pay close attention to the instructions your pharmacist and nurse gives you about how many pills to take.**

What does the medication look like?

There are several brands for this medication and you may not see yours shown exactly below. Please check with your transplant pharmacists if you have any questions.

<p>Mycophenolate mofetil 250 mg</p>  <p>Blue and orange capsule</p>	<p>Mycophenolate sodium 180 mg</p>  <p>Light green round tablet</p>
<p>Mycophenolate mofetil 500 mg</p>  <p>Purple tablet</p>	<p>Mycophenolate sodium 360 mg</p>  <p>Light pink oval tablet</p>

What is this medication for?

Mycophenolate is a medication used to lower your body's immune system to prevent your transplanted organ from being rejected. It makes your white blood cells weaker so they cannot damage the new organ.

How should I take this medication?

It is important to take your medications at the same time each day in order to keep a steady amount (drug level) in your body.

<p>For mycophenolate mofetil: take this medication every 12 hours (for example 9 AM and 9 PM)</p>	<p>Your medication time: _____</p>
<p>For mycophenolate sodium: take this medication every 12 hours (for example 9 AM and 9 PM)</p>	<p>Your medication time: _____</p>

- Mycophenolate should be taken **with food** to decrease stomach upset, but may be taken on an empty stomach if preferred. Be consistent, if you take it with food, always take it with food; if you take it on an empty stomach, always take it on an empty stomach.

- Do not take calcium supplements or antacids (Diovol[®], Maalox[®], etc.) within 2 hours of mycophenolate as antacids may decrease the absorption of the medication by the body.
- You may take mycophenolate at the same time with stomach acid reducing medications (e.g. ranitidine (Zantac[®]), pantoprazole (Tecta[®]) etc.).
- In case you need to go for a procedure or an operation that requires you to not eat anything before (fasting), you **must** still take your transplant medications with a sip of water at your regular time.

Remember: If you are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, you must check with your doctor or transplant team as soon as possible.

Missed Dose or Vomited Dose:

If you miss a dose, take your medication as soon as you remember and then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. If you are more than half way to your next dose, skip the missed dose and continue with your regular schedule. Do not double or take extra doses.

If you **missed more than 1 day** of anti-rejection medications, contact your transplant team immediately for further instructions.

If you vomit within 30 minutes of taking the dose or if you see some of the medication come up, then repeat the dose. Otherwise, just continue on with your next scheduled dosing time.

What are some possible side effects of this medication?

Side Effect	Management
<i>Heartburn, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea</i>	Make sure you take mycophenolate with food. Diarrhea often starts after a few months of taking mycophenolate. Notify your doctor or transplant team if diarrhea persists or if it is very bothersome.
<i>Mycophenolate can lower the number of your white blood cells, red blood cells and platelets.</i> <i>You may be at an increased risk for infection and bleeding</i>	Regular blood work will be done to check your blood cell counts. Check with your doctor if you have any: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs or symptoms of infection (fever or chills, cough, sore throat or pain or difficulty passing urine) • Signs of bleeding (bruising, tarry stools, vomiting of blood or blood in the urine) • Signs of decreased red blood cells (weakness or tiredness, fainting spells, light-headedness) Try to avoid close contact with people who have active infections (like cold/flu). Practice frequent hand washing.
<i>Cancer</i>	Taking this medication may increase your risk of skin and other cancers. Please inform your transplant team if you are diagnosed with cancer. For additional information, please see section on “Cancer Risk”.