

COLCHICINE

WHAT IT DOES:

Colchicine is used to treat or prevent gout attacks.

HOW IT WORKS:

It relieves or prevents gout attacks by decreasing inflammation.

HOW TO TAKE IT:

This medication can be taken with food to reduce the possibility of stomach upset. For patients taking small amounts of colchicine regularly as prevention therapy:

- Take this medicine regularly as directed by your doctor, even if you feel well. If you are taking colchicine to prevent gout attacks, and you are also taking another medicine to reduce the amount of uric acid in your body, you probably will be able to stop taking colchicine after a while. However, if you stop taking it too soon, your attacks may return or get worse.
- If you are taking colchicine to prevent gout attacks ask your doctor to recommend other medicine to be taken if an attack occurs. Most people receiving preventive amounts of colchicine should not take extra colchicine to relieve an attack. However, some people cannot take the other medicines that are used for gout attacks and will have to take extra colchicine. If you are one of these people, ask your doctor to tell you the largest amount of colchicine you should take for an attack and how long you should wait before starting to take the smaller preventive amount again. Be sure to follow these directions carefully.

For patients taking colchicine only when needed to relieve an attack:

- Start taking this medicine at the first sign of the attack for best results.
- Stop taking this medicine as soon as the pain is relieved or at the first sign of nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, or diarrhea. Also, stop taking colchicine when you have taken the largest amount that your doctor ordered for each attack, even if the pain is not relieved or none of these side effects occurs.
- The first few times you take colchicine, keep a record of each dose as you take it. Then, whenever stomach upset (nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, or diarrhea) occurs, count the number of doses you have taken. The next time you need colchicine, stop taking it before that number of doses is reached. If taking fewer doses does not prevent stomach upset from occurring after a few treatments, check with your doctor.
- After taking colchicine tablets to treat an attack, do not take any more colchicine for at least 3 days.

- If you are taking colchicine for an attack of gout, and you are also taking another medicine to reduce the amount of uric acid in your body, do not stop taking the other medicine. Continue taking other medicine as directed by your doctor.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU MISS A DOSE:

If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If you do not remember the missed dose until it is time for the next dose (ie: within 6 hours of your next dose if medication taken as a single daily dose or within 3 hours if medication taken more frequently than once daily), omit the missed dose and resume your regular dosing schedule.

DO NOT DOUBLE YOUR DOSE OR TRY TO “CATCH UP” BY TAKING EXTRA DOSES.

POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS:

Stop taking this medicine immediately if you experience diarrhea; nausea or vomiting; stomach pain. Also, check with your doctor immediately if you experience:

- Black, tarry stools; blood in urine or stools; difficulty in breathing when exercising; fever with or without chills; headache; large, hive-like swellings on the face, eyelids, mouth, lips, and/or tongue; pinpoint red spots on skin; sores, ulcers, or white spots on lips or in mouth; sore throat; unusual bleeding or bruising; unusual tiredness or weakness.

Check with your doctor as soon as possible if you experience:

- Muscle weakness; numbness in fingers or toes; skin rash or hives.

Check with your doctor if either of the following side effects continues or is bothersome:

- Loss of appetite.
- Loss of hair.

WHY I AM TAKING THIS MEDICINE:
