



Risks and Benefits of Rifampin Prophylaxis Fact Sheet

Rifampin is the drug of choice for prophylaxis (preventing disease) of close contacts of patients with Meningococcal disease and H. influenzae infection.

Rifampin is 90-95% effective at reducing these types of bacteria in the nose and throat, therefore preventing spread of these infections.

Rifampin is not an effective treatment for those infections. Any exposed persons developing febrile illness or signs and symptoms of Meningococcal disease or H. influenzae infection within 10 days of exposure should see a physician immediately.

Adverse side effects to Rifampin are infrequent; however, if you should develop any of the following symptoms stop the medication and call your physician or the Oklahoma City-County Health Department at 425-4437.

- Dizziness or drowsiness
- Headache or visual change
- Nausea and vomiting
- Abdominal pain or diarrhea
- Itching or rash

If you are taking birth control pills, this medication may make them ineffective. You may want to use an alternative method.

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It can also interfere with some seizure and anticoagulant medications and is not recommended for use during pregnancy.

Rifampin may also change your urine, feces, sweat, saliva and tears to an orange color. This color change is not harmful but may discolor soft contact lens, sometimes permanently.

*For further information, contact the
Oklahoma City-County Health Department
(405) 425-4437*

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