

Ciclosporin



Changi
General Hospital

SingHealth

Which type of skin conditions are treated with ciclosporin?

Ciclosporin is prescribed for conditions in which the immune system is too active. It is only licensed to treat psoriasis and eczema. However, it is also sometimes used in bullous pemphigoid, pyoderma gangrenosum, chronic actinic dermatitis, and cutaneous vasculitis.

What dosage should I take?

The dose prescribed depends on your body weight. Ciclosporin is taken in capsule form twice daily. The total dose is within the range of 2 to 5 mg/kg body weight per day.

What are the possible side effects of ciclosporin?

For some people, ciclosporin can cause nausea, diarrhoea, gum overgrowth, tiredness, excessive hair growth and mild tremors. Sometimes a burning sensation of the hands and feet is felt early in the treatment. Ciclosporin can also affect the liver if it is taken at high doses.

The long-term side effects include reduced function of the kidneys and an increase in blood pressure. The dosage of ciclosporin has to be reduced or stopped if there is a rise in blood pressure or adverse effects on the kidneys. If the treatment is monitored and appropriate adjustments are made, these side effects are usually reversible. Ciclosporin can also cause increased lipid levels (e.g., cholesterol) in the blood.

Taking ciclosporin for a number of years increases your risks of getting certain types of cancer such as skin cancer, you should also limit your sun exposure. Speak to your doctor if you are worried.

How will I be monitored for side effects of ciclosporin treatment?

Your doctor will arrange for you to undergo regular tests and checks on your blood pressure. These tests will be carried out frequently and less often once the dose is stable.

Does ciclosporin affect fertility or pregnancy?

It is best not to take ciclosporin if you are pregnant. If you are planning to start a family or if you become pregnant while taking ciclosporin, you should discuss this with your doctor as soon as possible. Do not breastfeed while taking ciclosporin.

Can I take other medicines at the same time?

Ciclosporin may be prescribed in combination with the other drugs. However, certain drugs may interact with it and you should always inform your doctor that you are taking ciclosporin. Do not take over-the-counter drugs without first discussing with your doctor or pharmacist.

Can I have immunisation injections while on ciclosporin?

Avoid immunisation injections with any of the live vaccines such as polio and rubella (German measles). Flu vaccines and Pneumovax are safe to take.



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