

MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL (CELLCEPT)

MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL (MMF) is FDA approved for prophylaxis of organ rejection concomitantly with cyclosporine and corticosteroids in patients receiving allogenic renal (CellCept®, Myfortic®), cardiac (CellCept®), or hepatic (CellCept®). However, it is a potent immunosuppressant and thus has potential for more wide-ranging use. You are to start taking MMF for your neurologic problem

The medicine comes in 250 mg and 500 mg tablets. The standard dose is 1000 mg twice a day. Some people need a higher dose of 1500 mg twice a day.

The primary side effect that you might notice is gastrointestinal upset. To help overcome this, you should begin the medicine at one 250 mg tablet twice a day for the first five days and increase by adding one tablet morning and evening every five days until you get to the total dose of four tablets twice a day.

		Number of Pills (250 mg)		
	Insert date	Morning	Night	Notes
Begin		1	1	
After 5 days		2	2	
After 5 days		3	3	
After 5 days		4	4	Call your doctor

Because the medicine may reduce your blood count, you need to get blood tests weekly for the first month of treatment, twice monthly for the second and third months, and then monthly thereafter. The results should be faxed to your doctor.

The main warnings relate to the possibility of increased risk of lymphoma and other malignancies. In order to lessen this risk, eventually you should try to get off your other immunosuppressants. Occasional persons get skin lesions. Thus, a yearly physical examination by an internist and a dermatologist is mandatory.

Please call your doctor's office two and four weeks after you begin the medication to report how you are doing. If you don't hear about your laboratory studies, then you should assume they are normal, and you will continue to raise the dose until you are taking 1000 mg (1 gram) twice daily. At that point, you should call your doctor for further instructions.

More information can be found at

<http://www.rochetransplant.com/product/cellcept/default.aspx>.

MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL (By mouth)
Mycophenolate Mofetil (mye-koe-FEN-oh-late MOE-fe-til)

Used with other medicines to keep your body from rejecting an organ transplant (heart, kidney, liver). This medicine is an immunosuppressant.

Brand Name(s): Cellcept

There may be other brand names for this medicine.

When This Medicine Should Not Be Used:

You should not use this medicine if you have had an allergic reaction to mycophenolate or mycophenolic acid. Do not use this medicine if you are pregnant or breast feeding.

How to Use This Medicine:

Capsule, Tablet, Liquid

- Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use and how often. Do not use more medicine or use it more often than your doctor tells you to.
- Use only the brand of this medicine that your doctor prescribed. Different brands may not work the same way.
- Take this medicine on an empty stomach, at least 1 hour before, or 2 hours after you eat.
- Swallow the **tablet** or **capsule** whole. Do not break, open, crush, or chew it. If a capsule opens or a tablet breaks, throw it away. Avoid getting the medicine powder on your skin or in your eyes, nose, or mouth. If this does happen, wash your skin with soap and water and rinse well. Rinse your eyes, nose, or mouth with large amounts of plain water.
- Measure the oral liquid medicine with a marked measuring spoon, oral syringe, or medicine cup.
- Do not mix the **oral liquid** with any other medicines.

If a dose is missed:

- If you miss a dose or forget to use your medicine, use it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.

How to Store and Dispose of This Medicine:

- Store the medicine in a closed container at room temperature, away from heat, moisture, and direct light. Keep the medicine tightly closed. You may store the **oral liquid** in the refrigerator, but do not freeze it.
- The **oral liquid** will expire 60 days after you get it from the pharmacy. Dispose of any medicine that you still have after 60 days. Ask your pharmacist, doctor, or health caregiver about the best way to dispose of any outdated medicine or medicine no longer needed.
- Keep all medicine away from children and never share your medicine with anyone.

Drugs and Foods to Avoid:

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medicine, including over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products.

- Make sure your doctor knows if you are also using acyclovir (Zovirax®), azathioprine (Imuran®), ganciclovir (Cytovene®), antibiotics, or medicines to treat high cholesterol (such as cholestyramine, colestevlam, colestipol, Colestid, Questran®, Prevalite®, Welchol).
- If you are also using antacids that contain aluminum or magnesium (such as Maalox®), do not use them at the same time as mycophenolate. Use them 1 hour before, or 2 hours after your dose of mycophenolate. If you have questions, talk with your doctor about the best times to use your

medicines.

- Talk to your doctor before getting flu shots or other vaccines while you are receiving this medicine. Vaccines may not work as well, or they could make you ill while you are using this medicine.

Warnings While Using This Medicine:

- Using this medicine while you are pregnant can harm your unborn baby. Your doctor may give you a pregnancy test before you start using the medicine to make sure you are not pregnant. Birth control pills may not work while you are using this medicine. To keep from getting pregnant, use two other forms of birth control such as condoms, a diaphragm, or contraceptive foam or jelly. Use the two forms of birth control while you are using this medicine and for 6 weeks after your treatment ends. If you think you have become pregnant while using the medicine, tell your doctor right away.
- Make sure your doctor knows if you have high blood pressure, or stomach disorders such as ulcers or colitis. Tell your doctor if you have Lesch-Nyhan or Kelley-Seegmiller syndrome.
- Your doctor will need to check your blood at regular visits while you are using this medicine. Be sure to keep all appointments.
- You may be more likely to get infections while using this medicine. Tell your doctor if you have symptoms of an infection, such as fever or chills. Try to stay away from people with colds, flu, or other infections.
- Using this medicine may cause you to have a higher risk of getting skin cancer or cancer of the lymph system. Talk to your doctor if you have concerns about this risk.
- Use a strong sunscreen (SPF-30 or higher) on your skin when you are outdoors. You may also wear a hat and cover your skin with clothing. Avoid sunlamps and tanning beds.

Possible Side Effects While Using This Medicine:

Call your doctor right away if you notice any of these side effects:

- Bloody, black, or tarry stools.
- Fever, chills, cough, sore throat, and body aches.
- Problems with urination.
- Severe stomach pain, bloody vomit or vomit that looks like coffee grounds.
- Sores or white patches on your lips, mouth, or throat.
- Swelling in your hands, ankles, or feet.
- Trouble breathing, chest pain, fast heartbeats.
- Unusual bruising, bleeding, or weakness.

If you notice these less serious side effects, talk with your doctor:

- Diarrhea, constipation.
- Headache, blurred vision.
- Joint or muscle pain.
- Nausea, vomiting, indigestion.
- Runny or stuffy nose.
- Trouble sleeping.

If you notice other side effects that you think are caused by this medicine, tell your doctor.

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