

D-PENICILLAMINE - patient information leaflet.

What is it?

Penicillamine is an immunosuppressive medicine, which means that it works by reducing the activity of the immune system (your bodies defence mechanisms). It is used to control symptoms of Rheumatoid Arthritis, Wilson's disease and sometimes other conditions like scleroderma. Penicillamine is not an antibiotic and should not be confused with Penicillin.

How often you should take it?

It is usually taken twice daily but you will be advised by your doctor how often to take the medication.

What are the common side effects?

It can potentially cause kidney function problems, making your kidneys to become leaky. It is important to adhere to regular blood and urine tests as advised by your GP.

What to look out for and what action to take?

- nausea (feeling sick)
- diarrhea
- skin rashes, mouth ulcers and altered taste in mouth
- any other new symptoms or anything else that concerns you.

Speak to your doctor or specialist (hospital) nurses, if you develop any of these symptoms after starting medication.

- If any of above symptoms are severe
- You develop rashes or mouth ulcers
- You develop chicken pox or shingles
- You notice difficulty breathing on starting medication

Stop the medication and contact your GP surgery on **01332 667911**. Or phone nurse rheumatologist line on **01332 787710**.

Or Contact out of hour service on **111** during out of hours or weekends.

Other Considerations:

You might need to avoid live vaccines whilst on this treatment but speak to your GP about this if needed.

It's fine to drink alcohol in moderation whilst on Penicillamine.

Pregnancy and breast feeding are best avoided whilst on Penicillamine. If you are planning a family or if you become pregnant speak to your GP.

Regular blood tests and urine tests are very important; you shouldn't take Penicillamine unless you have regular checks.

Other medication can interact with Penicillamine, including over the counter medications. Please check with your GP before you take any.

If you have any other concerns or want more information, speak to your GP or specialist nurses on the numbers provided.