

Myocrisin (gold) injections

Rheumatology Department Patient Information Leaflet

Please keep this information in a safe place

Introduction

Myocrisin is in a family of drugs called disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs). Whilst your specialist will suggest the drug he feels is best to treat you at the time, based on research and extensive knowledge of the drug, you will always have the choice to discuss other treatment options and alternative therapies.

What are myocrisin injections?

Myocrisin (gold) injections are used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and arthritis with psoriasis. They work by slowing down the progression of the arthritis and helping to dampen down inflammation.

How are myocrisin injections given?

Myocrisin is given by an injection into the muscle, usually in the thigh or buttock. The area should then be massaged gently. Your myocrisin injections will usually be given to you by the practice nurse at your GP surgery or by the district nurse.

To begin the treatment, most patients receive a small 'test' dose to check that they are not allergic to the myocrisin. After this the injections are usually given at weekly intervals to begin with. If you respond well to the weekly dosage of myocrisin, the frequency of the injections may be reduced to fortnightly or monthly.

How long will it take to work?

You may feel some benefit after eight or twelve weeks but it may take quite a few months before you feel the full benefit. When the myocrisin is working, you should have less pain and stiffness in your joints. If myocrisin works for you, you may be able to stay on it for many years.

Will I have any side effects?

Most patients have no side effects. However, side effects can include a metallic taste in the mouth, a rash and itching.

Occasionally, myocrisin can cause mouth ulcers, sore throats or diarrhoea. More rarely, myocrisin can cause bruising or unusual shortness of breath. If you have any of these problems, you should stop the injections and contact your consultant or the rheumatology helpline.

Do I need any special tests?

Yes because in a few patients myocrisin can affect certain blood cells and the kidneys. For this reason, you will need to have a blood and urine test with each injection. If you have an injection every week, you will need a blood test and a urine test every week but if you have an injection every month, the blood test and urine test will need to be done each month.

You may be asked to test your urine at home and if so, we will give you instructions about this.

It is your responsibility to have these blood tests and it is important that you do not miss any of them. In order for us to receive the results from your blood tests, you will have to have them at any of the following centres:

Russells Hall Hospital: Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 7.30pm (excluding 12noon to 5pm on Tuesday and 8am to 12noon on Friday) or Saturday, 8am to 10am. No appointments required.

Corbett Hospital: Monday to Friday, 8am to 6pm.
No appointments required.

Netherton Health Centre: Appointment required, ring 01384 366500.

Cross Street Health Centre: Appointment required, ring 01384 366257.

Ladies Walk Clinic: Appointment required, ring 01902 575103.

Do myocrisin injections affect pregnancy?

It is not advisable to have myocrisin injections if you are pregnant. If you think you are pregnant or if you are planning a pregnancy, discuss this with your consultant. You should not breastfeed if you are having myocrisin injections.

Can I drink alcohol while having myocrisin injections?

You can drink alcohol within reason but we recommend that you stay within the government guidelines (two to three units a day for women and three to four a day for men).

What alternatives are there to this treatment?

You do not have to take this treatment and can always discuss alternatives with the Rheumatology Department. Some people find that complementary therapy treatment is useful and leaflets about this, provided by Arthritis Research Council, are available in our clinics.

Over-the-counter medications may be used alone or in combination with prescribed medication you are taking; however, you are always advised to discuss these with your consultant before taking them. Medication bought over the counter may help to control your pain but **not always** the condition. Always tell the pharmacist which prescribed medications you are already taking when buying over-the-counter drugs.

Remember, while you are on this medication, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have regular blood tests and it is important that you do not miss any of these tests. If your hospital appointment is rescheduled, contact the rheumatology helpline if you need more blood forms.

Can I find out more?

You can find out more from the following:

Arthritis Care

Tel: 0808 800 4050

Website: www.arthritiscare.org.uk

NHS Choices

Website: www.nhs.uk

If you have any questions, or if there is anything you do not understand about this leaflet, please contact:

Rheumatology helpline on 01384 244789 (this is an answer machine so please do not use this helpline in an emergency)

or speak to your pharmacist

You can download or print this leaflet from:

<http://dudleygroup.nhs.uk/services-and-wards/rheumatology/>

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 073 0510.

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此宣传单可提供大字版本、音频版本和其它语言版本，请拨打电话：0800 073 0510。

Ulotka dostępna jest również w dużym druku, wersji audio lub w innym języku. W tym celu zadzwoń pod numer 0800 073 0510.

ਇਹ ਪਰਚਾ ਵੱਡੇ ਅੱਖਰਾਂ, ਬੋਲ ਕੇ ਰੀਕਾਰਡ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਦੂਸਰੀਆਂ ਭਾਸ਼ਾਵਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਹੋ ਸਕਦਾ ਹੈ, 0800 073 0510 ਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ ਜੀ।

Aceasta brosură poate fi pusă la dispoziție tipărită cu caractere mari, versiune audio sau în alte limbi, pentru acest lucru va rugăm sunați la 0800 073 0510.

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