



Mycophenolate Factsheet

TREATMENT WITH MYCOPHENOLATE

Mycophenolate is an immunosuppressant drug. This means that it reduces the activity of your immune or defence system. If you have vasculitis and your immune system is attacking parts of your own body, mycophenolate may be prescribed to you to help control your immune system and your symptoms.

Types of vasculitis which respond to mycophenolate include Granulomatosis, with Polyangiitis (GPA), Microscopic Polyangiitis (MPA) and Eosinophilic Granulomatosis with Polyangiitis (EGPA).

Mycophenolate comes in two forms - mycophenolate mofetil (brand name Cellcept and mycophenolic acid (brand name Myfortic) . The total daily dose will depend on your condition and whether you have any complications such as kidney problems. You will probably be given a low dose to start with which will be increased to a maintenance dose as you get used to the medication.

It can sometimes be a few weeks before you notice any beneficial effects and several months before the maximum benefit is achieved. The length of time you will have to take mycophenolate will depend on the type of vasculitis you have and your response to treatment. Typically, patients have to take it for at least 12 months.

Because mycophenolate can affect the number of blood cells your bone marrow produces you will need to have blood tests to monitor your blood count. This needs to be done before treatment, every week for four weeks, twice a month for 2 months then monthly for the first year. Many people do not have any problems with mycophenolate. However, side effects you need to be aware of include:

- **Nausea, vomiting, stomach pain, diarrhoea, or constipation**
- **Fever, chills, body aches, flu symptoms**
- **Pale skin, easy bruising or bleeding, unusual weakness, trouble breathing, fast heart rate**
- **Bloody, black, or tarry stools**
- **Coughing up blood or vomit that looks like coffee grounds**
- **Pain or difficulty passing urine**
- **Chest pain**