

Mycophenolate, CELLCEPT®, MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL®, MYFENAX®, MYFORTIC® – in the treatment of rheumatic diseases

Indications

Mycophenolate is used for treatment of systemic connective tissue diseases, especially SLE (systemic lupus erythematosus), myositis and vasculitis (inflammation of the muscles and blood vessels), and lung fibrosis associated with connective tissue diseases.

Drug product and mode of action

The drug prevents the action of lymphocytes that maintain the inflammatory reaction. The action is similar to that of cytostatic drugs.

Dosage and method of administration

The most commonly used dosage of mycophenolate in the treatment of connective tissue diseases is 1-2 g / day divided into two doses. Mycophenolate can be given as capsules, tablets or in liquid form. It can be taken on an empty stomach or with meals, preferably with plenty of fluid.

Adverse effects

The most common adverse effects of mycophenolate are gastrointestinal irritation symptoms (diarrhoea and nausea), a decrease in the number of white or red blood cells, changes in liver enzymes, altered sense of taste, muscle weakness and joint pain. Mycophenolate may increase susceptibility to infections. The drug is not given during a severe infection.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Mycophenolate must not be used during pregnancy or breastfeeding. When planning a pregnancy, withdrawing the medication is recommended six weeks before pregnancy.

Follow-up

Safety tests are taken 2-3, 6 and 12 weeks after onset of treatment, and then once every 3–6 months. The results are checked at the health centre. The safety tests include the following: Basic blood count, B-NEUT and ALT. CREA, U-ChemScr, CRP and ESR are measured in connection with treatment assessment before doctor's appointment every 6–12 months.

Other considerations

There is no need to stop the drug for surgery unless there are problems with wound healing. During treatment, vaccines that contain live attenuated organisms can be given with discretion.

Link [Reumalääkkeiden ohjeet | Reumatalo.fi | Terveyskylä.fi](#) (in Finnish)

[Wellbeing services county of Satakunta](#)