

Patient Information

Cellcept

Eye Unit

What is it?

Mycophenolate mofetil (Cellcept) is a drug that has been used to treat patients who have inflammation following transplant of organs such as heart, kidney and liver. Their immune cells need to be 'switched off' to stop them from attacking the donor organ. Clinical studies have shown that Cellcept can also prevent inflammation within the eye.

When should Cellcept not be used? (Or only after discussion with your Consultant)

- If you are or think you may be pregnant
- If you have liver or kidney disease
- If you are breast feeding
- If you have recently had or are about to have vaccinations
- If you are on oral anti-coagulants such as Warfarin or anti-gout agents such as Allopurinol.

When should you be careful taking Cellcept? Be sure to tell your doctor if:-

- You have any unexplained bruising or bleeding
- You have episodes of infection
- You are on any other medication

Can I have immunisations while I am on Cellcept? You should avoid immunisation with live vaccines such as:

- Oral Polio
- Rubella (German Measles)
- Yellow Fever
- Oral typhoid
- Tuberculosis

It is safe to have these immunisations:

- Hepatitis
- Influenza
- Tetanus

- Pneumo-vaccine
- Meningo-vaccine
- Injected Polio
- Injected Typhoid

How should Cellcept be taken?

Always take the tablets as your Doctor directs.

Swallow tablets whole, do not suck or chew them.

Your Specialist will tell you what does to take which may change continually. You will be taking between 1-3 grams per day. This depends on your body weight and your response therapy.

If you miss a dose take it as soon as you realise. However, if you do not realise until the next day, skip the missed dose and carry on as before. **Do not take double the dose.**

If you take too many tablets or someone else accidentally takes your medicine, contact your doctor, pharmacist or the nearest hospital straight away.

What are possible side effects?

Normally this treatment is tolerated well. You may, however have some unwanted reactions.

Initially you may feel nausea after tablets, which is often relieved by taking them after food.

General tiredness can occur at first but wears off after continued use.

Diarrhoea can also occur initially but wears off with continued use or reduced dose.

Your blood count is monitored regularly because Cellcept can reduce your cell count. Levels return to normal when treatment is reduced or stopped.

Occasionally, people experience a slight shake, headache or muscle pain.

There are other less common effects including agitation and anxiety, impaired liver function and jaundice. Some people have an increased incidence of infections both viral and bacterial, so it is important to inform your doctor if you feel at all unwell. Lymphoma has been reported but is very rare. In cases of serious effects the treatment is stopped completely.

Does Cellcept affect fertility or pregnancy?

We advise all women of child-bearing age who are taking immunosuppressive treatments to avoid pregnancy as some drugs can increase the risk of birth defects and/or developmental problems. Men taking immunosuppressive treatments may also need to take precautions.

The most appropriate form of contraception depends on the medications you are taking so please ask us for advice. Please let us know if you wish to plan a family so that we can discuss treatment options with you.

If you experience any problems relating to the drug, contact your GP or Eye Department at the Royal Gwent Hospital.

Urgent Referral:- 01633 – 238856
(out of hours)

**“This document is available in Welsh /
Mae’r ddogfen hon ar gael yn Gymraeg”.**