

**Rifadin®**  
**150mg Capsules**  
*Rifampicin*

**Is this leaflet hard to see or read? Phone 01 403 5600 for help.**

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you start taking this medicine.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their symptoms are the same as yours.
- If any side effects gets serious, or if you notice any side effect not listed in this leaflet, please tell your doctor or pharmacist.

**In this leaflet:**

1. What Rifadin is and what it is used for
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**1. What Rifadin is and what it is used for**

Rifadin 150mg Capsules are one of a group of medicines called antibiotics. They are used to treat tuberculosis (also known as TB), and are active against some other organisms.

**2. Before you take Rifadin**

**Do not take Rifadin if:**

- You are allergic (hypersensitive) to rifampicin or any of the other ingredients.
- You have yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice).
- You are taking saquinavir or ritonavir for HIV infection (see 'Taking other medicines' section below).
- You are taking medicine called lurasidone for schizophrenia and bipolar disorders (see 'Taking other medicines' section below).
- You are taking cabotegravir, fostemsavir and lenacapavir for viral infections like HIV as rifampicin may reduce the blood levels of these medicines.

Do not take if any of the above apply to you. If you are not sure, talk to your doctor, nurse or pharmacist before taking Rifadin.

**Warnings and precautions**

**Inform your doctor immediately while taking this medicine**

- If your symptoms of tuberculosis return or get worse (see 4. Possible side effects)
- If you develop new or sudden worsening of shortness of breath, possibly with a dry cough or fever not responding to antibiotic treatment. These could be symptoms of lung inflammation (interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis) and can lead to serious breathing

problems due to collection of fluid in the lungs and interfere with normal breathing which can lead to life threatening conditions

### **Take special care with Rifadin**

#### **Tell your doctor or pharmacist if:**

- You have a history of lung inflammation (interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis)
- You have liver or kidney problems
- You have a problem with bleeding or tendency to bruise easily
- You are taking other antibiotics at the same time
- You have a rare blood problem called 'porphyria'
- Rifadin may produce a discolouration (yellow, orange, red, brown) of the teeth, urine, sweat, sputum and tears. If you wear contact lenses- please note that Rifadin may permanently stain soft contact lenses.
- The person having this medicine is a child
- You are aged 65 years or older

Severe skin reaction such as severe extensive skin damage (separation of the epidermis and superficial mucous membranes) (toxic epidermal necrolysis, TEN,), skin blistering, red/purple rash, fever headache, cough and joint pain (Stevens-Johnson syndrome, SJS) or large areas of red, swollen skin with small pus-filled elevations (acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis, AGEP) may occur. Treatment must be immediately discontinued if any symptoms or signs of AGEP, SJS or TEN are present.

If you are not sure if any of the above apply to you, talk to your doctor or pharmacist before taking Rifadin.

#### **Blood Tests**

Your doctor will need to check your blood before you are given this medicine. This will help your doctor know if any changes happen to your blood after taking this medicine. You may also need to have regular blood tests to check how your liver is working.

#### **Taking other medicines**

Please tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines. This includes medicines you buy without a prescription, including herbal medicines. This is because Rifadin can affect the way some other medicines work. Also some medicines can affect the way Rifadin work.

#### **In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking:**

- Saquinavir or ritonavir used for HIV infection.
- Other antibiotic medicines such as cefazolin (concomitant use should be avoided as it may lead to severe blood disorders, which may result in fatal outcome (especially in high doses).

#### **The following medicines can make Rifadin work less well:**

- Antacids used for indigestion. Take Rifadin at least 1 hour before taking antacids
- Other medicines used for TB such as P-aminosalicylic acid (PAS). PAS and Rifadin should be taken at least 8 hours apart.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any of the following medicines:**

### **Heart and blood medicines**

- Medicines for high blood pressure.
- Medicines for heart problems or to control your heartbeat.
- Some medicines used to thin the blood such as warfarin, clopidogrel.
- Medicine used to lower cholesterol such as simvastatin.

### **Mental health, epilepsy and motor neurone medicines**

- Medicines for thought disorders known as ‘antipsychotics’ such as haloperidol.
- Medicines to calm or reduce anxiety (hypnotics, anxiolytics).
- Medicines to help you sleep (barbiturates).
- Medicines used for epilepsy such as phenytoin.
- Some medicines used for depression such as nortriptyline.
- Lurasidone for schizophrenia and bipolar disorders, as rifampicin may reduce the blood levels of lurasidone.

### **Medicines for infections and the immune system**

- Some medicines used for viral infections such as indinavir, efavirenz, ritonavir, saquinavir, zidovudine, cabotegravir, fostemsavir, lenacapavir.
- Medicines used for the treatment of fungal infections such as caspofungin, fluconazole, itraconazole, ketoconazole.
- Medicines used for bacterial infections (antibiotics).
- Medicines used for lowering your immune system such as ciclosporin and tacrolimus.
- Praziquantel - used for tapeworm infections.
- Atovaquone - used for pneumonia.
- Medicines used to treat Hepatitis C such as daclatasvir, simeprevir, sofosbuvir, and telaprevir. Concurrent use of treatment of antiviral hepatitis C drugs and Rifadin should be avoided.
- Dapsone: If you are taking dapsone (an antibiotic) with rifampicin, it may cause haematological toxicity including a decrease in bone marrow and blood cells, and methemoglobinemia (decrease in oxygen in your blood caused by changes in red blood cells)

### **Hormone and cancer medicines**

- Some hormone medicines (estrogen, systemic hormones, progestogens) used for contraception.
- Some hormone medicines (anti-estrogens) used for breast cancer or endometriosis such as tamoxifen and toremifene.
- Levothyroxine (thyroid hormone) used for thyroid problems.
- Irinotecan - used for cancer.

### **Pain, inflammation and gout medicines**

- Medicines used for pain.
- Paracetamol: If you are taking paracetamol and rifampicin, it can increase the risk of liver damage
- Corticosteroids used for inflammation such as hydrocortisone, betamethasone and prednisolone.
- Methadone - used for heroin withdrawal.

### **Other medicines**

- Medicines used for diabetes.
- Medicines used to relax muscles before surgery (anaesthetics) such as halothane.
- Some medicines used for feeling sick or being sick such as ondansetron.
- Quinine - used for malaria.
- Theophylline - used for wheezing or difficulty in breathing.

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are pregnant and planning or required to undergo pregnancy termination using mifepristone.

### **Taking Rifadin with food and drink**

You should swallow your capsules whole with water, but not with food. The capsules should be taken either 30 minutes before a meal or 2 hours after a meal.

### **Pregnancy and breast-feeding**

Tell your doctor if you are or may be pregnant or are breastfeeding. If you are using oral contraception (“the Pill”) it is important that you use an alternative barrier method of contraception or the “coil” whilst taking Rifadin and to continue using this form of contraception for two weeks after finishing your course of treatment. This is because Rifadin may make “the Pill” less effective.

If you have any questions or are unsure about this talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

### **Driving and using machines**

You may feel dizzy or faint, have problems with vision or have other side effects that could affect your ability to drive while having this medicine. If this happens, do not drive or use any tools or machines.

Rifadin contains sodium

This medicine contains less than 1 mmol sodium (23 mg) per capsule, that is to say essentially ‘sodium-free’.

## **3. How to take Rifadin**

Your doctor or pharmacist will tell you how many capsules to take. The usual adult daily dose is between 3 and 4 capsules.

The usual daily dose for a child over 3 months is 15 (10-20) mg/kg body weight, however this should not usually exceed 4 capsules. Your doctor will probably reduce your dose if you have impaired liver function.

### **If you take more Rifadin than you should**

If you take more Rifadin than you should, tell a doctor or go to a hospital casualty department straight away. Take the medicine pack with you. This is so the doctor knows what you have taken.

### **If you forget to take Rifadin**

If you forget to take your capsules, take them as soon as you remember the same day. If it is nearly time for the next dose then take only that dose and do not take extra to make up for the missed capsules.

### **If you stop taking Rifadin**

You should only stop taking the capsules if your doctor tells you to. It is essential to take the capsules every day and not to stop and start them as this could cause unwanted side effects.

#### **4. Possible side effects**

Like all medicines, Rifadin can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them.

#### **Common: may affect up to 1 in 10 people**

- Paradoxical drug reaction: Symptoms of tuberculosis can return, or new symptoms can occur after initial improvement during treatment. Paradoxical reactions have been reported as early as 2 weeks and as late as 18 months after beginning anti-tuberculosis treatment. Paradoxical reactions are typically associated with fever, swollen lymph nodes (lymphadenitis), breathlessness, and cough. Patients with paradoxical drug reaction can also experience headaches, loss of appetite, and weight loss.

#### **Go to a hospital straight away if you notice any of the following serious side effects:**

- You have an allergic reaction. The signs may include: a rash, swallowing or breathing problems, wheezing, swelling of your lips, face, throat or tongue.
- You have a fever and yellowing of the skin or whites of the eyes, feel tired, weak or generally unwell, loss of appetite (anorexia), feeling sick (nausea), being sick (vomiting). These may be early signs of liver problems.
- You get blistering, peeling, bleeding, scaling or fluid filled patches on any part of your skin. This includes your lips, eyes, mouth, nose, genitals, hands or feet. You may have a serious skin problem.
- You bruise more easily than usual. Or you may have a painful rash of dark red spots under the skin which do not go away when you press on them (purpura). This could be because of a serious blood problem.
- You have chills, tiredness, unusually pale skin colour, shortness of breath, fast heartbeat or dark coloured urine. This could be signs of a serious type of anaemia.
- You have severe bleeding (haemorrhage)
- You have blood in your urine or an increase or decrease in amount of urine you produce. You may also get swelling, especially of the legs, ankles or feet. This may be caused by serious kidney problems.
- You have a sudden severe headache. This could be a sign of bleeding in the brain.
- You get confused, sleepy, cold clammy skin, shallow or difficult breathing, a racing heartbeat or your skin is paler than normal. These could be signs of shock.
- You get more infections more easily than normal. Signs include fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers. This could be because you have a low number of white blood cells.
- You have bleeding from your nose, ear, gums, throat, skin or stomach. Signs may include a feeling of tenderness and swelling in your stomach, purple spots on your skin and black or tar-like stools.
- Severe watery diarrhoea that will not stop and you are feeling weak and have a fever. This may be something called 'Pseudomembranous colitis'.

#### **If you experience the following side effects contact your doctor immediately:**

- A drug reaction that causes rash, fever inflammation of internal organs, hematologic abnormalities and systemic illness (DRESS syndrome).
- Large areas of red, swollen skin with small pus-filled elevations (acute generalized exanthematous pustulosis, AGEP).

- severe bleeding.
- itching, weakness, loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, yellowing of eyes or skin or dark urine. These symptoms might be related to a severe liver injury.

**- Not known: frequency cannot be estimated from the available data**

- Inflammation of the lungs (interstitial lung disease/pneumonitis): Tell your doctor immediately if you develop new or sudden worsening of shortness of breath, possibly with a cough or fever.

**Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you have any of the following side effects:**

- Water retention (oedema) which may cause swollen face, stomach, arms or legs.
- Muscle weakness or pain or loss of muscle reflexes.
- Dizziness, feel lightheaded and faint especially when you stand or sit up quickly (due to low blood pressure).
- Swollen fingers, toes or ankles.
- Hair loss.
- Being unable to concentrate, feeling nervous, irritable or depressed.
- Feeling very tired and weak or difficulty sleeping (insomnia).
- Short-term memory loss, anxiety, being less alert or responsive.
- Wasting of muscles or other body tissues.
- Weight loss, night sweats and fever. These could be signs of a blood condition called eosinophilia.

**Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of the following side effects get serious or lasts longer than a few days:**

- Skin flushing or itching.
- Irregular periods.
- Diarrhoea or stomach discomfort.

**Other side effects you should discuss with your doctor:**

You notice a discolouration (yellow, brown, orange or red colour) in your teeth(which may be permanent), urine, sweat, phlegm (sputum), saliva or tears. The colour may permanently stain soft contact lenses. If you notice any other side effects not listed in this leaflet talk to your doctor or pharmacist.

**Reporting of side effects**

If you get any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. You can also report side effects directly via: HPRA Pharmacovigilance Website: [www.hpra.ie](http://www.hpra.ie)

By reporting side effects you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

**5. How to store Rifadin**

Do not use Rifadin after the expiry date which is stated on the blister and carton after EXP. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month. Store in the original package in order to protect from moisture.

Do not store above 25°C. Keep out of the reach and sight of children. Your medicine could harm them. Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask

your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

## **6. Further information**

### **What Rifadin contains**

Each hard capsule contains 150mg rifampicin as the active substance. The capsules also contain maize starch and magnesium stearate. Capsule Shell: gelatin, erythrosine (E127), indigo carmine (E132) and titanium dioxide (E171). Printing Ink: shellac, antifoam DC1510 and titanium dioxide (E171).

### **What Rifadin looks like and contents of the pack**

The capsules are blue and red. Each pack contains 100 capsules.

### **Marketing Authorisation Holder and Manufacturer**

#### **Marketing Authorisation Holder:**

sanofi-aventis Ireland Ltd., T/A SANOFI, Citywest, Dublin 24,  
Ireland

Tel: 01 403 5600

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#### **Manufacturer:**

Sanofi S.r.l, Via Valcanello, 4, 03012 Anagni (FR), Italy.

**This leaflet was last updated in February 2026.**