

# RIFAMPICIN

Antibiotic, rifamycin

Availability <sup>1</sup>	Brand name	Quick guide
Oral liquid 100 mg/5 mL	Rifadin	
Capsule 150 mg, 300 mg	Rifadin, Rimycin	

<b>Effect of food</b>	Food reduces absorption. Give on an empty stomach either 30 minutes before or 2 hours after food. <sup>1</sup>
<b>Absorption</b>	Absorbed from the stomach and duodenum. <sup>1</sup> Reduced absorption of rifampicin has been reported in infants and critically-ill patients when a combination tablet (with isoniazid) was crushed and given by nasogastric tube <sup>2,3</sup> There is a case report of adequate absorption of rifampicin oral liquid when given into a PEG-J tube. <sup>4</sup>
<b>Warnings</b>	Antacids may reduce absorption. Do not give antacids within one hour of rifampicin. <sup>1</sup> Rifamycins are dark red-brown and may stain equipment. Wear a mask and gloves if opening the capsule. Antibiotics can be irritant and may cause sensitisation.

## What to do for people with enteral feeding tubes

	Stop the feed 30 minutes before giving the dose and then wait 30 minutes before restarting the feed.
<b>Option 1</b>	Use the oral liquid. Stop the feed and flush the tube with 30 mL of water. Draw the required dose into an enteral syringe and dilute with at least an equal volume of water. Mix well and give into the enteral feeding tube. Flush the tube with 30 mL of water. Rifadin is an IDDSI Level 2 Mildly Thick fluid. <sup>5</sup> Ensure it is diluted well enough to pass through the tube.
<b>Option 2</b>	Open the capsule and disperse the contents in 10–20 mL of water in an enteral syringe. See Method C for instructions. Suitable for nasogastric tubes size 8 French and larger. The capsule contents may settle quickly, shake well to avoid tube blockage. <sup>6</sup>
<b>Option 3</b>	Some pharmacies can make a suspension from the contents of the capsule or the injection. <sup>7</sup> Contact a pharmacist or a compounding pharmacy.

## What to do for people with swallowing difficulties

	Give at least 30 minutes before or 2 hours after food.
<b>Option 1</b>	Use the oral liquid. Measure the dose using an oral dispenser or a medicine measure. Rifadin is an IDDSI Level 2 Mildly Thick fluid. <sup>5</sup> It may not be suitable for some people with swallowing difficulties. See <i>About oral liquids and thickness testing</i> on p25 for more information.
<b>Option 2</b>	Open the capsule and disperse the contents in water. If the person cannot swallow thin fluids, mix the contents of the capsule with a spoonful of apple puree. <sup>8</sup> See Method F for instructions. See <i>Warnings</i> .
<b>Option 3</b>	Some pharmacies can make a suspension from the contents of the capsule or the injection. <sup>7</sup> Contact a pharmacist or a compounding pharmacy.

### REFERENCES:

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