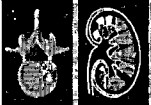


MEDICINE

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**ALLOPURINOL**

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**METABOLIC BONE AND STONE CENTER**

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## ALLOPURINOL (al-oh-PURE-i-nole)

Allopurinol is used to treat chronic gout and to prevent gout attacks. It will not relieve an attack that has already started but is used to prevent the onset of acute attacks. Allopurinol is also used to prevent or treat medical problems caused by too much uric acid in the body including certain kinds of kidney stones.

### BEFORE USING THIS MEDICINE

Tell your doctor, nurse, and pharmacist if you . .

- are breast-feeding or pregnant
- are taking any other prescription or non-prescription (OTC) medicine, especially anticoagulants (such as Coumadin), azathioprine (Imuran) or mercaptopurine
- have any other medical problems, especially diabetes, high blood pressure, liver disease, kidney disease, cancer in the bone marrow (such as leukemia or lymphoma) problems.

### PROPER USE OF THIS MEDICINE

Take this medicine with food in your stomach. If you have problems with tolerating this medicine such as upset stomach, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea or stomach pain, stop the medicine and then check with your doctor. **HOWEVER, IN ORDER FOR THIS MEDICINE TO HELP YOU, IT MUST BE TAKEN REGULARLY AS ORDERED.**

If you are taking Allopurinol to prevent gout attacks and they have continued, you may not be on a high enough dose or you are eating foods that cause a gout attack. **KEEP TAKING THIS MEDICINE EVEN IF YOU ARE TAKING ANOTHER MEDICINE SUCH AS INDOCIN OR COLCHICINE FOR THE ATTACKS.**

**IF YOU MISS A DOSE OF THIS MEDICINE,** take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back

### FOOD AND DRINK PRECAUTIONS:

Drinking too much alcohol may increase the amount of uric acid in the blood and lessens the effect of Allopurinol. In addition, eating foods that contain large amounts of uric acid (crawfish, shellfish in general, organ meats, game meats, heavy fatty pork and bacon) will also lessen the effects of Allopurinol. Allopurinol usually controls gout. However, if these foods are consumed frequently and in large quantities, you still may have a gout attack or a kidney stone despite taking Allopurinol.

**CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY IF YOU NOTICE A SKIN RASH, HIVES OR ITCHING WHILE TAKING ALLOPURINOL. CHECK WITH YOUR DOCTOR IMMEDIATELY IF CHILLS, FEVER, JOINT PAIN, MUSCLE ACHES, SORE THROAT OR NAUSEA OCCUR. CONTACT YOUR DOCTOR ESPECIALLY IF THESE SYMPTOMS OCCUR WITH OR SHORTLY AFTER A SKIN RASH. AT THIS POINT YOU MUST STOP THE MEDICINE IMMEDIATELY OR SEE YOUR DOCTOR OR GO TO THE EMERGENCY ROOM.**

One out of 10,000 patients who take Allopurinol may develop a syndrome called Stevens Johnson syndrome which is a very serious reaction to the medicine. However, it is very unlikely that this will develop considering the risks are very low.

The medicine may also cause increased liver function tests and decreased white blood cell count (cells in the blood that fight infection), so your physician should order a blood count and liver function test within two months after you start this medicine.