

Renal Services

Mycophenolate: Information for kidney transplant patients

What is it used for?

Mycophenolate mofetil (available as several brands, also known as Cellcept™ or MMF) and mycophenolate sodium (Ceptava™) are immunosuppressant drugs which help to prevent rejection of your transplanted kidney.

How does it work?

It works by stopping the body's production of cells that make up part of your immune system. This dampens down your immune system to stop rejection of your new kidney.

How do I take it?

You will usually start by taking two 500mg tablets twice daily. This can be increased or decreased by your doctor depending on blood tests and your other medication. Mycophenolate should be taken on an empty stomach where possible, but can be taken with food if you suffer from side effects. Mycophenolate mofetil is available as 250mg capsules, 500mg tablets or 1g/5ml suspension. Mycophenolate sodium (Ceptava™) is available as 180mg or 360mg tablets

Are there any side effects?

You may have an upset stomach which could include diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, heartburn or indigestion.

Mycophenolate can also lower some of your blood test results, including some types of white blood cells. Because of this, it is important that you report any unexplained bruising or bleeding as this can be a symptom. Your doctor will monitor your blood tests in clinic.

Is there anything else I need to know?

Taking immunosuppressant medicines may mean you experience some long term effects on your health that you need to be aware of. These include an increased risk of infection and an increased risk of cancer. You should follow all the general health advice given to you by the transplant team. Please read the booklet they give you carefully, as this will provide you with more information.



Patient Information

Pregnancy prevention

In women of child-bearing potential, exclude pregnancy immediately before and during treatment. Women should use 2 methods of effective contraception during treatment, and for 6 weeks after discontinuation. Men should use condoms during treatment and for at least 90 days after discontinuation; female partners of male patients should also use effective contraception during treatment and for 90 days after discontinuation of treatment

You should not be vaccinated with certain 'live' vaccines whilst you are on mycophenolate. The transplant team or pharmacist will be able to advise you on vaccines that are okay for you to have.

The Trust has access to interpreting and translation services. If you need this information in another language or format please contact 024 7696 7777 and we will do our best to meet your needs.

The Trust operates a smoke free policy.

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Department:	Renal Services
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