

Renal Services

Ciclosporin (Neoral®): information for kidney transplant patients

What is Ciclosporin (Neoral®) used for?

Ciclosporin is an immunosuppressant medicine. It helps prevent rejection of your transplanted kidney. You will be prescribed the Neoral® brand of ciclosporin.

How does Ciclosporin (Neoral®) work?

Ciclosporin 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 to take Ciclosporin (Neoral®)

You should take your Ciclosporin dose twice a day (one dose every 12 hours). You should take Ciclosporin on an empty stomach as food can affect how well your body absorbs it.

It is important to avoid grapefruit or grapefruit juice while taking ciclosporin. Grapefruit can prevent ciclosporin from being absorbed and working properly.

Ciclosporin is available in 25mg, 50mg and 100mg capsules and a 100mg/1ml solution.

You will need to have regular blood tests to check that your levels of ciclosporin are within the right range. Your doctor will decide on the right dose for you. This will depend on your test results and your other medicines. Do not be concerned if other people are taking bigger or smaller doses than you.



Side effects

- You may experience a “tingly” sensation or the “shakes”.
- You may have an upset stomach (sickness or indigestion).
- You may notice your hair getting thicker or an increase in hair growth.
- You may experience headaches or hot flushes.
- You may start to notice an overgrowth of your gums (gingival hyperplasia).
- You may notice your blood pressure has increased when it is measured in clinic.
- You may have an increase in blood fats levels (hyperlipidemia).

Important: long-term effects

You are taking immunosuppressant medicines. This means that you may experience long-term health effects. Long-term health effects include increased risks of infection and cancer.

It is important that you follow the transplant team’s health advice. Please read the booklet that they give you. It provides important information that you need.

You should not be vaccinated with ‘live’ vaccines while you are taking ciclosporin. The transplant team or pharmacist can advise you on vaccines that are safe for you.

You will have blood tests while you are an inpatient on the ward. This is to check that you are taking the right amount of ciclosporin. This blood test will be taken just before your morning dose.

After you go home, please bring your morning dose of ciclosporin with you on the days you come to clinic. The transplant team will advise you when to take it – it could be either be just after your blood test, or 2 hours before your blood test. This is because a 2-hour level can sometimes give us a better understanding of whether you are on the right dose.

Patient Information

Some common drugs, such as antibiotics, can interfere with your ciclosporin levels. This means it is important to let your GP, pharmacist or doctor providing care know that you are taking ciclosporin.

Always check with a member of the transplant team, or renal pharmacist, if you are not sure if a medicine is safe to take with your transplant medicines.

Ciclosporin is available as different brands. **You should make sure you always receive the Neoral® brand of ciclosporin and do not switch unless recommended by your transplant doctor.**

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.

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