

Renal Services

Mycophenolate: information for kidney transplant patients

What is Mycophenolate mofetil used for?

Mycophenolate mofetil (also known as Cellcept® or MMF) and mycophenolate sodium (Ceptava®) are immunosuppressant medicines. They help prevent rejection of your transplanted kidney.

How does Mycophenolate mofetil work?

Mycophenolate mofetil stops the body's production of cells that are part of your immune system. This controls your immune system to stop rejection of your new kidney.

How to take Mycophenolate

You will usually start by taking two 500mg tablets two times a day. This can be increased or decreased by your doctor. This will depend on blood tests and your other medication. Mycophenolate should be taken on an empty stomach when you can, but it 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.

Side effects

You may have an upset stomach. This can include diarrhoea, nausea, vomiting, heartburn, or indigestion.

Mycophenolate can lower your blood test results. This can include tests that measure your white blood cells. This means 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.



Important: long-term effects

You are taking immunosuppressant medicines This means that you may experience some 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 mycophenolate. The transplant team or pharmacist can advise you on vaccines that are safe for you.

Pregnancy prevention

In women of child-bearing potential, pregnancy immediately before and during mycophenolate treatment should be avoided. This is because Mycophenolate can cause congenital malformations (disease or abnormality) in the baby and there is an increased risk of abortions.

Women should use 2 methods of contraception during treatment and for 6 weeks after treatment ends. Men should use condoms during treatment and for 90 days after treatment ends. Female partners of male patients should also use effective contraception during treatment and for 90 days after treatment ends.

The transplant team would need to change Mycophenolate to an alternative before pregnancy can be planned.

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.

Patient Information

Did we get it right?

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