PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET

PATIENT INFORMATION LEAFLET: INFORMATION FOR THE USER

AKuriT*
Rifampicin/Isoniazid 150 mg/75 mg Tablets

Read all of this leaflet carefully before you or your child start taking this medicine because it contains important information for you.

- Keep this leaflet. You may need to read it again.
- If you have any further questions, ask your health care provider.
- This medicine has been prescribed for you or your child only. Do not pass it on to others. It may harm them, even if their signs of illness are the same as yours or as those of your child.
- If any of the side effects become serious, or if you notice any side effects not listed in this leaflet, please tell your health care provider.

What is in this leaflet:

1. WHAT AKuriT IS AND WHAT IT IS USED FOR

AKuriT is a combination of two antimycobacterial agents rifampicin and isoniazid. Antimycobacterial agents are divided into three groups: drugs used in tuberculosis, drugs used in leprosy and drugs used for atypical mycobacteria.

AKuriT is indicated for the treatment of tuberculosis in adults and children weighing above 30 kg.

2. WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU TAKE {PROPRIETARY NAME}

Do not take AKuriT if you:

- are hypersensitive (allergic) to isoniazid or rifampicin, or any of the other ingredients of AKuriT (see section 6, What AKuriT contains).
- have acute liver disease,
- have drug-induced liver disease,
- have experienced liver damage linked to isoniazid or rifampicin before,
- have experienced severe side effects of isoniazid or rifampicin, such as drug fever or chills,
- if you are using voriconazole (a medicine used to treat fungal infections) or a medicine against HIV infection that belongs to the class of protease inhibitors.

Warnings and precautions

AKuriT may cause liver disease (hepatitis)**.** You should be attentive to symtoms that might be due to liver damage, such as unexplained loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, dark urine, yellow discouloration of the skin (jaundice), persistent fatigue of greater than 3 days duration and abdominal pain and tenderness. If these occur, you should immediately report this to your health care provider.

* Trade names are not prequalified by WHO. This is the national medicines regulatory agency's (NMRA) responsibility. Throughout this WHOPAR the proprietary name is given as an example only.

You may be at special risk for developing hepatitis

- if you are older than 35 years,
- if you drink alcoholic beverages daily (see "Taking AKuriT with food and drink")
- if you have a chronic liver disorder
- if you are a user of injection drugs (e. g. heroin)

If you belong to one of these groups your health care provider will closely check your liver function.

Furthermore, you will be carefully monitored

- if you use any chronically administered medication concurrently (see "Taking other medicines"),
- if you suffer from tingling in the hands and feet (peripheral neuropathy),
- if you are pregnant
- if you are HIV infected.

If you get flu-like symptoms such as fever, headache, muscle aches etc., you should report this to your health care provider, since AKuriT may be the cause.

Tingling in the hands and feet (peripheral neuropathy) is the most common side effect of isoniazid, one of the active agents in AKuriT (see "Possible side effects). You should report any such symptoms to your health care provider. A certain vitamin, pyridoxine, should be administered routinely at doses of 10 mg per day during treatment with AKuriT, since it largely reduces the risk of developing neuropathy.

If you are hypersensitive to ethionamide or niacin (nicotinic acid), you should inform your health care provider, because you may also be hypersensitive to AKuriT.

If you have epilepsy or a history of psychiatric disease, you should report this to your health care provider, since it may affect your ability to tolerate AKuriT.

If you have kidney problems, diabetes or porphyria, it is important that you inform your health care provider about this, since AKuriT may then be unsuitable for you.

If you are taking cortisone or any cortisone-like drug, you should report this to your health care provider, since the cortisone dose may have to be increased while taking AKuriT.

AKuriT may cause a reddish orange discouloration of body fluids such as urine, sputum and tears. This is due to rifampicin, and does not require medical attention. Also, contact lenses may become discoloured due to AKuriT.

AKuriT may lower the effects of oral contraceptive pills. Therefore a different or additional method of contraception (e.g. condoms, intra-uterine device, pessary) should be used during treatment with AKuriT.

It is important that your health care provider knows about all your signs of illness, even when you think they are not related to tuberculosis infection.

Taking other medicines

Tell your health care provider if you are taking or have recently taken any other medicines, including medicines obtained without a prescription. These may affect the action of AKuriT, or AKuriT may affect their action. Side effects of either medicine may become worse and/or the medicines may become less effective.

You should not take AKuriT with:
- voriconazole (a medicine used to treat fungal infections).
- HIV protease inhibitors (drugs used to treat HIV infection).
- aluminium hydroxide (medicine used to treat diseases related to the gastric acid) or
- disulfiram (medicine used for the treatment of chronic alcoholism).

The active agents in AKuriT may also interact with a great number of other medicines, including for instance:
- Drugs to treat HIV infection (e.g. efavirenz, nevirapine)
- Drugs to treat fungal infections (e.g. ketoconazole, fluconazole)
- Antibiotics (e.g. clarithromycin)
- Drugs to treat malaria (e.g. quinine)
- Immunosuppressant drugs (e.g. cyclosporine, tacrolimus)
- Drugs to treat heart conditions (e.g. verapamil, digoxin)
- Drugs to treat blood lipids (e.g. simvastatin)
- Some drugs to treat diabetes (e.g. glibenclamide)
- Oral contraceptive pills
- medicines to treat epileptic seizures (e.g. phenytoin, carbamazepine, valproate)
- medicines used to help you sleep (benzodiazepines, e.g. diazepam, flurazepam, triazolam, midazolam)
- medicines for the treatment of certain psychiatric conditions (neuroleptics, e.g. chlorpromazine, haloperidol)
- medicines for prevention of blood clots (coumarin or indandione derivates, e.g. warfarin)
- medicines used at surgery (narcotics, e.g. alfentanil, enflurane)
- corticosteroids (e.g. prednisolone, medicines for the treatment of inflammations and other diseases, such as asthma or rheumatoid arthritis)
- paracetamol (pain killer)

Taking any of these drugs together with AKuriT may be unsuitable or require dose adjustment.

Taking AKuriT with food and drink

AKuriT should be taken on an empty stomach (at least one hour prior to or two hours after a meal).

You should not drink alcohol while taking AKuriT. This increases the risk of liver damage.

When taken with cheese or fish (histamine- or tyramine-rich food) AKuriT may cause redness,/itching of the skin, hot feeling, rapid or pounding heartbeat, sweating, chills or clammy feeling, headache, and/or lightheadedness. If you experience these side effects you should avoid eating cheese and fish while taking this medicine.

Pregnancy and breast-feeding

If you become pregnant, or are planning to become pregnant, you must contact your health care provider to discuss the potential benefits and risks of the tuberculosis therapy for you and your child.

Isoniazid and rifampicin are excreted into the breast milk of lactating mothers. No negative effects have been reported in breast-fed-infants whose mothers were receiving these drugs. However, drug concentrations in breast milk are so low that you cannot rely upon breast-feeding for adequate tuberculosis prophylaxis or therapy for your child.

Driving and using machines

AKuriT may cause visual disturbances, dizziness and other side effects on the nervous system that can impair your ability to drive and to use machines.

3. HOW TO TAKE AKuriT

Always take your medicine exactly as your health care provider has told you. You should check with your health care provider if you are not sure.

Usual dose

The dose of AKuriT is decided on the basis of your body weight.

For children weighing 21-30 kg, give 2 tablets daily (only for children who can swallow solid tablets)

If you weigh 30-39 kg, take 2 tablets daily.

If you weigh 40-54 kg, take 3 tablets daily.

If you weigh 55-70 kg, take 4 tablets daily

If you weigh above 70 kg, take 5 tablets daily.

AKuriT should be swallowed with water or another drink.
The tablets should be taken on an empty stomach (at least one hour prior to or two hours after a meal).

If you have a kidney-disease, your health care provider may prescribe separate formulations of the component drugs in AKuriT.

AKuriT is not recommended for children with a body weight of less than 30 kg.

Your health care provider will decide on the duration of treatment that is suitable for you.

If you take more AKuriT than you should

If you accidentally take too many tablets, immediately contact your health care provider or the nearest hospital emergency department. Take the tablet container with you so that you can easily describe what you have taken. If you have taken too much AKuriT, you may develop vomiting, gastrointestinal disturbances, fever, headache, dizziness, slurring of speech, hallucinations and/or visual disturbances. You may also get a reddish-orange discolouration of the skin, facial swelling and itching.

If you forget to take AKuriT

It is important not to miss a dose. If you miss or forget to take a dose, the missed dose should be taken as soon as possible, unless the next regular dose is scheduled within 6 hours. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for the next regular dose.

Do not take a double dose to make up for a forgotten tablet.

If you vomit less than 1 hour after taking this medicine, take another dose. You do not need to take another dose if you were sick more than 1 hour after taking AKuriT.

If you stop taking AKuriT

Do not stop taking this medicine without checking with your health care provider. Stopping your tablets too early may no longer protect you from the infection or cause it to come back.

If you have any further questions on the use of this medicine, ask your health care provider.

4. POSSIBLE SIDE EFFECTS

Like all medicines, AKuriT can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them. When treating tuberculosis, it is not always possible to differentiate between unwanted effects caused by AKuriT, and those caused by any other medicines you may be taking at the same time. For this reason, it is important that you inform your health care provider of any change in your health.

The following side effects have been reported in patients treated with AKuriT:

The most important adverse effects of isoniazid and rifampicin are nerve injuries (see below) and severe and sometimes fatal inflammation of the liver (hepatitis).

Very common side effects
(may affect more than 1 in 10 people):

- sensations of tingling, pricking, or numbness of the skin, especially in the feet and hands (peripheral neuropathy). Your health care provider will prescribe a supplementary medicine with a vitamin called pyridoxine, in order to counteract this (see above, "Take special care with AKuriT").
- increased liver enzymes as measured in blood samples (see above, "Take special care with AKuriT"). Usually, liver enzyme increases occur during the first 1-3 months of therapy and return to normal despite continued treatment. When the values rise above a certain level, your health care provider may decide to stop treatment with AKuriT.
- Flushing

Common side effects
(may affect up to 1 in 10 people):

- reddish discoloration of body fluids such as urine, sputum, tears, saliva and sweat.
- diarrhoea
- stomach pain
- loss of appetite,
- feeling sick (nausea)
- vomiting
- skin reactions with rash and/or itching
- disturbances of the menstrual cycle.

Uncommon side effects
(*may affect up to 1 in 100 people*)

- inflammation of the liver (hepatitis)
- fits (epileptic seizures)
- headache
- inflammation of the brain
- personality changes and memory impairment.

If you notice signs of illness suggestive for liver damage (see "Take special care with AKuriT"), you should inform your health care provider immediately.

Rare side effects
(*may affect up to 1 in 1000 people)*

- Inflammation of the stomach lining (gastritis)
- infection of the intestines (bowel infection)
- inflammation of the kidney (nephritis)
- Skin sensitivity to light (photosensitivity reactions)
- Inflammation or swelling of the conjunctiva or pinkeye (conjuctivitis)

Side effects of which it is not known how often they may occur

- Allergic reactions with fever, muscle aches, and cough
- Severe skin reactions with fever, blisters and involvement of the mucous membranes or life-threatening anaphylactic reactions
- dizziness, drowsiness
- confusion, disorientation, hallucination,

- inflammation of the lungs (pneumonitis)
- inflammation of the optic nerve (optic neuritis)
- build up of acid in the body (metabolic acidosis), increased blood levels of glucose, a vitamin deficiency sydrome called pellagra (with e.g. dementia, loose stools and skin inflammation)
- metallic taste, dry mouth, flatulence, constipation.
- difficulty in passing urine
- changes in the white blood cell counts (leucopenia, neutropenia, eosinophilia, agranulocytosis), possibly resulting in an increased risk of infection.
- decreased red blood cell counts (anaemia), possibly leading to fatigue, weakness and shortness of breath.
- decreased platelet count, which may result in an increased risk of bruising and bleeding.

Reporting of side effects
If you get any side effects, talk to your health care provider. This includes any possible side effects not listed in this leaflet. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

5. HOW TO STORE AKuriT

Keep this medicine out of the sight and reach of children.

Do not use AKuriT after the expiry date which is stated on the pack after EXP.. The expiry date refers to the last day of that month.

Store in a dry place below 30°C. Protect from light.

Medicines should not be disposed of via wastewater or household waste. Ask your pharmacist how to dispose of medicines no longer required. These measures will help to protect the environment.

6. CONTENTS OF THE PACK AND OTHER INFORMATION

What AKuriT contains

The active ingredients are rifampicin and isoniazid.

Each tablet contains 150 mg of rifampicin and 75 mg of isoniazid.

The other ingredients are:
Core tablet:
- Microcrystalline cellulose
- Crospovidone
- Pregelatinized starch
- Ascorbic acid
- Colloidal silicon dioxide
- Magnesium stearate

Film coat:
- Hypromellose
- Polyethylene glycol
- Talc
- Titanium dioxide
- Colour iron oxide red
- Simethicone

What AKuriT looks like and contents of the pack
AKuriT are brick-red, capsule shaped tablets, biconvex, film coated tablets with break-line on one side and plain on the other side.
The break-line is only to facilitate breaking for ease of swallowing and not to divide into equal doses.

Blister packs

The primary packs are blister cards of 6 tablets (comprised of orange PVC/PVDC foil sealed with aluminium foi1 lid). Such 15 blister cards are packed in a carton with one pack insert.
Pack size: 15 x 6 Tablets.

The primary packs are blister cards of 28 tablets (comprised of green PVC/PVDC foil sealed with aluminium foil lid). Such 24 interlocked blister cards are packed in a carton with one partition after 12 cards and one insert in each partition.
Pack size: 24 x 28 Tablets.

Cold form Alu-Alu blister pack of 28 tablets. Such 24 blisters kept in a carton.
Pack size: 24 x 28 Tablets

Bottle pack
Tablets are packed in a sealed polypropylene bag, which is packed inside a white HDPE container together with one, a 1 gram silica gel bag. with foam on top of the bag and the container is sealed with aluminium tagger. An insert is placed above the container is shrink wrapped. Pack size: 1000 Tablets.

Supplier
Lupin Ltd
Kalpataru Inspire
3rd Floor, Off Western Express Highway
Santacruz (East)
Mumbai 400055
India
Tel:91-22-66402323

Manufacturer
Lupin Limited
A-28/1, M.I.D.C. Industrial Area
Chikalthana
Aurangabad 431 210
India
Tel: 91-240-6612444
Fax: 91-240-2484121

For any information about this medicinal product, please contact the supplier (see above).

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Detailed information on this medicine is available on the World Health Organization (WHO) web site: https://extranet.who.int/prequal/