

## Side effects of Allopurinol

Allopurinol is very safe to use under most circumstances.

Common side effects of allopurinol include abdominal pain, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, headache or drowsiness etc.

You may have more gout attacks when you start using the medication. Keep using the medication even if this happens. Your doctor may give you other medications (including colchicine, NSAIDs) to prevent gout attacks. The attacks should become shorter and less severe after you take allopurinol for several months.

An extremely small number of patients may have allergic response to allopurinol. In such cases, allopurinol may cause severe skin rash, such as Hypersensitivity syndrome, Stevens-Johnson syndrome and Toxic epidermal necrolysis. Such skin rash usually may involve ulceration of the oral cavity, throat, nose, genital area and the conjunctiva (red and swollen eye), and may develop and cause extensive blistering, redness, swelling, itchiness or shedding of skin. It is common for these patients to experience flu-like symptoms like fever, chills, headache and muscle pain before severe skin rash develops.

Some allergic reactions occur within minutes after drug administration, while others can take days or even months to develop. The risk of developing allergic reactions and the severity may be different for different patient, depending on the genetic variation, the culprit drug and medical histories. If skin rash appears, or if you experience the above reactions during the use of allopurinol, stop taking allopurinol and seek medical attention immediately.



**Severe Cutaneous Adverse Reactions (SCARS)**



### What if I miss a dose



Use the missed dose as soon as you remember. Skip the missed dose if it is almost time for your next scheduled dose.

Do not double the dose.

### How to store



1. Keep out of reach of children.
2. Store in a cool, dry place and away from direct heat and light.

**? For any queries,  
please seek advice from your doctor,  
pharmacist or other healthcare  
professionals.**

# Allopurinol



藥劑職系及服務統籌委員會  
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醫院管理局  
HOSPITAL  
AUTHORITY

## What is Allopurinol



Allopurinol belongs to a group of medication called xanthine oxidase inhibitors, which mainly work by suppressing the production of uric acid in our body, hence lowering the level of uric acid in our blood.

## Indications

Allopurinol is commonly used for:

1. Treatment of gout
2. Treatment of elevated blood uric acid level in cancer patients
3. Treatment of kidney stones caused by elevated blood uric acid level

## How to use



1. Use allopurinol exactly as what your doctor has instructed. Do not stop taking or change the dose of allopurinol yourself.
2. Take allopurinol after meals to reduce stomach upset.
3. Drink plenty of water while taking the medication.



## Precautions for using Allopurinol

1. If you have history of drug allergy, consult your doctor or pharmacist before using the medication.
2. If you notice any allergic reactions after taking the medication like skin itchiness, swelling of face or hand, breathing difficulties, etc., consult your healthcare professionals immediately.



3. Tell your doctor and pharmacist in advance if you have hypertension, any heart, liver or kidney diseases etc.
4. Tell your doctor and pharmacist in advance if you are taking other medication(s) such as azathioprine or 6-mercaptopurine.
5. Allopurinol may cause drowsiness or dizziness. Avoid operating machinery or driving if affected.
6. Avoid alcohol because drinking alcohol increases the uric acid level in your blood and can trigger gouty attack.
7. Taking too much vitamin C may cause kidney stones. Ask your doctor or pharmacist before use.
8. Tell your doctor and pharmacist if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.
9. Regular checking of liver function, kidney function and complete blood count should be done during the course of treatment. Please seek medical attention immediately if you experience fatigue, fever, skin rash or sore throat etc.
10. Do not share your medication with other people.
11. Discard all medications that have expired or are no longer required.