

CellCept, notify your health care provider. The following side effects sometimes occur:

- Nausea
- Loss of appetite
- Heartburn
- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Abdominal pain
- Gas
- Jaundice (yellow skin or eyes)
- Skin rash, acne, itching
- Pain
- Headache
- Sleepiness or trouble sleeping
- Anxiety
- Confusion
- Weakness
- Tremor, tingling
- Muscle cramps
- Blood in the urine, bloody vomit, or black, tarry stool
- Shortness of breath
- Irregular heartbeat,
- Fluid retention, swelling.

Precautions

You should be aware of the following precautions while taking CellCept:

- Gastrointestinal side effects are common.

- There is an increased risk of infection.
- Use with caution if you have active peptic ulcer disease.
- As with any immunosuppressant, there is a potential increased risk of cancer.
- You must not get pregnant while taking CellCept or for 6 weeks after stopping it. You must use a reliable form of contraception while taking this medication.
- You should not breast feed while taking CellCept.
- There have been recent case reports of a rare brain infection called progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy in patients on CellCept. If you have any new symptoms such as visual loss, confusion, weakness, or progressive headache, you should notify your health care provider.

This information is not intended to replace the medical advice of your health care provider. Please consult your health care provider for advice about a specific medical condition.



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CellCept®

Neurological Institute
Mellen Center for Multiple Sclerosis
Treatment and Research

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What is CellCept®?

CellCept (mycophenolate mofetil) is an immunosuppressive medication used to lower the body's natural immunity in patients who receive organ transplants. More recently, CellCept has been used to treat other immune-mediated diseases, such as multiple sclerosis.

How is it taken?

CellCept can be taken either orally or through intravenous solution. Most likely you will receive it orally. CellCept is supplied as 250 mg capsules and 500 mg tablets. The medication usually is started at a dose of 500 mg twice per day; then, if tolerated, the total is increased after two weeks to the target dose of 1000 mg twice per day.

Your prescription label will tell you how much to take at each dose and how often to take it. Follow these instructions carefully. Ask your pharmacist or health care provider to explain any part of the instructions that you do not understand.

Proper use of this medicine

- This medicine should be taken

on an empty stomach, one to two hours before meals.

- Take this medicine only as directed by your physician. Do not stop taking this medication or change the dose without consulting your physician.
- Capsules or tablets of CellCept should be swallowed whole, not crushed or opened. It is important that other people not be exposed to CellCept powder.
- If you miss a dose and remember it within 12 hours, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. However, if it is almost time for the next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular schedule. Do not take a double dose.

Special instructions

While you are taking this medication, you need to have regular blood tests to evaluate for any adverse effects of the medication.

Be sure you always have enough medication on hand. Check your supply before holidays, vacations or other occasions when you may be unable to fill your prescription.

Take precautions to avoid infection while taking this medication. Avoid anyone who may have an infection, and promptly report any signs of infection to your physician.

You should discuss any planned vaccinations with your physician.

While you are taking CellCept, it is important to maintain good dental health and see a dentist for regular teeth cleaning.

Drug interactions

You should notify your physician prior to taking any of the following medications:

- Azathioprine (Imuran®)
- Corticosteroids (Decadron®, Prednisone, Solu-Medrol®)
- Cyclophosphamide (Cytosan®)
- Cyclosporine (Neoral®, Sandimmune®)
- Mitoxantrone (Novantrone®)
- Acyclovir (Zovirax®)
- Ganciclovir (Cytovene®)
- Probenicid
- Antacids

You should also notify your health care professional if you have any of these health conditions:

- Liver disease
- Kidney disease

Treatment monitoring

Prior to starting CellCept the following blood tests will be drawn:

- Blood count (CBC)
- Chemistry panel (electrolytes, BUN creatinine, glucose, ALT, AST, bilirubin, amylase)
- Pregnancy test

Once you start CellCept, a blood count and chemistry panel will be drawn weekly for the first month; every two weeks for months 2 and 3; and then monthly. It is very important that you have these blood tests drawn and that you arrange to have the results sent to your health care provider.

Side effects

CellCept potentially can cause a number of side effects. Not all patients who take CellCept experience side effects. If you experience side effects after starting