

COLCHICINE

▶ PATIENT INFORMATION GUIDE

REMEMBER: this medicine is for you. Never give it to others even if their signs and symptoms are the same as yours.

WHY HAVE WE GIVEN YOU THIS GUIDE?

This information is for you to use when taking colchicine. It is important that you take your medication safely. Colchicine may cause **some serious side effects**. Talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse if you have any questions or concerns.

▶ Colchicine is usually safe

- Colchicine is a useful and effective treatment for gout pain
- Most people who take colchicine have no problems

▶ Colchicine can also be harmful

- Extra care is needed when taking colchicine
- All medicines carry some risks but you might not experience any problems at all
- Always store colchicine out of reach of children, a single dose can be serious for a child

▶ PREGNANCY and colchicine

- If you or your partner are considering pregnancy you should not take colchicine
- Discuss what to do with your doctor

THINGS YOU CAN DO TO TAKE COLCHICINE SAFELY

▶ Be aware that it can cause serious side effects

- There isn't a big difference between a safe dose of colchicine and a harmful dose
- People who are over 65 years of age are especially at risk
- Discuss with your doctor or pharmacist if you are concerned about any side effects you experience

▶ Stop taking colchicine immediately if you have

- Stomach pain
 - Diarrhoea, vomiting or not feeling well (nausea)
 - A burning feeling in your throat, stomach or on your skin
- and let your doctor or pharmacist know

▶ Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of the medicines you are taking

- Colchicine can be harmful when taken with **some** other medicines like antibiotics and medicines for pain relief

▶ Do not take any more than your doctor has asked you to

- High doses can be very harmful
- Do not take more than **five (5) tablets in the first 24 hours** of a gout attack
- Do not take more than **twelve (12) tablets in total over any four (4) day period**
- Always make sure that you wait **three (3) days between each treatment course**

This information is a guide only and is not a replacement for the advice and care of your doctor, pharmacist (chemist) or nurse.