

KIDNEYMATTERS

Information from the National Kidney Federation - supporting kidney patients, their friends & family

COMMONLY TAKEN DRUGS for Kidney Failure

(included in Commonly Prescribed Drugs)



The National Kidney Federation cannot accept responsibility for information provided. The above is for guidance only. Patients are advised to seek further information from their own doctor.

© 2010-2020 National Kidney Federation (NKF)
All rights reserved

Last reviewed December 2016

www.kidney.org.uk

The NKF - the largest Kidney Patient charity in the UK
A federation of more than fifty patient charities, supporting kidney patients & carers

NKF(National Kidney Federation)
The Point, Coach Road, Shireoaks, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, S81 8BW
Charity No 1106735 Company No 5272349 Reg. in England & Wales Give as you earn contributions No CAFGY511



www.kidney.org.uk

HELPLINE 0800 169 09 36



Commonly Taken Drugs (for kidney failure)

People with kidney failure will often need to take many drugs to help keep them healthy. This page lists some of the drugs that are commonly taken and a few side effects.

ALFACALCIDOL

Is a Vitamin D capsule. It is given to increase your blood calcium level and keep it normal. Over time this helps to keep your bones healthy. It is usually taken once a day in the morning. Side effects can include feeling sick - try taking it with food. Liquid drops are available if you have trouble swallowing, or prefer to avoid capsules that contain gelatin, for example if you are a strict vegetarian.

ASPIRIN

Is a tablet given to help to thin your blood and stop your dialysis lines or fistula becoming blocked. Some people also take aspirin for heart problems. It is normally taken once a day in the morning. Aspirin may irritate your stomach or cause indigestion; this can be reduced by taking the tablet with food and dissolving it in water before swallowing.

CHLORPHENIRAMINE(Piriton),

Belong to a group of medicines called antihistamines. They are used to reduce itching that can happen as chemicals build up in your body. There are several types available. Some antihistamines can cause drowsiness, if you feel drowsy do not drive or operate machinery. Chlorpheniramine (Piriton) and other antihistamines can be bought from your local pharmacy. Take care not to take twice the recommended dose ie. do not take antihistamines from your doctor and those you have bought.

RANITIDINE

Helps to reduce the amount of acid in your stomach. to prevent acid indigestion or problems with stomach ulcers. It is usually taken once or twice a day. Possible side effects can include tiredness, headache, dizziness.

FERROUS SULPHATE

Is an iron tablet which can be taken to try and reduce anaemia. It is often taken three times a day. If you are taking phosphate binders or some antibiotics (check with the pharmacist) you should try and split the doses by one hour. Side effects can include constipation, diarrhoea or feeling sick - try taking the tablets with food. You may notice your stools or urine becoming a darker colour; this is normal and nothing to worry about.

LACTULOSE and SENNA

Are given to relieve constipation. Senna is usually taken in the evening. Lactulose can be taken twice a day. They are best taken twice a day and may take a day or so to be effective. Side effects can include belching and stomach cramps.

LANSOPRAZOLE and OMEPRAZOLE

Reduce the amount of acid in your stomach. to prevent acid indigestion or problems with stomach ulcers. Lansoprazole should be taken first thing in the morning before breakfast, Omeprazole can be taken in the morning or evening. Side effects include diarrhoea, feeling sick.

SIMVASTATIN or ATORVASTATIN

Help to reduce cholesterol levels. The tablets should be taken at bedtime. Possible side effects include headache, feeling sick and muscle pain. If you suffer from muscle pain you should tell your doctor.