

# METRONIDAZOLE

Dear @Name@,

Your healthcare team has discussed the following subject with you: metronidazole. The brand name is Flagyl. Here is some additional information. Let us know if you have any questions regarding this information.

**How it works:** This medication belongs to a class of drugs called antibiotics. Antibiotics are mostly used to treat infections inside the body, but can be used to reduce irritation and inflammation in the intestines. It can also be used to treat disease complications (like abscesses or fistulas) and can be given after surgery.

**How it is taken:** It is usually given as a pill, but it can be compounded into a liquid for children. In severe cases, it is given as an intravenous infusion.

**Common side effects:** Antibiotics are generally well tolerated, but may cause side effects such as nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, upper abdominal pain, rash, diarrhea, dizziness, and headaches. This medication may cause a metallic taste in your mouth and dark or reddish urine. These symptoms go away when the medication is stopped.

**Special considerations:** When used for a long time, it can cause a tingling sensation in the hands and feet (*neuropathy*). If this happens, tell your healthcare team immediately. Avoid alcohol when taking this medication, and for at least three days following your last dose.

**Monitoring:** If you are on this antibiotic for an extended period of time, labs may be ordered to monitor your white blood cell count and liver enzymes.

**Points to remember:** Before taking these medications, let your healthcare team know about other medical conditions that you may have or other medications (even over-the-counter medications or complementary therapies) you may be taking.

**Other tips:** The best way to control your disease is by taking your medication as directed. Even when you do not have any symptoms, it is very important to continue taking your medication to prevent your disease from becoming active again. Do not alter the amount of the medication or how frequently you take it on your own. If you have any side effects or you continue to have symptoms, speak to your healthcare team immediately.

For further information, please check out <http://www.ibdmedicationguide.org/> or follow this link:

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