Cyclosporine (sy-klo-SPOR-en)

Cyclosporine (Neoral®) is used to help prevent rejection after a solid organ transplant.

How to Take this Medicine

- You will take this medicine two times each day. The doses should be 12 hours apart. Your doctor will tell you how much of this medicine to use.
- This medicine can be taken by mouth with or without food. Swallow the capsule whole.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, wait until then to use the medicine and skip the missed dose. Do not use extra medicine to make up for a missed dose.
- If you are taking the liquid form of this medicine, you can mix it in a non-plastic drinking glass with juice to make it taste better. Do not drink grapefruit or pomegranate juice when taking this medicine.
- Do not stop taking this medicine unless your doctor tells you to.

If you take sirolimus (Rapammmune®) with this medicine, take the sirolimus 4 hours after taking cyclosporine.

When Taking Cyclosporine

- Cyclosporine interacts with many other medicines. Be sure to let your doctors know if you are started on any new medicines
• Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using any over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements).
• Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or breastfeeding before taking this medicine. Tell your doctor if you are taking birth control pills.
• Talk to your doctor before getting flu shots or other vaccines while taking cyclosporine. Some vaccines may not work as well or may make you sick while taking this medicine.

**Lab Tests**

• You will need to have blood tests done to check how much of this medicine is in your blood. Your doctor will give you specific instructions.
• You will also need to have blood tests done to watch for harmful side effects.

**Side Effects**

**Common Side Effects**

• Acne
• Excess hair growth on body
• High blood pressure
• High cholesterol

• Stomach upset including nausea, vomiting, or loss of appetite
• Diarrhea or constipation
• Swollen or painful gums

**Serious Side Effects**

Contact your doctor if you have any of these signs:

• Fever, chills, body aches, or sore throat
• Decrease in how much or how often you urinate

• Swelling, itching, or trouble breathing
• Chest pain or fast heart beat
• Seizures or tremors (shaking)
Warnings

- You may be more likely to get an infection while on this medicine.
- Try to stay away from people with colds, flu, or other infections.
- You may be at higher risk of skin cancer or cancer of the lymph system while on this medicine.
- Avoid being in the sun while on this medicine.
- Do not use tanning booths or sunlamps.
- Use sunscreen and protect your skin if you have to be outside in the sun.

Medicine Storage

Store the medicine in the foil package until you are ready to take the dose. Keep the foil package at room temperature, away from heat and moisture. Do not store medicine in refrigerator or freezer. Keep medicine out of the reach of children.

For questions about this medicine contact your transplant coordinator.

Talk to your doctor or others on your health care team if you have questions. You may request more written information from the Library for Health Information at (614) 293-3707 or email: health-info@osu.edu.