

**SAFETY ALERT**

There are two different strengths of Cellcept ® with similar packaging

250mg capsules and 500mg tablets

Please take the time to familiarise yourself with the different tablets and capsules and take extreme care not to confuse the different strengths when administering a dose.

200mg/ml liquid

Your child has been prescribed **Mycophenolate Mofetil** (Also referred to sometimes as “MMF”)

Brand name: **Cellcept®**

**Do not stop giving mycophenolate, as your child’s transplanted organ may be rejected and they may become seriously ill.**

**Do not change the brand or type of mycophenolate without talking to your doctor first, as there may be toxic effects or organ rejection.**

Mycophenolate belongs to a group of medicines called immunosuppressants. These medicines help to stop the body’s immune system from attacking a transplanted organ. It is vital that your child takes this medicine regularly to prevent the organ beingrejected.

***When should I give mycophenolate?***

Mycophenolate is usually given twice each day, once in the morning and once in the evening. Ideally, these times are 10–12 hours apart, for example sometime between 7 and 8 am, and between 7 and 8 pm.

Give the medicine at about the same time(s) each day so that this becomes part of your child’s daily routine, which will help you to remember.

***How much should I give?***

Your doctor will work out the amount of mycophenolate (the dose) that is right for your child. The dose will be shown on the medicine label but you may be informed of dose changes at clinic appointments or over the phone. Please make note of these changes in your medication passport.

It is important that you follow your doctor’s instructions about how much to give.

***What is Cellcept® available as? (See images at front of leaflet)***

•Capsules: 250 mg (blue/brown)

•Tablets: 500 mg (lavender)

•Liquid medicine: 1 g (1000 mg) in 5 mL

***How should I give it?***

Tablets and capsules should be swallowed with a glass of water, milk or juice. Your child should not chew the tablets or capsules.

Liquid medicine: Measure out the right amount using a medicine spoon or oral syringe. You can get these from your pharmacist. Do not use a kitchen teaspoon, as it will not give the right amount.

***What if my child is sick (vomits)?***

•If your child is sick less than 20 minutes after having a dose of mycophenolate, give them the same dose again.

•If your child is sick more than 20 minutes after having a dose of mycophenolate, you do not need to give them another dose. Wait until the next normal dose.

***What if I forget to give it?***

•If you usually give it twice a day: If you remember up to 4 hours after you should have given a dose, give your child the missed dose. For example, if you usually give a dose at about 7 am, you can give the missed dose at any time up to 11 am. If you remember after that time, do not give the missed dose. Just give the next dose as usual.

•If you usually give it once a day: Give the missed dose when you remember during the day, as long as this at least 12 hours before the next dose is due.

Never give a double dose of mycophenolate.

***What if I give too much?***

It may be dangerous to give too much mycophenolate.

If you think you may have given your child too much mycophenolate, contact your doctor or take your child to hospital.

Take the medicine container or packet with you, even if it is empty. This will be useful to the doctor. Have the medicine packet with you if you telephone for advice.

***Are there any possible side-effects?***

We use medicines to make our children better, but sometimes they have other effects that we don’t want (side-effects).

***Side-effects you must do something about:***

**If your child gets flu-like symptoms, sore throat, fever (temperature above 38°C) or unusual bruises or bleeding, contact your doctor or take your child to hospital straight away, as there may be a problem with your child’s blood.**

**If your child gets a rash, has changes to their mood or eyesight, difficulty breathing or chest discomfort, swelling of the feet or ankles, or any difficulty urinating (doing a wee), contact your doctor straight away.**

***Other side-effects you need to know about:***

•Your child may get diarrhoea or constipation (difficulty doing a poo), nausea (feel sick) and vomiting (being sick) when they first start taking mycophenolate.

•They may also get tremors, headache or dizziness and may have problems sleeping.

There may, sometimes, be other side-effects that are not listed above. If you notice anything unusual and are concerned, or if any of the side-effects continue for more than a week, contact your doctor.

***Can other medicines be given at the same time as mycophenolate?***

•You can give your child medicines that contain paracetamol, unless your doctor has told you not to.

•Mycophenolate should not be taken with some common medicines that you get on prescription. It is important to tell your doctor and pharmacist that your child is taking mycophenolate.

•Check with your doctor or pharmacist before giving any other medicines to your child. This includes herbal or complementary medicines.

***Is there anything else I need to know about this medicine?***

**Your child’s skin may become more sensitive to sunlight. Keep them out of strong sun. When outdoors, they should wear a long-sleeved top, trousers and a hat and should use a high-factor sun screen (at least SPF 30).**

If your child is due to have an immunisation (vaccination), tell the nurse or doctor that your child is taking mycophenolate.

Mycophenolate affects your child’s immune system so they may get more infections such as chest infections, coughs and colds. Try to keep your child away from people with serious infections if you can, although they can still go to school or nursery as usual.

If your child comes into contact with anyone who has chickenpox or shingles, contact your doctor straight away, as they may need special preventative treatment.

If you or your child comes into contact with anyone who has measles, contact your doctor, as infections can be more severe.

Because mycophenolate stops the immune system from working properly, it can cause side-effects in people who handle it. For this reason it is important that you wash your hands after handling the capsules, tablets or liquid.

***General advice about medicines***

Try to give medicines at about the same times each day, to help you remember.

If you think someone else may have taken the medicine by accident, contact your doctor straight away.

Make sure that you always have enough medicine. Mycophenolate needs to be prescribed by your hospital on a high-tech prescription. You cannot get repeats from your GP. Remember to request repeat prescriptions in advance at you outpatient appointments and give your chemist enough notice to order your medication especially in advance of bank holiday weekends.

Make sure that the medicine you have at home has not reached the ‘best before’ or ‘use by’ date on the packaging. Give old medicines to your pharmacist to dispose of.

***Where I should keep this medicine?***

•Keep the medicines in a cupboard, away from heat and direct sunlight. It does not need to be kept in the fridge.

•Make sure that children cannot see or reach the medicine.

•Keep the medicine in the container it came in.

***Who to contact for more information?***

Your child’s doctor, pharmacist or nurse will be able to give you more information about mycophenolate and about other medicines used to prevent transplant rejection.

Temple street main Hospital PH: (01) 8784200. Renal clinic PH: (01) 8784257. St. Michaels C ward PH: (01) 878 4258 Renal Pharmacist available through switch on bleep 105.