

Trecator (ethionamide) basics

Treats active tuberculosis. If your tuberculosis doesn't respond to the drugs isoniazid or rifampin, then Trecator (ethionamide) can be used together with other drugs as treatment.

What to expect when starting

Here's when people typically experience benefits as well as some possible side effects. Your experience may be different.

| | Hours | Days | Weeks | Months | Long term |
|---|---|------------------------------|-------|--------|-----------|
| Trecator (ethionamide) Drug effectiveness | [Progressive blue bar from Hours to Months] | | | | |
| Possible side effects† | Hours | Days | Weeks | Months | Long term |
| Nausea, vomiting and diarrhea | [Red bar from Hours to Days] | | | | |
| Abdominal pain | [Red bar from Hours to Days] | | | | |
| Excessive salivation | [Red bar from Hours to Hours] | | | | |
| Loss of appetite | [Red bar from Hours to Weeks] | | | | |
| Sleepiness | [Red bar from Hours to Weeks] | | | | |
| Abnormal thinking | | [Red bar from Days to Weeks] | | | |

† Data on frequency of side effects is not available.

Tips from pharmacists

- Take Trecator (ethionamide) with or without food. Take it with food if it upsets your stomach.
- Be sure not to miss your eye exams because Trecator (ethionamide) can cause vision changes.
- If you have high blood sugar (diabetes), you will need to watch your blood sugar closely.
- Your doctor may want you to take Trecator (ethionamide) with vitamin B6 (pyridoxine).
- Do not drink alcohol with Trecator (ethionamide).
- Even if you start to feel better, it is important you take Trecator (ethionamide) for as long as your doctor tells you to. Stopping Trecator (ethionamide) early can cause the bacteria to develop resistance (when the bacteria survives and continues to do harm).

Risks and warnings

Contact your doctor if you experience any of these.

Low blood sugar

Trecator (ethionamide) can lower your blood sugar. If you have diabetes, you will need to check your blood sugar levels closely.

Liver problems

You cannot take Trecator (ethionamide) if you have severe liver damage. Tell your doctor if you have had or are waiting for a liver transplant.

Drug-resistant tuberculosis

If Trecator (ethionamide) is taken alone, it can cause drug resistance that makes other tuberculosis drugs less effective. The bacteria survive and continue to multiply causing more harm. Take Trecator (ethionamide) with your other tuberculosis drugs until your doctor tells you to stop.