This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio version and in other languages, please call 0800 0730510

Myocrisin (Gold) Injections
Rheumatology
Patient Information Leaflet
Contact numbers

If you have any questions or are unsure about any of the information provided in this booklet, please contact your pharmacist or the Rheumatology Helpline on the number below:

Russells Hall Hospital Tel 01384 244789.

Remember, whilst you are on this medication, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have regular blood tests and it is important that you do not miss any of these tests. If your hospital appointment is rescheduled, contact the Rheumatology Helpline if you need more blood forms.

If you have any problems or questions, contact the Rheumatology Helpline on 01384 244789 or contact your pharmacist.

Patient and Professional Organisations with Useful Links:-

Arthritis Care Tel: 0808 800 4050
Arthritis Care: Welcome to Arthritis Care
http://www.arthritiscare.org.uk

NHS Direct
Tel: 0845 4647
http://www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk/

Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Tel: 01384 456111
The Rheumatology Department Tel: 01384 244789 (Helpline)
http://www.dgoh.nhs.uk/
http://www.dgoh.nhs.uk/_public/_servportals/rheumatology/_public/_servportals/rheumatology/default.asp
It is your responsibility to ensure that you attend regularly for your blood tests and it is important that you do not miss any of your blood tests.

**Do myocrisin injections affect pregnancy?**

It is not advisable to have myocrisin injections if you are pregnant. If you think you are pregnant or if you are planning a pregnancy discuss this with your doctor. You should not breast feed if you are having myocrisin injections.

**Can I drink alcohol while having myocrisin injections?**

You can drink alcohol within reason. We recommend that you stay within the government guidelines.

**Other treatments**

You always have the choice when taking any medication prescribed in Rheumatology. There are "alternative treatments" that some people find useful and leaflets provided by Arthritis Research Council are available in our clinics. Over the counter medications may be used alone or in combination with prescribed medication you are taking however, you are always advised to discuss with your doctor who has prescribed before taking. Medication bought over the counter may help to control your pain but not always the condition.

**Myocrisin (Gold) injections**

Myocrisin is in a family of drugs called Disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs DMARDS. Whilst your specialist will choose the one he feels best to treat you at the time based on research and extensive knowledge of the drug you will always have the choice to discuss other treatment options and alternative therapies.

**What are myocrisin injections?**

Myocrisin (gold) injections are used to treat rheumatoid arthritis and arthritis with psoriasis. It works by slowing down the progression of the arthritis and helps to dampen down inflammation.

**How are myocrisin injections given?**

Myocrisin is given by an injection into the muscle, usually in the thigh or buttock. The area can then be massaged gently. To begin the treatment, most patients receive a small 'test' dose. This is done to check that they are not allergic to the myocrisin. The injections are usually given at weekly intervals to begin with. If you respond to the weekly dosage of myocrisin the frequency of the injections may be reduced to fortnightly or monthly.
How long will it take for the myocrisin to work?

You may feel some benefit after eight or twelve weeks, but it may take several months before you feel the full benefit. When the myocrisin is working, you should have less pain and stiffness in your joints. If myocrisin works for you, you may be able to stay on it for many years.

Will I have any side effects?

Most patients have no side effects. Some people notice a metallic taste in their mouths after their injections.

Myocrisin can sometimes cause rashes and itching. Occasionally myocrisin can cause mouth ulcers, sore throats or diarrhoea. More rarely myocrisin can cause bruising, or unusual shortness of breath. If you have any of these problems you should stop the injections and consult your doctor or the Rheumatology Helpline.

Do I need any special tests while I am having myocrisin injections?

Yes, because in a few patients myocrisin can affect certain blood cells and can sometimes affect the kidneys.

You need to have a blood and urine test with each injection, so if you have an injection every week you need a blood test and a urine test every week, if you have an injection every month the blood test and urine test will need to be done each month.

You may be asked to test your urine at home; we will show you how to do this. Your myocrisin injections will usually be given to you by the Practice Nurse at your GP's surgery or by the District Nurse.

It is your responsibility to have your blood tests. In order for us to receive the results from your blood tests, you will have to have the blood test at any of the following centres:

Russell Hall Hospital: Monday to Friday 08.30am to 7.30 pm or Saturday 9.30am to 11.30am. No appointments required.

Corbett Hospital: Monday to Friday 08.30am to 4.30 pm. No appointments required.

Netherton Health Centre: Appointment required, ring 01384 366500

Cross Street Health Centre: Appointment required, ring 01384 459500

Lady's Walk Clinic: Appointment required, ring 01902 575103