

# Palmetto State Pharmaceuticals

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## *Patient Drug Education*

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### **ALLOPURINOL 300 MG TABLET**

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#### **USES:**

Allopurinol is an enzyme blocker that lowers high levels of uric acid in your body by decreasing the amount produced. It is used to treat gout and certain types of kidney stones. This drug is also used to prevent high uric acid levels in patients who receive cancer chemotherapy. Cancer cells that are destroyed with therapy release large amounts of uric acid into the bloodstream.

#### **HOW TO TAKE THIS MEDICATION:**

**HOW TO USE:** Take this medication by mouth usually once daily after a meal to reduce stomach upset, or as directed by your doctor. It is best to drink a full glass of water with each dose and at least another 8 glasses (8 oz. each) a day while taking this drug in order to prevent kidney stones from forming. If you are on restricted fluid intake, consult your doctor for further instructions. Your doctor may also instruct you on how to decrease acidity in your urine (e.g., avoid large amounts of ascorbic acid or Vitamin C). Dosage is based on your medical condition and response to therapy. Use this medication regularly to get the most benefit from it. Remember to take it at the same time each day. For the treatment of gout, it may take up to several weeks for this medicine to have an effect. You may experience an increase in the number of gouty attacks for several weeks to months after starting this medicine while the body rids itself of excess uric acid. Allopurinol is not a pain reliever. To relieve pain, continue to take your prescribed medicines for gouty attacks (e.g., colchicine, ibuprofen, indomethacin) as directed by your doctor.

#### **SIDE EFFECTS:**

Stomach upset, nausea, diarrhea, unusual taste, acute gouty attacks, or drowsiness may occur as your body adjusts to this medication. If any of these effects persist or worsen, notify your doctor or pharmacist promptly. Remember that your doctor has prescribed this medication because the benefit to you is greater than the risk of side effects. Many people using this medication do not have serious side effects. Tell your doctor immediately if any of these highly unlikely but very serious side effects occur: easy bleeding/bruising, signs of infection (e.g., fever, persistent sore throat), change in the amount of urine, yellowing eyes or skin, severe stomach/abdominal pain, persistent nausea/vomiting/lack of appetite, dark urine, unusual tiredness, unusual weight loss. This drug may rarely cause very serious (possibly fatal) allergic reactions. Stop taking allopurinol and seek immediate medical attention if any of these allergic reaction symptoms occur: skin rash, hives, itching, swelling (especially of the lips or mouth), dizziness, pain when urinating, blood in the urine, unusual eye redness/pain, fever and chills, muscle/joint pain, trouble breathing. If you notice other effects not listed above, contact your doctor or pharmacist.

#### **PRECAUTIONS:**

Before taking allopurinol, tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are allergic to it; or if you have any other allergies. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist your medical history, especially of: liver disease, kidney disease, diabetes, hypertension, unusual diets (e.g., starvation diets). This drug may make you drowsy; use caution engaging in activities requiring alertness such as driving or using machinery. Alcohol may decrease the effectiveness of this drug. Limit alcoholic beverages. This medication should be used only when clearly needed during pregnancy. Discuss the risks and benefits with your doctor. Allopurinol passes into breast milk. Consult your doctor before breast-feeding.

#### **DRUG INTERACTIONS:**

Your healthcare professionals (e.g., doctor or pharmacist) may already be aware of any possible drug interactions and may be monitoring you for it. Do not start, stop or change the dosage of any medicine before checking with them first. This drug should not be used with the following medication because very serious interactions may occur: didanosine. If you are currently using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist before starting allopurinol. Before using this medication, tell your doctor or pharmacist of all prescription and nonprescription/herbal products you may use, especially of: certain antibiotics (amoxicillin, ampicillin), certain asthma drugs (aminophylline, theophylline), azathioprine, "blood thinners" (e.g., warfarin), chlorpropamide, cyclosporine, mercaptopurine, sulfapyrazone, "water pills" (e.g., thiazide diuretics such as hydrochlorothiazide).

#### **NOTES:**

Do not share this medication with others. Laboratory and/or medical tests (e.g., uric acid blood levels, liver and kidney function tests in certain patients, complete blood count) should be performed periodically to monitor your progress or check for side effects. Consult your doctor for more details. If you are taking allopurinol to treat kidney stones, you may benefit from a special diet. Consult your doctor for more details.

#### **MISSED DOSE:**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember. If it is near the time of the next dose, skip the missed dose and resume your usual dosing schedule. Do not double the dose to catch up.

#### **STORAGE:**

Store the US product at room temperature between 59-77 degrees F (15-25 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Do not store in the bathroom.

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Store the Canadian product at room temperature between 59-86 degrees F (15-30 degrees C) away from light and moisture. Keep all medicines away from children and pets.