

ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI) summary

The [full CMI](#) on the next page has more details. If you are worried about using this medicine, speak to your doctor or pharmacist.

1. Why am I taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?

ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE contains the active ingredient mercaptopurine monohydrate. ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE is used solely or in combination with other medicines to treat acute leukaemia, a cancer of certain blood cells.

For more information, see Section [1. Why am I taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#) in the full CMI.

2. What should I know before I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?

Do not use if you have ever had an allergic reaction to mercaptopurine monohydrate, azathioprine, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of the CMI.

Talk to your doctor if you have any other medical conditions, take any other medicines, or are pregnant, plan to become pregnant or father a child, or are breastfeeding.

For more information, see Section [2. What should I know before I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#) in the full CMI.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE and affect how it works.

A list of these medicines is in Section [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#) in the full CMI.

4. How do I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?

- The dose may vary from person to person. Your doctor will tell you how much to take, and when to take it.
- Do not crush or chew.

More instructions can be found in Section [4. How do I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#) in the full CMI.

5. What should I know while taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?

Things you should do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Remind any doctor, dentist or pharmacist you visit that you are using ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE.• Tell your doctor if you are planning to become pregnant or father a child, and tell them immediately if you become pregnant while trying to take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE.• Use high SPF sunscreen and protective clothing and limit exposure to sunlight and UV light.
Things you should not do	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Do not stop taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.• Do not have any vaccinations without your doctor's approval
Driving or using machines	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE affects you.
Looking after your medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Keep your tablets in the bottle until it is time to take them.• Keep it in a cool dry place, away from moisture, heat, or light where the temperature stays below 25 °C

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#) in the full CMI.

6. Are there any side effects?

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE, as any side effects may potentially be serious. Common side effects include unusual tiredness, being short of breath and looking pale; bruising or bleeding more easily than normal (e.g. more frequent nose bleeds); frequent infections such as fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers; nausea and vomiting; and increased risk of liver disease. More serious side effects include signs of an allergic reaction, such as wheezing; swelling of the lips and mouth; difficulty in breathing; severe rash; and fainting.

For more information, including what to do if you have any side effects, see Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#) in the full CMI.

ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE

Active ingredient(s): *Mercaptopurine monohydrate*

Consumer Medicine Information (CMI)

This leaflet provides important information about using PURI-NETHOL. **You should also speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you would like further information or if you have any concerns or questions about using ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

- [1. Why am I taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#)
- [2. What should I know before I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#)
- [3. What if I am taking other medicines?](#)
- [4. How do I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#)
- [5. What should I know while taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?](#)
- [6. Are there any side effects?](#)
- [7. Product details](#)

1. Why am I taking ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?

ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE contains mercaptopurine monohydrate as the active ingredient. It belongs to a group of medicines called cytotoxics.

ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE is used solely or in combination with other medicines to treat acute leukaemia, a cancer of certain blood cells. It works by interfering with the growth of cancer cells.

Ask your doctor if you have any questions about why ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE has been prescribed for you.

Your doctor may have prescribed it for another purpose. This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription. There is no evidence that it is addictive.

2. What should I know before I take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE?

Warnings

Do not use ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE if:

- You are allergic to mercaptopurine monohydrate, azathioprine, or any of the ingredients listed at the end of this leaflet.**
 - Some symptoms of an allergic reaction may include shortness of breath, wheezing or difficulty in breathing; swelling of the face, lips, tongue, or any other parts of the body; rash, itching or hives on the skin.
- Always check the ingredients to make sure you can use this medicine. Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are unsure.

- The expiry date printed on the pack has passed.**
- The packaging is torn or shows signs of tampering.**

Check with your doctor if you:

- Have or have had any other medical conditions, especially the following:**
 - You have recently received or are receiving radiotherapy or chemotherapy.
 - You have recently been vaccinated or are planning to be vaccinated.
 - Kidney or liver disease
 - A condition where your body produces too little of a natural chemical called thiopurine methyltransferase (TPMT)
- inherited mutated NUDT15 gene**
- Take any medicines for any other condition.**
- Have had any allergy to any other medicines, or any other substances, such as foods, preservatives, or dyes.**

During treatment, you may be at risk of developing certain side effects. It is important you understand these risks and how to monitor for them. See additional information under Section [6. Are there any side effects?](#)

Pregnancy, breastfeeding, and fathering a child

Do not take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE if you are pregnant or breast feeding unless you and your doctor have discussed the risks and benefits involved. It may affect your developing baby if you take it during pregnancy.

Do not take ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE if you are planning to become pregnant or intending to father a child. As with all cytotoxic drugs, ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE may harm eggs and sperm. You or your partner should take adequate contraceptive precautions while you are taking this medicine.

3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines, including any medicines, vitamins or supplements that you buy without a prescription from your pharmacy, supermarket or health food shop.

Some medicines may interfere with ARX-MERCAPTOPURINE and affect how it works. These include:

- allopurinol, oxipurinol and/or thiopurinol and other xanthine oxidase inhibitors such as febuxostat.
- methotrexate
- infliximab
- anticoagulants e.g. warfarin
- 6-thioguanine
- aminosalicylate derivatives such as olsalazine, mesalazine or sulphasalazine
- vaccinations with 'live' organism vaccines
- myelosuppressive agents
- ribavirin

Check with your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure about what medicines, vitamins or supplements you are taking and if these affect ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE.

4. How do I take ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE?

How much to take

Take ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE exactly as directed by your doctor.

Your doctor will decide what dose and for how long you will be taking ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE.

This depends on factors such as:

- your age and weight
- any pre-existing conditions such as kidney or liver disease (especially in the elderly)
- your response to the treatment
- other medicines taken in combination with ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE.

Your doctor may change the dose and frequency of your medicine as your condition changes.

Your doctor may order regular blood cell count, liver function and urine tests while you are taking ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE in order to monitor your condition and to change your dose if necessary.

How to take it

Do not crush or chew the tablets.

Like all cytotoxic drugs, ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE is irritant to the eyes and skin. To prevent irritation it is important to wash your hands immediately after handling or halving the tablets, to avoid contact with the eyes and be careful not to inhale any particle of the tablet.

How long to take it

Your doctor will tell you how long to take it for.

Do not stop taking it or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

If you forget to take it

Tell your doctor if you forget to take it.

Do not take a double dose to make up for the dose you missed.

If you take too much

If you think that you have used too much ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE, you may need urgent medical attention.

You should immediately:

- phone the Poisons Information Centre (**by calling 13 11 26**), or
- contact your doctor, or
- go to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital.

You should do this even if there are no signs of discomfort or poisoning.

5. What should I know while using ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE?

Things you should do

Tell your doctor if, for any reason, you have not taken your medicine exactly as directed. Otherwise, your doctor may think that it was not working as it should and change your treatment unnecessarily. **Do not take a double dose to make up for the one you have missed.**

Visit your doctor regularly so they can check your progress and make sure your medicine is working.

Tell any other specialist, doctor, dentist or pharmacist that you are on ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE, especially if you are about to be started on any new medicines, immunisations, vaccinations or radiotherapy.

Tell your doctor if are trying to become pregnant or trying to father a child.

Use a sunscreen with a high SPF and protective clothing and limit exposure to sunlight and UV light.

Call your doctor straight away if you:

- Become pregnant while taking this medicine

Things you should not do

Do not have any vaccinations without your doctor's approval. ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE can lower the number of white blood cells and platelets in your blood. This means that you have an increased chance of getting an infection or bleeding.

Do not stop taking it or change the dose without first checking with your doctor.

Do not give this medicine to anyone else, even if their symptoms seem similar to yours.

Do not use ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE to treat any other complaints unless your doctor says to.

Driving or using machines

Be careful before you drive or use any machines or tools until you know how ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE affects you.

Looking after your medicine

- **Keep your tablets in the bottle until it is time to take them.** If you take the tablets out of the bottle, they may not keep well.
- **Keep ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE in a cool dry place, away from moisture, heat, or light where the temperature stays below 25 °C.** For example, do not store it:
 - In the bathroom or near a sink, or
 - In the car or on window sillsHeat and dampness can destroy some medicines.

Follow the instructions in the carton on how to take care of your medicine properly.

Keep it where young children cannot reach it.

A locked cupboard at least one and a half metres above the ground is a good place to store medicines.

Getting rid of any unwanted medicine

If you no longer need to use this medicine or it is out of date, take it to any pharmacy for safe disposal.

Do not use this medicine after the expiry date.

6. Are there any side effects?

All medicines can have side effects. If you do experience any side effects, most of them are minor and temporary. However, some side effects may need medical attention.

See the information below and, if you need to, ask your doctor or pharmacist if you have any further questions about side effects.

Tell your doctor as soon as possible if you do not feel well while you are taking ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE.

Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p>Associated with the drop in production of bone marrow cells:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• frequent infections such as fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers• bruising or bleeding more easily than normal, nose bleeds• unusual tiredness, being short of breath, looking pale. <p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• nausea and vomiting• diarrhoea• jaundice, a yellowing of the whites of the eyes or skin• rash• tender, red bumps, usually found symmetrically on the shins• painful, swollen joints• weight loss• hair loss• persistent cough or breathlessness• in men, sperm production may be reduced.• increased risk of liver disease• increased risk of damage to genes in some cells• Bacterial and viral infections, infections associated with neutropenia• Tell your doctor immediately if you experience diarrhea, localized pigmented rash (dermatitis), and decline in your memory, reasoning or other thinking skills as these symptoms may suggest vitamin B3 deficiency (nicotinic acid deficiency/pellagra). Your doctor will likely prescribe vitamin supplements	<p>Speak to your doctor immediately if you notice any of these side effects.</p>

(niacin/nicotinamide) to help you improving the condition.	
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More serious side effects

More serious side effects	What to do
<p>Signs of allergy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• wheezing• swelling of the lips/mouth• difficulty in breathing• hayfever• lumpy rash (hives)• fainting.	<p>Call your doctor straight away, or go straight to the Emergency Department at your nearest hospital if you notice any of these serious side effects.</p>

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you notice anything else that may be making you feel unwell.

Other side effects not listed here may occur in some people.

Reporting side effects

After you have received medical advice for any side effects you experience, you can report side effects to the Therapeutic Goods Administration online at www.tga.gov.au/reporting-problems. By reporting side effects, you can help provide more information on the safety of this medicine.

Always make sure you speak to your doctor or pharmacist before you decide to stop taking any of your medicines.

7. Product details

This medicine is only available with a doctor's prescription.

What ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE contains

Active ingredient (main ingredient)	Mercaptopurine monohydrate 50 mg
Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)	Lactose monohydrate Magnesium stearate Pregelatinised Starch maize Starch Stearic acid
Potential allergens	Lactose

Do not take this medicine if you are allergic to any of these ingredients.

What ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE looks like ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE tablets are light yellow to yellow coloured, round biconvex tablets debossed with "M" & "E" on either side of a break line on one side and plain on the other. AUST R 427178.

Available in bottles of 25

Who distributes ARX-MERCAPTOPYRINE

Accord Healthcare Pty Ltd
Level 24, 570 Bourke Street
Melbourne VIC3000
Australia
Phone: 1800 134 988

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