

## 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 using PURI-NETHOL?

PURI-NETHOL contains the active ingredient mercaptopurine monohydrate. PURI-NETHOL 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 using PURI-NETHOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 2. What should I know before I use PURI-NETHOL?

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 use PURI-NETHOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 3. What if I am taking other medicines?

Some medicines may interfere with PURI-NETHOL 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 use PURI-NETHOL?

- 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 use PURI-NETHOL?](#) in the full CMI.

### 5. What should I know while using PURI-NETHOL?

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

For more information, see Section [5. What should I know while using PURI-NETHOL?](#) 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 PURI-NETHOL, 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.

# Puri-Nethol®

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 PURI-NETHOL.**

Where to find information in this leaflet:

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

### 1. Why am I using PURI-NETHOL?

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

PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL 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 use PURI-NETHOL?

#### Warnings

**Do not use PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL if you are planning to become pregnant or intending to father a child.** As with all cytotoxic drugs, PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL.

## 4. How do I use PURI-NETHOL?

### How much to take

Take PURI-NETHOL exactly as directed by your doctor.

Your doctor will decide what dose and for how long you will be taking PURI-NETHOL.

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 PURINETHOL.

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 PURINETHOL 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, PURINETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL, 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 PURI-NETHOL?

### 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 PURI-NETHOL, 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.** PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL 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 PURI-NETHOL.**

### Serious side effects

Serious side effects	What to do
<p><b>Associated with the drop in production of bone marrow cells:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• frequent infections such as fever, sore throat or mouth ulcers</li><li>• bruising or bleeding more easily than normal, nose bleeds</li><li>• unusual tiredness, being short of breath, looking pale.</li></ul> <p><b>Other:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• nausea and vomiting</li><li>• diarrhoea</li><li>• jaundice, a yellowing of the whites of the eyes or skin</li><li>• rash</li><li>• tender, red bumps, usually found symmetrically on the shins</li><li>• painful, swollen joints</li><li>• weight loss</li><li>• hair loss</li><li>• persistent cough or breathlessness</li><li>• in men, sperm production may be reduced.</li><li>• increased risk of liver disease</li><li>• increased risk of damage to genes in some cells</li><li>• Bacterial and viral infections, infections associated with neutropenia</li><li>• 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</li></ul>	<p><b>Speak to your doctor immediately if you notice any of these side effects.</b></p>

(niacin/nicotinamide) to help you improving the condition.	
--	--

### More serious side effects

More serious side effects	What to do
<p><b>Signs of allergy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• wheezing</li><li>• swelling of the lips/mouth</li><li>• difficulty in breathing</li><li>• hayfever</li><li>• lumpy rash (hives)</li><li>• fainting.</li></ul>	<p><b>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.</b></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](http://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 PURI-NETHOL contains

<b>Active ingredient (main ingredient)</b>	Mercaptopurine monohydrate 50mg
<b>Other ingredients (inactive ingredients)</b>	Lactose monohydrate Magnesium stearate Starch-hydrolyzed maize Starch-maize Stearic acid
<b>Potential allergens</b>	Lactose

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

### What PURI-NETHOL looks like

PURI-NETHOL tablets are pale yellow, round, biconvex tablets, marked PT above the line and 50 below the line on one side and plain on the other. Available in bottles of 25

tablets.  
(AUST R 10993)

**Who distributes PURI-NETHOL**

Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Ltd  
34-36 Chandos St  
St Leonards NSW 2065  
Australia

This leaflet was revised in March 2025