
Treatment Information

Gold Injections

Gold is an effective treatment for inflammatory arthritis. It is not just a painkiller. It is given to reduce inflammation in your joints and to reduce the risk of joint damage.

What will be written on my prescription?

The drug you are being given is called SODIUM AUROTHIOMALATE. It is also known by the trade name MYOCRISIN. It is produced in a form suitable for injection.

How shall I be given Gold?

You will be given gold therapy by weekly injections into the muscle. If the therapy is of benefit, this may be reduced after a few months to fortnightly or monthly injections.

How long will it take to work?

It may take 6 to 12 weeks before any improvement is felt. You should continue taking your other medication as advised.

What shall I do if I miss an injection?

It is perfectly reasonable to miss an occasional dose of gold if you are away. If you are absent for two or more treatments, you can always arrange to take your medication with you for a local doctor to administer.

Are there any side effects?

As with all medication some people may experience side effects. These may include:

- Irritation of skin
- Rashes
- Mouth Ulcers
- Loss of appetite
- Bruising and bleeding easily

Gold can occasionally affect the blood and the way your kidneys work.

What Tests Will I Have?

- Urine Test: Gold can affect the kidneys so your urine will be tested for protein and blood before the injection is given. A trace of either is quite common. The gold will only be withheld if the dipstick test shows ++ or more and further tests will show if the protein is due to an infection or the gold.
- Blood Test: Gold can affect the blood so you must have regular blood tests and these will need to take place monthly.

Important Information

If you have a rash or **any form of irritation** the gold **must not** be given. If an injection is

Rheumatology department Patient Information

given after a gold rash has begun the rash can become very unpleasant.
Always inform the nurse or doctor of any side effects before your next injection.
All the tests ensure that side effects can be picked up before they become a problem.
The test results should be recorded on your gold card.
If you are or plan to become **pregnant**, you should discuss this with your doctor.
You should see your doctor if you develop any signs of infection.

Contact Details

If you have any further questions or need advice about your treatment phone the Rheumatology Advice line on

01202 442849.

www.poole.nhs.uk/our_services/rheumatology.asp

For further health-related information, please contact:

The Health Information & Resource Centre

Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

Longfleet Road

Poole

BH15 2JB

Telephone: (01202) 448003

Rheumatology Practitioners

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We can supply this information in larger print, on audiotape, or have it translated for you. A member of staff will be happy to discuss this with you. Please call PALS on 01202 448499 or the Health Information Centre on 01202 448003 for further advice