

Medication: Rifaximin 550 mg

What is Rifaximin?

Rifaximin is an antibiotic used to treat irritable bowel syndrome with diarrhea (IBS-D). It is especially useful in patients suffering from bloating. It can also be used for treatment of small intestinal bacterial overgrowth (SIBO).

Expected Benefit:

- Usually takes at least 2 weeks to notice a benefit. Most people do not notice a benefit until after they have completed the 2-week treatment

Watch for possible side effects:

It is important to be aware of the side effects however, it is also important to remember that not all side effects occur in everyone. Many of the less serious side effects will improve over the first few days of taking the medication.

Rifaximin is usually well tolerated. If you have problems with these side effects talk with your doctor or pharmacist:

- Stomach upset
- Swelling of the ankles

How to use this medication:

- Take this medication with or without food

Dosing Schedule:

- 550 mg 3 times a day for 2 weeks

Drugs and Foods to Avoid:

Ask your doctor or pharmacist before using any other medication, including non-prescription medication (over-the-counter medication) and herbal products.

Please contact the Complex Chronic Diseases Program if you have further questions about your medications.