

## Medication: Cyclosporine

### What is Cyclosporine:

Cyclosporine is an immunosuppressant that can be used for a variety of different medical conditions. It is used for the treatment of interstitial cystitis unresponsive to all other treatments including instillation therapy.

### Expected Benefit:

- Usually takes 6 weeks to notice a benefit

### Watch for possible side effects:

This list of side effects is important for you to be aware of however, it is also important to remember that not all side effects happen to everyone.

Cyclosporine is usually well tolerated at the smaller doses used for interstitial cystitis. If you have problems with these side effects talk with your doctor or pharmacist:

- High blood pressure
- Thickening of the gums
- Facial hair
- Stomach upset
- More infections than usual

Use sunscreen SPF 15 or above. There is an increased risk of skin cancer in people who take cyclosporine.

### Monitoring:

- You will need blood tests every week for the first 4 weeks
- Then, you will need blood tests every 6 months

### Stopping the medication:

Please talk with your doctor before stopping the medication.

### Dosing Schedule:

- The dose will be based on your weight
- This medication is taken twice a day, around the same time each day
- The dose will be decreased by half once you get a good response

### 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.

- Too much vitamin C can decrease the effectiveness of cyclosporine (e.g. multivitamins and grapefruit)
- Avoid NSAIDS (e.g., ibuprofen)

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- This medication has a lot of drug interactions; please check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medicine.

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