

TREATMENTS & SIDE EFFECTS*

CLASS	MEDICATION NAMES (BRAND NAMES)	FORM	NOTES	COMMON SIDE EFFECTS
Rifamycin	Rifampin (Rifadin, Rimactane)	Capsule	Generally used to treat MAC, along with ethambutol plus macrolide.	Red, brown or orange saliva, sweat, tears or feces; diarrhea/upset stomach; fever, chills, flu-like symptoms; flushing; itching; rash; elevated liver enzymes; blood count abnormality
	Rifabutin (Mycobutin)	Capsule	Rifamycins may permanently stain contact lenses orange. Consider disposable contact lenses as an alternative.	
Ethambutol	(Myambutol)	Pill	Patients on ethambutol should have regular vision checks.	Vision changes; numbness, tingling in hands and feet; rash
Macrolide	Clarithromycin (Biaxin)	Pill	Do not take a macrolide alone or with a quinolone as this can cause drug resistance.	Irregular heart rhythm; hearing changes; nausea; muscle weakness; kidney problems; metallic taste; diarrhea; abdominal pain; rash
	Azithromycin (Zithromax)	Pill	Patients on Azithromycin should have an EKG and regular hearing checks.	
Aminoglycoside	Amikacin (Amikin)	Injection, inhaled, IV	Patients on aminoglycosides should have regular hearing checks, including a baseline hearing test before or at start of treatment.	Hearing changes; nausea; muscle weakness; rash; poor balance; kidney problems
	Tobramycin (Tobi)	Inhaled, IV		
	Streptomycin	Injection, IV		

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Fluoroquinolones (“Quinolone”)	Ciprofloxacin (Cipro) Levofloxacin (Levaquin) Moxifloxacin (Avelox)	Pill Pill Pill	Do not take alone or only with a macrolide as this can cause drug resistance. At-risk patients should check EKG for QTc interval prior to therapy and after treatment has started.	Upset stomach; rash; diarrhea; headache; loss of appetite; EKG abnormality in at-risk patients or in combination with other medications; dizziness; tendon abnormalities
Tetracycline	Minocycline (Minocin) Doxycycline (Vibramycin) Tigecycline (Tygacil)	Pill Pill Injection		Sun sensitivity; nausea; diarrhea; dizziness; rash; elevated liver enzymes; blood count abnormality
Cephalosporin (Beta-lactam)	Cefoxitin (Mefoxin)	IV		Rash; elevated liver enzymes
Penicillin (also Beta-lactam)	Amoxicillin Ampicillin-sulbactam Piperacillin-tazobactum	Pill IV (oral form available outside the US) IV		Nausea; rash; diarrhea

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Other Beta-lactams	Aztreonam (Azactam) Imipenem (Primaxin) Meropenem (Merrem Trimethoprim) Sulfamethoxazole (Bactrimo, Septra)	IV Injection, IV Injection, IV Pill		Itching; loss of appetite; rash
Leprostatic	Clofazimine (Lamprene)	Pill	Sometimes used for MAC patients when standard therapy has failed. Requires FDA approval for use on a case-by-case basis.	Loss of appetite; diarrhea; abdominal pain; dry mouth and skin; pink, red, orange or brown skin discoloration
Oxazolidinone	Linezolid (Zyvox)	Pill		Rash; blood count abnormality; headache; upset stomach; numbness in hands and feet; vision changes

* Refer to **ntminfo.org** for the latest information on drugs that become approved or are under investigation. You can also sign up for email updates via the website.