

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

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Other Beta-lactams	Aztreonam (Azactam)	IV		Itching; loss of appetite; rash
	Imipenem (Primaxin)	Injection, IV		
	Meropenem (Merrem Trimethoprim)	Injection, IV		
	Sulfamethoxazole (Bactrimo, Septra)	Pill		
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.