



Cumbria Advisory Thyroid Service

INFORMATION SHEET



DRUG INTERACTIONS

THYROXINE interacts with a variety of drugs: patients taking Thyroxine replacement should be advised not to self medicate using the counter preparations:-

Thyroxine can enhance the cardiovascular effects of drugs with sympathomimetic action such as adrenaline, dopamine or ketamine, possibly inducing angina (chest pain) or arrhythmia (palpitations).

Patients are advised not to use 'cold cures' that contain PSEUDOEPHEDRINE - Actifed compound linctus; Actifed expectorant; Actifed syrup; Actifed tablets; bronalin dry cough elixir; day cold comfort capsules; dimotane expectorant; dimotane with codeine; dimotane with codeine paediatric; expulin cough linctus - sugar free; galpseud; galpseud plus; meltus dry cough elixir - adult or junior; night cold comfort capsules; phensedyl plus; robitussion chesty cough with congestion; Sudafed elixir; Sudafed expectorant; Sudafed linctus; Sudafed tablets; Sudafed co-tablets; tixilix cough and cold.

Caution must also be taken when taking ASPIRIN as this may cause the symptoms of hyperthyroidism. Anti-coagulants (blood-thinning) such as warfarin may need to be reduced-always remind your medic of your thyroid medication.

Patients with diabetes may need higher doses of insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs.

Anti-depressants may give more side-effects including the risk of cardiac arrhythmia (palpitations).

Thyroxine absorption will be reduced when taking CHOLESTYRAMINE (to lower fats in the blood); IRON (to treat anaemia); ANTACIDS (for stomach upsets); CRIMETIDINE (ulcer healing). These may be administered two hours before or after thyroxine.

ANTICONVULSANTS (drugs for epilepsy or similar fit-like conditions) and RIFAMPICIN (antibacterial, antibiotic used mainly for TB) accelerates the elimination of thyroxine, and so you may need to increase the dose requirements.

SOME IMPORTANT NOTES:

- Always discuss any medication with your doctor and report any side-effects within a reasonable time.
- Do not hesitate to get treatment promptly. This in no way should make you more apprehensive about taking other medications- but should alert you to watching for how you feel whenever you take the odd 'pill' - especially buying 'over the counter' - ask the pharmacist for advice and state that you are being treated with thyroxine.
- Always state this condition whenever you are at your own surgery or in hospital for ANY KIND OF TREATMENT WHATSOEVER

Perhaps in time and with the advent of new drugs coming on to the market, it may be a good idea for all thyroid patients to carry a card or wear a bracelet with these conditions stated for all eventualities.

C.A.T.S RECOMMENDS YOU ALWAYS SEEK YOUR DOCTORS ADVICE

Disclaimer

The purpose of this information leaflet is to help those suffering with thyroid disease. Whilst every effort is made to provide accurate information, it is impossible to ensure that the information given is relevant to every individual. No responsibility is accepted by CATS and it is recommended and essential, that if in any doubt about your condition, that you should always contact your doctor, specialist physician or surgeon to seek medical advice.