



### The Washington University Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinic Medication Information Sheet for Metronidazole (Flagyl)

**Brand Name:** Flagyl

**Generic Name:** metronidazole

**Drug Class:** Antibiotic

#### **What does this medication do?**

Metronidazole is used to treat Crohn's disease, abscesses, bacterial overgrowth in the intestine and pouchitis. It has antimicrobial activity (kills bacteria and parasites) as well as anti-inflammatory and immunosuppressive properties.

#### **Possible Side Effects:**

*This medication is well tolerated by most people. If you have problems with less serious side effects, please talk with your doctor. Often, these side effects lessen and/or disappear with a decrease of dosage.*

- Headache
- Nausea
- Crampy abdominal discomfort
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhea
- Changes in mood or other mental changes
- Metallic taste in the mouth
- Vaginal discharge, irritation or dryness

#### **Call you doctor *immediately* if you have any of these side effects:**

- Allergic reaction (Itching or hives, swelling in face or hands, swelling or tingling in the mouth or throat, tightness in chest, trouble breathing)
- Severe abdominal pain or severe back pain
- Numbness, tingling, weakness or pain in the hands and/or feet (peripheral neuropathy)
- Seizure (rare)

**Warning:** You should avoid this medication during the first trimester of pregnancy.

- Avoid drinking alcohol while on this medication and for one day after stopping it. You may experience nausea, vomiting, abdominal pain, flushing of the face and headache and if taken together.
- This medication may be taken with food
- Be sure to maintain adequate hydration by increasing the amount of non-caffeinated beverages you drink daily
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you remember

#### **Please tell your doctor if you take any of these medications:**

- Anticoagulants (Coumadin, Heparin, Lovenox, Plavix)
- Cimetadine (Tagamet)
- Lithium
- Anticonvulsants (Phenytoin, Phenobarbitol)