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## **Cellcept (Mycophenolate Mofetil)**

Cellcept is used primarily in kidney transplant patients to prevent the body from rejecting the new kidney. It can also be used to treat psoriasis and blistering diseases, like pemphigus and pemphigoid. It inhibits the white blood cells and can cause bone marrow suppression. Frequent blood counts are necessary to check for early signs of suppression. Initially, these are done every week. If the blood counts are stable for several months, then they are monitored on a monthly basis. It is extremely important that these tests be done regularly as prescribed by your doctor.

The following are possible side effects. You should notify your doctor if these occur:

1. Nausea, Diarrhea, and abdominal cramps
2. Bone marrow suppression (frequent blood counts)
3. Slow blood loss from the stomach (black tar-like stools)

Long-term Risks:

1. 1 out of 25 patients will develop shingles
2. Increased risk of non-melanoma types of skin cancer
3. Possible increased risk of leukemia or lymphoma

**Pregnancy Usage:** The effects of Cellcept on developing babies are unknown. It is of the utmost importance that women of child bearing potential take every possible precaution to avoid becoming pregnant while on Cellcept. It has no known effect on men's ability to have normal children.

Instructions:

1. Take Cellcept as directed by your physician. It is best to take it on an empty stomach, however if nausea occurs, it may be taken with food.
2. Do not take antacids (like Tums, Roloids, or Maalox) an hour before or after taking Cellcept.
3. Notify your physician at once if an accidental overdose is suspected.
4. Do not begin or change any of your medications without checking with your physician.
5. If you have any questions about your medicine, contact your physician or nurse at our clinic.