



ISOTRETINOIN (ACCUTANE) INFORMATION

- Stop any other acne medications you may be using as they can excessively dry out your skin or cause side effects when taken at the same time as Isotretinoin. For a face wash, use only gentle washes such as Epionce Gentle Foaming Cleanser or Milky Lotion Cleanser, Cetaphil Daily Facial Cleanser, or CeraVe Foaming Facial Cleanser.
- You will need to have labs done prior to starting your medication and typically two months after starting the medication. You should be fasting for about 12 hours prior to having your labs done. We will hold your prescription until we have your results. If you have not heard from us within 3 days of getting your labs done, contact our office as we likely didn't receive your results and will need to request them directly from the lab.
- You will receive an email from iPledge with an ID number. You will need that number at the Pharmacy when you fill the prescription.
- Do not share your medication with anyone. Do not donate blood during your treatment and for 1 month after you take your last pill.
- For best results, take your medication with a fatty meal. This helps with the absorption of the medication. If you are supposed to take two pills a day, you may take them at the same time. If you notice increased side effects taking them at the same time, you can split up the doses and take one pill twice a day.
- The most common side effects of Isotretinoin are dry lips, skin, and eyes. We recommend you carry a lip moisturizer such as Carmex, Vaseline, or Aquaphor Healing Ointment or Dr. Dan's lip balm with you at all times and use it as often as possible. If nosebleeds become an issue, apply Vaseline to the nostrils using a Q-tip. Using a saline nasal spray can also be helpful. Good moisturizers for your face and body include Epionce Renewal Calming Cream, CeraVe, Cetaphil, or other moisturizers advertised as non-comedogenic. A fish oil (1000 - 2000mg daily) is also recommended as it has been shown to reduce the side effects of dryness and can help with the elevation in triglycerides that can often occur while taking Isotretinoin. This can be purchased over the counter.
- For dry eyes, use Refresh Plus Lubricant Eye Drops - Preservative Free or Systane Ultra Preservative Free Eye Drops. Use of a warm compress 10 minutes a day is also helpful to relieve clogged glands within the eyelids and reduce eye dryness. For this we recommend the Bruder eye mask which can be purchased many places including Amazon.

- Other side effects of Isotretinoin include but are not limited to sun sensitivity (this means you are more likely to get a sunburn, so wear sunscreen!) depression, vision changes, severe headache, liver function test abnormalities, triglyceride elevation, inflammatory bowel disease or other intestinal problems, and joint pains. If you develop any concerning symptoms, stop the medication and call your physician.

- Your acne may get worse after starting Isotretinoin. Many patients do not notice improvement until 3-4 months after starting the medication. Most patients are free of acne after 6 months of treatment so stick with it even if you are not noticing improvement initially.

- If your medicine costs more than \$80 for a month supply, please let us know as we can usually get it for no more than \$80 if we use a different pharmacy.