# AURANOFIN ('Gold')

*or-an-oh-fin*

## What does it do?

*Auranofin* is used to treat rheumatoid arthritis.

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have blood, blood pressure, kidney, liver, lung, or skin problems, an inflammatory bowel condition, or if you have ever had a severe allergic reaction.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *auranofin* regularly as directed. Take with food and a glass of water.

## What if you forget a dose?

Take the missed dose as soon as possible. If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and carry on as normal. Do not take two doses at the same time.

## Can you take other medicines?

Tell your pharmacist or doctor about all medicines or treatments that you may be taking, including vitamins, herbal products or recreational drugs.

## What side effects might you notice?

| Side Effects | Recommended action |
|---|---|
| Reduced number of blood cells that fight infections or help your blood to clot - symptoms include: fever, chills, sore throat or generally feeling unwell, or easy or unusual bruising or bleeding<br>Pain or ulcers inside mouth or on tongue<br>Skin rash, itching<br>Trouble breathing | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, change of appetite, indigestion | Tell your doctor |
| Irritation/redness of the eyes<br>Changes in taste<br>Hair loss or thinning | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

If you notice any other effects, discuss them with your doctor or pharmacist.

## Other information:

- *Auranofin* may affect your kidneys and blood. Regular blood and urine tests will be necessary to monitor these effects.
- Protect yourself from too much sunlight while being treated with *auranofin*. Always cover up and apply a thick layer of broad spectrum sunscreen (at least SPF 30) when outside. Do not use sunbeds.
- To reduce the risk of side effects, take care of your teeth and gums (brush and floss your teeth).
- You may not notice the effects of *auranofin* straight away – discuss this with your doctor.
- *Auranofin* is not registered for use in New Zealand. Discuss with your doctor.