# PARA-AMINOSALICYLIC ACID

*par-ah-ah-meen-oh-sal-ih-sil-ik ass-id*

## What does it do?

*Para-aminosalicylic acid* is an antibiotic used with other medicines to treat tuberculosis (TB).

## Before you start

- Tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver problems.
- You will need regular blood tests before you start and while you are taking *para-aminosalicylic acid* to check if it is causing problems with your thyroid or liver.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, planning to become pregnant, or breastfeeding.

## How should you take it?

Take *para-aminosalicylic acid* regularly as directed. Sprinkle the granules onto yoghurt or into a drink of juice then swallow all the mixture. The granules will not dissolve. If some granules are left in the glass, add some more juice and drink straight away, so that you get the full dose. Swallow the granules whole – do not crush or chew them.

Keep taking *para-aminosalicylic acid* until the course is finished.
It is important to take it regularly. If you often forget to take it, it may not work as well.

## What if you forget a dose?

If it is nearly time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and take your next dose at the usual time. Otherwise, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. 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 |
|---|---|
| Fever, skin rash<br>Symptoms of liver problems including: yellow skin or eyes, itching, dark urine, pale bowel motions, abdominal pain | Tell your doctor immediately |
| Stomach upset | Tell your doctor if troublesome |

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

## Other information:

- You may see the empty granule coating in your bowel motions – this is harmless.
- Store *para-aminosalicylic acid* granules in the fridge or freezer as directed.
- *Para-aminosalicylic acid* is not registered for use in New Zealand. Discuss with your doctor.