

Instructions for patient taking PTU or Methimazole

You are now taking a drug for your hyperthyroidism which may have the following side-effects:

1. Skin rash – this is rarely serious and should disappear when the drug is stopped.
2. Loss of white blood cells in the body – this can lead to severe infections.
3. Severe liver damage – this is serious but very rare.

Warning symptoms of low blood cell count are sore throat, high fever and occasionally painful bleeding gums. If any of these symptoms develop, you should stop the PTU or Methimazole and call 760-753-3636. If you are unable to reach the doctor, go to your nearest emergency room and *bring your medications with you*. A white blood cell count will be performed and if low the emergency room doctor should contact the on call endocrinologist for further instructions.

Symptoms of liver damage include nausea, vomiting, poor appetite, and yellow discoloration of the eyes and skin. If these symptoms develop, you should stop the PTU or Methimazole and follow the instructions above.

Should you get a rash, this does not represent an emergency but you should stop the medication and contact the doctor.

The side-effects of PTU and Methimazole have been explained to me and I understand.

Signature

Date