

Amantadine/Rimantidine Fact Sheet

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Amantadine and rimantadine are anti-viral medications that prevent influenza A virus replication.

When do we use Amantadine or Rimantadine?

The drug is used to prevent influenza A and to treat early influenza A. It is used to prevent transmission of influenza A in outbreaks and may given to persons who cannot receive the vaccine.

How effective are Amantadine and Rimantadine?

Amantadine and Rimantadine are 75-90% effective in preventing influenza A when given prophylactically. Some studies suggest they are more efficacious when given with the flu vaccine. Amantadine and rimantadine decrease the severity of influenza A if given within 48 hours of developing symptoms. They also decrease the duration a person sheds influenza A virus.

What are the side effects of Amantadine and Rimantadine?

Amantadine and Rimantadine can cause gastrointestinal and central nervous system side effects including nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, irritability, difficulty sleeping or concentrating. If these side effects occur the dose is reduced by half (100 mg daily). Persons taking Amantadine or Rimantadine should not use alcohol because alcohol can worsen the central nervous system side effects of the drug.

What is the dose of Amantadine or Rimantadine?

The usual dose is 100 mg by mouth twice a day. The dose is reduced for renal failure and in the elderly.

Who cannot take Amantadine or Rimantadine?

There are limited data about the use of amantadine and rimantadine during pregnancy.