

**Rifampicin for cholestatic itch – What is your experience?**

**March – April 2015**

Number of responses = 40

1) How often have you used rifampicin for cholestatic itch? (one\_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
Never	34	85%
Once	3	8%
2–5 times	4	10%
6–10 times	1	3%
more than 10 times	2	5%

2) Which of the following would you generally try before commencing rifampicin? (many\_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of voters</i>
Cholestyramine	26	65
PO corticosteroids	20	50
Opioid antagonist	5	13
PO antihistamine	25	63
Sertraline	11	28
Paroxetine	14	35
Danazol	0	0
Ondansetron	13	33
Other (please specify in the comments section at the end)	10	25

3) What starting dose of rifampicin would you use (total daily starting dose)? (one\_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
75mg/day	4	10%
150mg/day	11	28%
300mg/day	4	10%
600mg/day	0	0%
Other (please specify in the comments section at the end)	9	23%

4) How would you give this starting dose? (one\_of)

<i>answer</i>	<i>votes</i>	<i>% of vote</i>
As a single daily dose	12	30%
Split into twice a day	7	18%
Other (please specify in the comments section at the end)	9	23%

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5) Generally, how soon would you increase the dose? (freetext)

Unless indicated otherwise, all were single responses:

4 half-lives

3 days

3-4 days

3-5 days

Between 3-5 days and a week

7 days (3 responses)

Depends on response, probably 14-28 days

6) What dose would you generally aim for before concluding rifampicin was ineffective? (one\_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
75mg/day	0	0%
150mg/day	1	3%
300mg/day	8	20%
600mg/day	7	18%
Other (please specify in the comments section at the end)	10	25%

7) Have you found this approach is generally well tolerated? (one\_of)

answer	votes	% of vote
Yes	9	23%
No - dose reduction often needed	0	0%
No - patients often discontinue	0	0%
Other (please specify in the comments section at the end)	17	43%

8) Further comments. (freetext)

Several members had not used rifampicin for cholestatic itch or were not aware of its use in this context. Reservations were expressed around enzyme induction and the effect of rifampicin on concurrent medication.

Other drugs that were reported as being used on occasion were; gabapentin, cimetidine, lidocaine (CIVI), topical aqueous cream with levomenthol (2 responses), activated charcoal. Unless indicated, all were single responses.