

Side Effect	Management
Other rare but serious side effects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shortness of breath • Liver injury – watch for yellowing of skin / eye whites (jaundice), dark tea-coloured urine, or pale stools • Low white blood cell count - watch for persistent fever, chills, and mouth ulcers 	Stop the medication and see your doctor immediately.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- It is important to inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking this medication.
- There is inadequate data to inform on safety of riluzole in pregnant or breastfeeding women. Your doctor will weigh the risks and benefits for continuing this medication.

How do I Store Riluzole?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Riluzole



What is Riluzole?

- It is a medication that may help to improve survival for patients with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).
- ALS, a type of motor neuron disease (MND), is a progressive degenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. This leads to muscle weakness and loss of muscle function over time.
- Riluzole is thought to work by blocking excitatory brain chemicals, but the exact mechanism of action is unknown.

How is Riluzole Taken?

- Take the dose prescribed by your doctor.
- Take at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after food. A high-fat meal decreases the absorption of riluzole.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Do not double the dosage.

Can Riluzole be Taken With Other Medications?

- Riluzole may sometimes cause liver problems, especially when taken with other medications that affect the liver.
 - Examples of such medications include: allopurinol, sulfasalazine and methyldopa.
 - However, as this list of medications is not exhaustive, please inform your doctor if you are taking other medications.
- Please also inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any supplements, traditional or herbal remedies. This is to enable your doctor or pharmacist to check for any potential drug-drug interactions.

What are the Common Side Effects of Riluzole?

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Gastrointestinal symptoms e.g. nausea, abdominal discomfort, flatulence	Take after food, avoid fatty meals.
Liver problems e.g. increased liver enzymes	Your doctor will schedule regular blood tests to monitor your liver function especially in the first three months of treatment.
Muscle weakness	Your body will get used to it with time. Stop medication and inform your doctor if the muscle weakness worsens.
Dizziness or drowsiness	Do not drive or perform any tasks that require alertness if you feel drowsy. Your body will get used to the medication with time. Consult your doctor if you cannot tolerate the dizziness or if it worsens.
Increased blood pressure	If you experience severe headaches or changes in eyesight, stop the medication and see your doctor immediately.
Swollen legs/ water retention	Elevate your legs when sitting or lying down. If swelling does not resolve, consult your doctor.
Bone pain or ache	Consult your doctor if you cannot tolerate the bone pain or if it worsens.