

MEDICATION NAME: MYCOPHENOLATE MOFETIL THERAPY (MMF)

BRAND: CELLCEPT

HOW IS IT GIVEN:	Oral capsule 50-200mg, tablet, liquid suspension.
HOW DOES IT WORK:	Interferes with the proliferation of cells involved in (auto)immune responses and used to prevent transplant rejection eg of a kidney.
COMMON DOSING REGIMENS:	<u>Starting dose:</u> 400 mg/m ² once daily for 1-2 weeks; dose increments based on tolerability. (Typical is lower and increased over weeks). <u>Maximum dose:</u> 1000 mg twice a day. <u>Maintenance:</u> 400-600 mg/m ² twice a day.
COMMON SIDE EFFECTS:	Cytopenias (low blood counts), headaches, gastrointestinal upset/toxicity, hepatotoxicity (liver injury), hypertension (high blood pressure), and increased susceptibility to infection.
RARE BUT SERIOUS SIDE EFFECTS:	There is a 'black box' warning for infection risk and a rare but possible risk of lymphoma/cancer.
TYPICAL TIME TO RESPONSE:	1-3 months.
LIKELIHOOD OF INITIAL RESPONSE:	Estimated to be 50-65%.
LIKELIHOOD OF LONG-TERM RESPONSE (3-5 YEARS):	The prevalence of sustained response off treatment has not been established.
OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:	<u>Monitoring:</u> CBC weekly until stable dose then monthly. Creatinine monthly and liver function tests monthly. Live virus vaccines should be avoided while taking this medication. <u>Drug Interactions:</u> Echinacea, proton pump inhibitors, some antibiotics, certain hormones, calcium carbonate, and anti-viral medications.

References:

1. Cellcept website <https://www.cellcept.com/>
2. MedBroadcast: <https://www.medbroadcast.com/drug/getdrug/cellcept>
3. Platelet Disorder Support Association. <https://www.pdsa.org/treatments/conventional/immunosuppressants.html>

4. Miano, M et al. (2016). Mycophenolate mofetil for the treatment of children with immune thrombocytopenia and Evans syndrome. A retrospective data review from the Italian association of pediatric haematology/oncology. *British Journal of Haematology*. 175(3): 490-495.
5. Taylor, A., Neave, L., Solanki, S., Westwood, JP., McGuckin, S., Kothari, J., Cooper, N., Stasi, R., and Scully, M. (2015). Mycophenolate mofetil therapy for severe immune thrombocytopenia. *British Journal of Haematology*. 17(14): 625-630.