



## PATIENT FACT SHEET

# Colchicine (Colcris, Mitigare)



### WHAT IS IT?

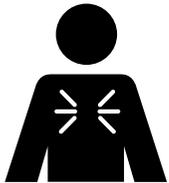
**Colchicine is a medication used to treat some inflammatory disorders.** In children, colchicine is most commonly used to treat Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF), Behcet disease and recurrent aphthous stomatitis.

In adults, it is more commonly used to treat gout. In the treatment of FMF, it reduces the frequency of fever and arthritis attacks, and prevents complications of FMF.



### HOW TO TAKE IT

**Colchicine is a pill that is typically taken twice daily.** It comes in a 0.6 mg tablet. Patients are commonly started on a low dose (for example 0.3 mg once or twice per day), and the dose is slowly increased if needed. The maximum dose is usually no more than 1.8 mg daily.



### SIDE EFFECTS

**The most common side effect of colchicine is diarrhea.** Diarrhea can occur in up to 10% of people taking it. Other gastrointestinal symptoms, such as nausea and vomiting can also occur. Doses may have to be reduced

if these symptoms occur. Colchicine is considered safe when taken at the correct dose, but overdosing on the medication can be lethal.



### TELL YOUR DOCTOR

**Tell your doctor if you are experiencing diarrhea, nausea, vomiting or abdominal pain while on this medication.** This may be a sign that your colchicine dose is too high. Some medications may interfere with colchicine and increase the risk of serious side effects. Some of these medications include clarithromycin, fluoxetine, paroxetine, cimetidine and some antifungal

therapies. Grapefruit juice may also interfere with this medication, so avoid grapefruit juice when taking colchicine. Tell your doctor if you have kidney or liver issues prior to starting this medication as doses may need to be adjusted. Please discuss with your doctor if you are pregnant, breastfeeding or planning to become pregnant.