FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking allopurinol safely

allopurinol · xanthine oxidase inhibitor · for gout

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1. **Ignoring a new rash**
   Stop taking allopurinol and seek medical attention right away at the first sign.
2. **Expecting no flares, or stopping for one**
   Flares can happen when starting or raising the dose. Don't stop on your own.
3. **Not sharing your full medicine list**
   Azathioprine, mercaptopurine, and several others need attention or dose changes.

Rash: act fast (mistake #1)

- **Stop taking allopurinol and seek medical attention right away** for a rash, blisters, fever, painful urination, blood in your urine, eye irritation, or swelling of your lips or mouth.
- Rare, but can be serious, even deadly, usually in the first few months. Risk is higher with amoxicillin, ampicillin, or a thiazide water pill.

Gout flares (mistake #2)

- Flares can happen when you start allopurinol or raise the dose, even if uric acid looks normal. Keep taking it and your flare medicine.
- Take after meals. Drink plenty of fluids (about 2 liters of urine a day) to help prevent kidney stones.
- Missed a dose? Don't double the next one.

Share your full medicine list

- **Azathioprine or mercaptopurine:** your doctor will lower those doses. Cyclosporine, dicumarol, warfarin, and theophylline also need monitoring.
- **Never with pegloticase.** Don't drive or use machinery until you know how allopurinol affects you; avoid alcohol.

Also watch for

- Liver trouble: yellowing skin or eyes, itching, or loss of appetite.
- Low blood counts: fever, unusual bleeding or bruising, or feeling very tired.
- Persistent nausea or diarrhea also needs attention.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911
A rash with blisters, peeling skin, mouth sores, or fever, or swelling of the face, lips, or mouth: get medical help right away.

Good to know

Pregnant, planning to be, or breastfeeding? Tell your doctor before starting allopurinol.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information for allopurinol tablets (Dr. Reddy's, rev. 6/2025). ZYLOPRIM is a trademark of its owner.

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