

DAPSONE

Dapsone was chosen by your doctor because it is effective against the disease you have. It is generally a safe drug, but does have some side effects that you should be aware of.

WHY DO I NEED SO MANY BLOOD TESTS WHILE TAKING DAPSONE?

The most serious undesired effects are a reduction in the numbers of red blood cells (common) and white blood cells (uncommon). If these problems occur, they usually occur early in the treatment. For this reason, you will be required to have blood tests drawn every week or two initially, then less often as time goes on.

WHEN SHOULD I CALL MY DOCTOR?

If you develop pale skin, yellow eyes, purple skin spots, rash, persistent fever, sore throat, persistent nausea, muscle weakness, or other unusual symptoms be sure to promptly contact your doctor. These symptoms could represent undesired side effects of the medication and may require a change in therapy.

ARE THERE ALTERNATIVES TO THIS MEDICATION?

If you are using Dapsone for dermatitis herpetiformis, you can eliminate or drastically reduce the need to take Dapsone by not eating any wheat or wheat products. You will be referred to a dietitian for instruction on this difficult-to-follow diet.

If you are taking Dapsone for a different disease, a wheat-free diet will have no effect. Your doctor has chosen Dapsone because it is much safer than the alternative medications and because its benefits when used properly are much greater than its potential risks.