RIFAXIMIN (Targaxan) (Adults) – Prescribing Support (October 2015)

- Rifaximin 550mg tablets (Targaxan) is licensed for the reduction in recurrence of episodes of overt hepatic encephalopathy in patients aged 18 years of age and above.
- Treatment should be initiated only under hospital or specialist supervision.
- Rifaximin is generally well tolerated with no side effects.
- No specific monitoring is recommended as part of this therapy.

Licensed Indication
Rifaximin (Targaxan) is licensed for the reduction in recurrence of episodes of overt hepatic encephalopathy in patients aged 18 years of age and above. This is also recommended by the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) ((NICE TA337).

Treatment should be initiated only under hospital or specialist supervision.

Dosage
Rifaximin 550mg tablets ONE tablet twice a day

Contraindications
- Hypersensitivity to rifaximin, rifamycin-derivatives or to any of the excipients.
- Cases of intestinal obstruction.

Drug interactions
Rifaximin is a non-absorbed (<1%) rifamycin antibacterial.


Due to the effects on the gut flora, the effectiveness of oral oestrogenic contraceptives could decrease after Rifaximin administration. However, such interactions have not been commonly reported. It is recommended to take additional contraceptive precautions, in particular if the oestrogen content of oral contraceptives is less than 50 micrograms.

In vitro data show that Rifaximin did not inhibit the major cytochrome P-450 drug metabolizing enzymes.

Adverse effects
Rifaximin is generally well tolerated, with no significant adverse effects.

Patients should be informed that despite the negligible absorption of the drug, like all rifamycin derivatives, rifaximin may cause a reddish discoloration of the urine.


Monitoring
No specific monitoring is required

References