Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

Information for patients taking Carbimazole or Propylthiouracil (PTU)

Carbimazole or Propylthiouracil (PTU) is a drug you have been given to control the over activity of your thyroid gland (thyrotoxicosis). Side effects are uncommon and the drugs are very safe providing that you follow the instructions below:

Very occasionally Carbimazole or PTU can affect the production of white blood cells (agranulocytosis). If this occurs, stopping the Carbimazole or PTU immediately allows the white blood cells to recover.

The earliest sign that the drug maybe affecting your white blood cells is a sore throat and/or mouth ulcers and/or fever/flu-like illness. If you get a sore throat/mouth ulcers/fever you should:

PTO

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1. **Immediately stop taking the Carbimazole or PTU**

2. **Contact your GP / out of hours doctor or AE urgently, even if it is a weekend, taking this card with you. They will check your blood count immediately to make sure you have normal white cell neutrophil levels.**

If the test shows your white cell neutrophil count is normal, continue taking the Carbimazole or PTU. If the test shows your neutrophil white cell count is very low, stop the tablets.

Sore throats and mouth ulcers are very common and it is most likely that if you get one of these it is not due to Carbimazole or PTU. However the only safe action is to stop the Carbimazole or PTU until you have had the result of the blood test

Weekday hospital contact numbers 01422 223152 or 01484 355744

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