PATIENT INFORMATION ON AURANOFIN
(ORAL GOLD OR RIDAURA)

1. WHY AM I TAKING THIS DRUG?
AURANOFIN is given to control arthritis. It is NOT a pain killer, but is to prevent joint damage and also after several weeks, make you feel better.

2. HOW IS IT GIVEN?
- 1 tablet (3mg) is given twice a day.
- You may not notice any improvement for many weeks or months, but do not be discouraged and please continue the tablets as prescribed. If the response is not adequate after 3 months, the dose may be increased by a further tablet. If no improvement has been noted after 4-6 months, the tablets will be stopped.
- Please continue your anti-inflammatory tablets and pain killers as Auranofin is NOT a pain killer
- If this treatment suits you, you will probably be on it for many months or years.

3. ARE THERE ANY SIDE-EFFECTS?
As with all medicines, some patients may experience side-effects with Auranofin, the most common of these includes:
- Diarrhoea this is the most common and may be reduced by increasing bran and roughage in your diet.
- Skin rash and mouth ulcers. Inform your GP or Rheumatology Nurse via the Help line if these occurs.
- Bone marrow problems causing a fall in the number of platelets (needed for clotting) or white cells (needed to fight infection). This is a very rare side effect, but can be serious if not discovered early.
- If you notice any excessive bruising or bleeding stop the tablets and contact the rheumatology nurse or your GP.
- There may not be any obvious symptoms of ill health until very late and may only be detected by regular blood tests as arranged by the Rheumatology nurse or your GP. Blood test forms can be obtained from clinic or your GP.
- Occasionally Auranofin causes the kidneys to leak protein into the urine. This does not 'damage' the kidneys, but requires Auranofin to be stopped. You will be taught by the clinic nurse or GP how to test your urine for protein.

This is a summary of the most common side effects. Further information can be obtained from your pharmacist.

4. DO I NEED ANY REGULAR TESTS TO ENSURE ITS SAFE TO CONTINUE THE TABLETS?
- A blood count (FBC) MUST be checked every 4 to 6 weeks while you are on Auranofin. It is extremely dangerous to miss the blood tests, no matter how long you have been taking the drug.
- Urine checks should be done fortnightly. Inform your GP/The Rheumatology nurse of a persistent change in colour of the test, as this may suggest increased protein loss.

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5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Rheumatology nurse usually monitors the blood results, and will inform you and your GP of any problem. If you live out of our usual area your GP may be asked to do this and to fill in your results on the record card overleaf. If this is the case then please bring this card to your clinic appointments.
- If you are hoping to become pregnant, tell your doctor. It may be necessary to withdraw AURANOFIN before this.

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Consultants:
Dr Binder (Lister)
Dr Ellis (Lister)
Dr Axon (QEII)

Rheumatology Nurse Practitioners:
Fidelma Gordon
Sharon Lerpiniere

Rheumatology Nurse:
Julie Smith
Alex Greengrass

Useful Numbers:

Rheumatology Helpline: 01438 285624
Dr Binder’s secretary: 01438 284128
Dr Ellis’ secretary: 01438 284473
Dr Axon’s secretary: 01438 285399

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