

Ursodeoxycholic acid

INDICATIONS:

1. Dissolution of cholesterol-rich gall stones
2. Primary biliary cirrhosis
3. Prophylaxis of gallstones in patients undergoing rapid wt. loss

SAFETY ALERT:

1. Adverse Drug Reactions:

Diarrhoea, pruritus, nausea, vomiting, gall stone calcification

2. Drug interactions:

Cholestyramine, charcoal & antacids may reduce effectiveness. Aluminium-based antacids may reduce absorption. Estrogens & clofibrate may counteract effectiveness of ursodeoxycholic acid by increasing cholesterol elimination in bile. Possible increase in cyclosporin serum concentration. Decreased effectiveness of dapson. Possible decrease in serum ciprofloxacin and nitrendipine

3. Contraindications:

Calcified & pigment gallstones, radioopaque gallstones, non functioning gall bladders, chronic liver and peptic ulcer disease. Inflammatory bowel disease of colon & small intestine. Pregnancy

4. Precautions:

50% of successfully treated patients will develop further gall stones within 10 yrs.
Lactation