



**Antoinette Hood, MD**  
**Margery Scott, MD**  
**Valerie Harvey, MD**  
**Kimberly Salkey, MD**

## **Accutane (Isotretinoin)**

### **What is Isotretinoin?**

ISOTRETINOIN (Accutane) is a Vitamin A derivative used to treat severe acne that has not responded to other therapy. It reduces sebum secretion and can produce complete and prolonged remission of the disease. **YOU CANNOT TAKE THIS MEDICATION IF YOU ARE PREGNANT! IF YOU ARE OF CHILD BEARING POTENTIAL, YOU MUST USE TWO RELIABLE FORMS OF BIRTH CONTROL!**

### **What should my health care professional know before I take isotretinoin?**

They need to know if you have any of these conditions:

- An alcohol abuse problem
- Diabetes
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- High blood lipids
- Overweight problem
- An unusual or allergic reaction to isotretinoin, retinoids, parabens or other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives.
- Pregnant or trying to get pregnant
- Breast-feeding
- History of depression

### **How should I take this medicine?**

Follow the directions on the prescription label. Swallow the capsules with a drink of water. Isotretinoin works best if you take it with food. Take your doses at regular intervals. Do not take your medicine more often than directed.

### **What if I miss a dose?**

If you miss a dose, take it as soon as you can. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only that dose. Do not take double or extra doses.

### **What other medicines can interact with isotretinoin?**

- **Alcohol**
- **Benzoyl peroxide**
- **Tetracycline antibiotics**
- **Vitamin A**

Tell your prescriber or health care professional about all other medicines you are taking, including non-prescription medicines, nutritional supplements or herbal products. Also tell your prescriber or health care professional if you are a frequent user of drinks with caffeine or

