

Patient education aid 2: severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs) in urate-lowering therapy (ULT)

The purpose of this aid is to assist discussions between healthcare professionals and patients on SCARs in ULT, particularly SCAR monitoring. The information presented here is not exhaustive of the subject matter. This aid is designed to complement, but not replace, advice provided by a healthcare professional.

Urate-lowering therapy (ULT) is an effective treatment for gout. However, severe cutaneous adverse reactions (SCARs) may develop with allopurinol (the most common ULT) or febuxostat (another ULT).

SCARs are serious and generally affect skin, eyes, or mouth

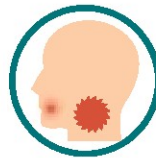
- ▶ SCARs are uncommon
- ▶ Around 3 out of 1,000 people taking allopurinol may develop SCARs (even less with febuxostat)
- ▶ Some people are at higher risk of SCARs (e.g., people with renal impairment or older age)
- ▶ However, it is not possible to know who will develop SCARs



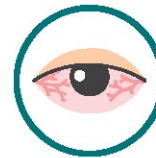
People starting on allopurinol or febuxostat need to look out for early symptoms of SCARs, which include:



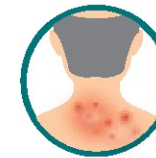
Flu-like symptoms
(such as **fever**,
body aches, or
feeling unwell)



Mouth ulcers
or **sore throat**



Red or
sore eyes



Rash

These symptoms may not happen together and they are not the only ones.

Monitor for SCAR symptoms, especially in the first 3 months after starting the medication (but they can also happen after 3 months).

Seek advice from your doctor if you experience any SCAR symptoms or if you are unsure about your symptoms.

Remember to:

- ✓ **Stop the medication completely** and **see your doctor right away**
- ✓ **Photograph** the rash if possible
- ✓ **Inform the doctor** that you have recently started taking a new medication for gout



For more information, please click or scan the QR code to refer to the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) consumer guide on the safe use of allopurinol.