



Eltrombopag (Promacta®)

("el-TROM-boe-pag")

How drug is given: By mouth

Purpose: to treat aplastic anemia and increase low platelet counts in some conditions

How to take this drug

1. Take this medication on an empty stomach (at least 1 hour before food or 2 hours after food).
 - The following pills and foods must only be taken at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after eltrombopag: Antacids, multivitamins, foods that have calcium (especially dairy products), and foods that have aluminum, iron, magnesium, selenium, or zinc.
2. Swallow each tablet whole. Do not crush or chew. If you have trouble swallowing the tablet, the pharmacist will give you specific instructions.
3. Eltrombopag can interfere with many drugs, which may change how this works in your body. Talk with your cancer care team before starting any new drugs, including over-the-counter drugs, natural products, herbal supplements and vitamins.
4. If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and stay on your regular dosing schedule. **Do not double dose.**
5. Do not stop taking this drug without discussing with your cancer care team. This could cause your platelet count to drop and increase your risk for bleeding.
6. Wash your hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken tablets.

Storage and disposal

- Store at room temperature, away from heat and moisture.
- Keep this medicine in its original container, out of reach of children and pets.
- If you have unused oral chemotherapy pills (tablets or capsules), please return them to the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Do not flush them down the toilet, dump in the sink, or throw away in the trash.

Things that may occur during treatment

1. This medicine may reduce the number of healthy red blood cells in your body. This can lead to anemia. Symptoms can begin with tiredness and progress to severe dizziness and shortness of breath. Call your cancer care team right away if you have shortness of breath, a fast heartbeat, dizziness, or confusion.
2. Skin changes, such as dryness, rash or, rarely, changes in skin color (darker skin or turning yellow), can occur on your body. Ask your cancer care team what lotions or creams you may use.
3. You may get a headache. Please talk to your cancer care team about what you can take for this.
4. If you have an ongoing fever of **100.5 F (38C) or higher**, make sure to drink plenty of fluids. If you become dizzy or lightheaded, call your cancer care team right away.
5. Flu-like symptoms, such as fever, chills, headache, muscle aches, and/or joint aches, are common. If these occur, your doctor may suggest taking acetaminophen (Tylenol®) to help control the symptoms. Please let your cancer care team know if acetaminophen (Tylenol) does not help, as other medicines may be suggested.
6. Mild nausea may occur. Talk to your cancer care team about medicines to help.
7. Loose stools or diarrhea may occur within a few days after the drug is started. You may take loperamide (Imodium A-D®) to help control diarrhea. You can buy this at most drug stores. Be sure to also drink more fluids (water, juice, sports drinks). If these do not help within 24 hours, **call your cancer care team**.
8. If you develop a new or worsening cough or shortness of breath, tell your cancer care team.
9. Your liver may be affected by this drug. Blood may be drawn to monitor your liver functions.
10. You are at increased risk of blood clots. If you have pain, swelling, and/or warmth in one leg, or if you develop shortness of breath, **talk to your cancer care team right away**.
11. Some patients may feel very tired, also known as fatigue. You may need to rest or take naps more often. Mild to moderate exercise can also help you maintain your energy.
12. In rare cases, you may have an increased risk of bleeding events. Please call your cancer care team right away if you are feeling new or sudden dizziness, light-headedness or feel like you are passing out.
13. Fertility and Related Precautions:
 - It is very important to use birth control if you are having sex, because this drug could be harmful to an unborn baby.

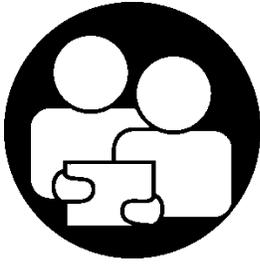
- Women should not breastfeed while receiving this drug.
- If you are concerned about any of this, please talk with your cancer care team.

The above information includes some, but not necessarily all, of the possible side effects of this medication. The side effects listed in this teaching sheet may not be the same ones you experience. Your side effects may be different, depending on how often you receive treatment (your schedule) and how much you receive each time (your dosage). Side effects may also vary if you are taking other medications. Please speak with your cancer care team if you have questions about possible side effects you may experience. This document should not take the place of conversations with members of your cancer care team about your treatment and side effects you may experience during and after treatment.

If you experience any significant change in your health during or after treatment, contact a member of your cancer care team right away.

Managing your oral chemotherapy schedule at home can be challenging. To help you with this, consider using tools to help you keep track of your schedule and any side effects you may have. You can find these tools online at www.dana-farber.org/OralChemoDiary.

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS OR NOTES FOR THE PATIENT AND FAMILY:



Oral Chemotherapy Fact Sheet

Oral chemotherapy medicines are given by mouth in the form of capsules, tablets, or liquid. These safety tips will help you understand what to do when you are taking oral chemotherapy.

Please note: If you are on a clinical trial, you may be given special instructions.

How to take this drug

- Swallow each tablet or capsule whole. Do not break, crush, or chew.
- Prepare your drug away from food and food prep areas.
- If you miss a dose, take it as soon as possible. However, if it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your regular dosing schedule.
- Do not double the dose.
- If you are on a clinical trial, you will be given special instructions if you miss a dose.
- If you are unable to swallow the pill, speak with your nurse or pharmacist about other ways to take your medication.
- If you vomit or throw up your medication, call your physician for further instructions.
- Wash your hands after taking the medication. Avoid handling crushed or broken pills (tablets or capsules).

Storage

- Most oral chemotherapy medicine is stored at room temperature, away from excess heat and moisture. You will be told if the medication you are taking needs special storage or handling.
- Keep this medicine in its original container, in a safe place, away from other family medications. All medications need to be kept out of the reach of children and pets.

Disposal

- If you have unused oral chemotherapy pills (tablets or capsules), please return them to the pharmacy where the prescription was filled. Do not flush down the toilet, dump in the sink, or throw away in the trash.

Safe handling of body waste in the home after chemotherapy

- Chemotherapy stays in the body for hours or even days, and is found in vomit, urine, stool, and sweat (body wastes). Special care must be taken to prevent the patient's body waste from coming into accidental contact with the patient or caregiver.

Body wastes

Patient and caregiver:

- You can use the toilet (septic tank or city sewage) as usual. There is no research to support double flushing to prevent accidental contact (although this may be suggested for certain medications). Ask your doctor or nurse what they suggest for your medication.
- Wash your hands well with soap and water after using the toilet. If urine, vomit, or stool gets on your body, wash with soap and water. Always wear gloves when cleaning equipment or disposing waste from a urinal or commode.
- Pregnant caregivers should **not** handle patient body waste.
- It is safe for family and friends to use the same toilet, as long as all body waste is cleaned from the toilet.
- To absorb urine or stool, use a disposable, plastic-backed pad, diaper, or sheet. Change it immediately when soiled. Then wash skin with soap and water.
- If you have an ostomy, you or your caregiver may want to wear gloves when emptying or changing appliances.

Laundry

- Always wear disposable gloves when handling sheets or clothes that have been soiled with body waste.
- Soiled items should be kept and washed separately from the other laundry.

Oral chemotherapy is a serious drug that requires extra caution. If you have questions or concerns about your oral chemotherapy, do not hesitate to call your clinician. For more tips, tools and short videos to help you manage oral chemotherapy visit our web page at <http://www.dana-farber.org/oralchemo>



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