

**Important note:** The following information is intended to add to, not replace, the knowledge and judgment of your doctor, pharmacist or other health care professional.

# Why are you taking eltrombopag?

You have a condition called chronic immune thrombocytopenia (ITP) This is a rare blood disorder which causes very low platelet levels in the blood. Without platelets, it is harder for the blood to clot. This can lead to bruising and bleeding. In people with chronic ITP, platelets may drop to dangerously low levels if

- Your immune system mistakenly attacks healthy platelets
- Your spleen traps too many platelets, taking them out of the blood
- Your body doesn't make enough platelets to make up for the platelet destruction

Eltrombopag is a treatment for people with chronic ITP. It helps to increase your platelet count

### When to take this medicine:

Eltrombopag must be taken on an empty stomach, 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal. Food, especially dairy products, may decrease the absorption of eltrombopag.

Allow at least 4 hours between dosing of eltrombopag and polyvalent cation intake (eg, dairy products, calcium-rich foods, multivitamins with minerals)

**Do not** take at the same time as antacids, foods high in calcium, or minerals (eg, iron, calcium, aluminum, magnesium, selenium, zinc); separate doses by at least 4 hours

DO NOT STOP taking this medicine without your doctor's permission.

### If you miss a dose

Simply resume your dosing with the next scheduled dose on the following day. You should not take two doses at the same time.

## Side Effects:

Unfortunately as well as having good effects, most medicines have some effects on your body that are unwanted. These are called side effects.

- Abdominal pain
- Alopecia (hair loss)
- Arthralgias and myalgias (muscle aches and pains)
- Bone pain
- Cataract & dry eyes
- Nausea, Constipation or Diarrhoea
- Fatigue & headache
- Insomnia, paraesthesias
- Swelling, itching and rash

Less common adverse effects include:

 Anaemia, anorexia, anxiety, cough, deep vein thrombosis, depression, dizziness, flushing, gout, hemorrhoids, hepatitis, hypertension, migraine, nocturia, heart rhythm changes, renal failure, taste disturbance, tremors, vertigo, weight gain, urinary tract infections.

Your will need regular blood tests to check your blood counts and your liver function

#### Liver problems

Eltrombopag may increase your risk of liver problems that may be severe. Your doctor will do blood tests to check your liver function before you start taking eltrombopag and during treatment.

Your doctor may stop your treatment if you have changes in your liver function blood tests.

Call your doctor immediately if you have any of these signs and symptoms of liver problems:

- yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes (jaundice)
- unusual darkening of the urine
- unusual tiredness
- right upper stomach area (abdomen) pain
- confusion
- swelling of the stomach area (abdomen)

This list of side effects is **not** complete. Tell your doctor or pharmacist if any of these side effects are of concern to you.

### **Other Medicines**

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking any other medicines including herbal or complementary products and medicines you can buy without a prescription as these may interfere with eltrombopag and reduce its efficacy.

### Storage

Keep all medicines out of the reach of children.

## Read this leaflet and discuss any questions you have about your medicines with your doctor or pharmacist