

Eltrombopag (Promacta)

About This Drug

Eltrombopag is used to increase platelets. It is given orally (by mouth).

Possible Side Effects

- Decrease in red blood cells (you may feel more tired)
- Nausea
- Diarrhea (loose bowel movements)
- Fever
- Tiredness
- Changes in liver function
- Headache
- Cough

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 20% or greater of patients treated with eltrombopag. Not all possible side effects are included above.

Warnings and Precautions

- Changes in your liver function, which can cause liver failure and be life-threatening. If you have chronic hepatitis C and are taking certain medications, your risk may be higher.
- Blood clots and events such as stroke and heart attack. A blood clot in your leg may cause your leg to swell, appear red and warm, and/or cause pain. A blood clot in your lungs may cause trouble breathing, pain when breathing, and/or chest pain.
- If you have myelodysplastic syndrome, you may be at risk for progression to acute myeloid leukemia (AML), which could be life-threatening.
- Clouding of the lens in your eye. This drug may make cataracts worse or may raise the chance of new cataracts.

How to Take Your Medication

- Take this drug by mouth without a meal or with a meal low in calcium (less than or equal to 50 mg)

- If you take antacids, calcium rich foods (e.g., dairy products and calcium-fortified juices), or supplements containing iron, calcium, aluminum, magnesium, selenium and zinc, take eltrombopag at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after you take these medicines.
- **Tablet:** Do not crush, split or chew the tablet. Do not mix with food or liquids.
- **Oral Suspension:** Prepare suspension with water only. Do not use hot water. Talk to your doctor, nurse and/or pharmacist for proper preparation, dosing and administration.
- **Missed dose:** If you miss a dose, do not take the missed dose and do not double up on the next dose. Instead, continue with your regular dosing schedule and contact your physician. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands after handling your medicine, your caretakers should not handle your medicine with bare hands and should wear latex gloves.
- **Storage:** Store the tablets and oral suspension in the original container at room temperature. The oral suspension should be administered immediately after reconstitution but may be stored for a maximum of 30 minutes at room temperature. Throw away if not used within 30 minutes.
- **Disposal of unused medicine:** Do not flush any expired and/or unused medicine down the toilet or drain unless you are specifically instructed to do so on the medication label. Some facilities have take-back programs and/or other options. If you do not have a take-back program in your area, then please discuss with your nurse or your doctor how to dispose of unused medicine.

Treating Side Effects

- Manage tiredness by pacing your activities for the day.
- Be sure to include periods of rest between energy-draining activities.
- Drink plenty of fluids (a minimum of eight glasses per day is recommended).
- If you throw up or have loose bowel movements, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid).
- If you have diarrhea, eat low-fiber foods that are high in protein and calories and avoid foods that can irritate your digestive tracts or lead to cramping.
- Ask your nurse or doctor about medicine that can lessen or stop your diarrhea.
- To help with nausea, eat small, frequent meals instead of three large meals a day. Choose foods and drinks that are at room temperature. Ask your nurse or doctor about other helpful tips and medicine that is available to help stop or lessen these symptoms.
- Keeping your pain under control is important to your well-being. Please tell your doctor or nurse if you are experiencing pain.

Food and Drug Interactions

- There are known interactions of eltrombopag with food such as calcium-rich foods (e.g., dairy products and calcium-fortified juices). If this medication is taken with a meal, it should contain less than or equal to 50 mg of calcium.
- Check with your doctor or pharmacist about all other prescription medicines and over-the-counter medicines and dietary supplements (vitamins, minerals, herbs and others) you are taking before starting this medicine as there are known drug interactions with eltrombopag. Also, check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new prescription or over-the-counter medicines, or dietary supplements to make sure that there are no interactions.



- Drugs that treat heartburn and stomach upset, and drugs containing iron, calcium, aluminum, magnesium, selenium and zinc may lower the effect of your cancer treatment if taken with eltrombopag. Take eltrombopag at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after you take these medicines.

When to Call the Doctor

Call your doctor or nurse if you have any of these symptoms and/or any new or unusual symptoms:

- Fever of 100.4° F (38° C) or higher
- Chills
- Tiredness that interferes with your daily activities
- Coughing up yellow, green, or bloody mucus
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Blurred vision or other changes in eyesight
- Headache that does not go away
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Chest pain or symptoms of a heart attack. Most heart attacks involve pain in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes. The pain may go away and come back. It can feel like pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain. Sometimes pain is felt in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw, or stomach. **If any of these symptoms last 2 minutes, call 911.**
- Diarrhea, 4 times in a day or loose bowel movements with lack of strength or a feeling of being dizzy
- Nausea that stops you from eating or drinking and/or is not relieved by prescribed medicines
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, bad stomach pain, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin
- Your leg or arm is swollen, red, warm and/or painful
- Swelling of your legs, ankles and/or feet
- Symptoms of a stroke such as sudden numbness or weakness of your face, arm, or leg, mostly on one side of your body; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding; sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes; sudden trouble walking, feeling dizzy, loss of balance or coordination; or sudden, bad headache with no known cause. **If you have any of these symptoms for 2 minutes, call 911.**
- If you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This drug may have harmful effects on the unborn baby. Females of childbearing potential should use effective contraception during treatment and for at least 7 days after stopping treatment. Let your doctor know right away if you think you may be pregnant or may have impregnated your partner.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment because this drug could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.



- **Fertility warning:** Human fertility studies have not been done with this drug. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children.

Revised July 2020

