



Linezolid

Patient Information Leaflet



YOUR INFORMATION

Name

Address

CHI number

Reason for starting linezolid

This leaflet contains important information about the medicine you have been prescribed.

A healthcare professional will go through the information in this leaflet with you and answer any questions you may have.

WHAT IS LINEZOLID AND WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF TAKING IT?

Linezolid is an antibiotic that is used to treat Gram-positive infections such as **staphylococcal** infections. The main benefit of being prescribed this treatment is that it can be given to you as a tablet or liquid. This means that you may not need to have an intravenous drip to receive your antibiotic and you may be able to have part of your treatment at home.

HOW DO I TAKE LINEZOLID?

You should take it twice a day every 12 hours, for example at 8am and 8pm. You can take it before, with or after food.

DO I NEED TO CHANGE MY DIET WHILST ON LINEZOLID?

Some foods can increase your blood pressure when you are taking this medicine. You should avoid the following types of foods

- ❖ Mature or aged cheese, liver, kidney, pickled herring, broad beans, game
- ❖ Fermented or air-dried meats, such as salami
- ❖ Yeast extracts, for example Bovril, Oxo or Marmite
- ❖ Fermented soya bean products, for example, soy sauce
- ❖ More than 500g dark chocolate
- ❖ Protein diet supplements
- ❖ Sour cream and yoghurt
- ❖ Beer and wine
- ❖ Peanuts and some fruits (such as figs, grapes, oranges, pineapples, plums, prunes, raisins, avocados and tomatoes)

HOW LONG WILL I NEED TO TAKE LINEZOLID?

Your doctor will determine the length of the treatment course. You should continue taking linezolid until you have finished your prescribed course. Do not stop taking this medicine when you start to feel better. If you discontinue it too soon, surviving bacteria may cause a relapse.

WHAT SIDE-EFFECTS MIGHT I EXPERIENCE ON LINEZOLID?

All medicines have side effects. Linezolid can cause:

- ❖ Nausea
- ❖ Stomach upset
- ❖ Diarrhoea
- ❖ Skin rashes
- ❖ Headaches
- ❖ Dizziness, changes in vision (do not drive or operate any machinery or electrical tools)

In rare cases, people who have taken linezolid for more than two weeks can have a reduced blood count, which can lead to problems with clotting.

WILL I BE MONITORED WHILST ON LINEZOLID?

If you are prescribed linezolid for more than a week you will be asked to return to the hospital for a review and a **weekly** blood test. Keep a note of appointment details (see next page).

IS THERE ANYTHING I NEED TO WATCH OUT FOR AT HOME?

If you experience any of the side-effects listed in this leaflet, please inform your hospital doctor when you see them.

However, if you develop a severe headache, notice any unexplained bruising, problems with your sight or tingling in your hands or feet, please contact your hospital doctors immediately, or go to your nearest accident & emergency (A&E) department.

CAN I TAKE ALL MY CURRENT MEDICINES WITH LINEZOLID?

Please make sure that you tell your doctor or pharmacist about all of the medicines you are taking or have taken recently, including those you have bought without a prescription such as over the counter medicines, herbal medicines and alternative medicines. It is particularly important to mention if you are taking antidepressants.

Please check with your doctor or pharmacist before starting any new medicines while you are on linezolid treatment.

WHAT ABOUT PREGNANCY OR BREASTFEEDING?

Linezolid is not usually given to pregnant women. Please tell your doctor if you are pregnant, think you may be pregnant or are trying to get pregnant.

You should not breastfeed if you are on linezolid because it will pass into your breast milk and could affect your baby.

WHERE DO I GET SUPPLIES OF LINEZOLID FROM?

Your hospital doctor will provide you with a prescription. The prescription can then be dispensed at the **hospital pharmacy**.

Your GP is not allowed to prescribe linezolid therapy for courses longer than one week. In rare cases your GP may prescribe a short course. Follow up blood tests are not required for courses of one week or less.

FURTHER INFORMATION

You can find further information about linezolid in the information leaflet that comes with the antibiotic. Alternatively, your doctor or pharmacist will be able to assist you.



www.careopinion.org.uk

DATE OF FOLLOW-UP APPONTMENT

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If you need this information in another language or format, please contact the NHS Lanarkshire Enquiry Line on 0300 30 30 243 or e-mail info@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Based on Imperial College Healthcare
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