

Eltrombopag (Promacta)

About This Medicine

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

Possible Side Effects

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

Note: Each of the side effects above was reported in 20% or greater of patients treated with eltrombopag. All possible side effects are not included. Your side effects may be different depending on your cancer diagnosis, condition, or if you are receiving other medicines in combination. Please discuss any concerns or questions with your medical team.

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 medicines, your risk of liver changes 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.
- Cataract (clouding of the lens in your eye). This medicine may make cataracts worse or may raise the chance of new cataracts.

Note: Some of the side effects above are very rare. If you have concerns and/or questions, please discuss them with your medical team.

How to Take Your Medicine

- 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. Take the suspension immediately after preparation. 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. Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- **Handling:** Wash your hands with soap and water, before, and 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 taken 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 medicine 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 enough fluids to keep your urine pale yellow.
- If you throw up or have diarrhea, you should drink more fluids so that you do not become dehydrated (lack of water in the body from losing too much fluid). 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 and vomiting, 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 Medicine Interactions

- There are known interactions of eltrombopag with food such as calcium-rich foods (e.g., dairy products and calcium-fortified juices). If this medicine is taken with a meal, it should contain less



than or equal to 50 mg of calcium or you should take it 2 hours before or 4 hours after eating calcium rich foods (e.g., dairy products and calcium-fortified juices).

- 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 medicine 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.
- Medicines that treat heartburn and stomach upset, and medicines containing iron, calcium, aluminum, magnesium, selenium, and zinc may lower the effect of eltrombopag. Take eltrombopag at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after you take these medicines.
- Let your doctor know if you are taking blood thinning medicine such as warfarin while taking eltrombopag, as this may increase the risk of bleeding.
- Let your doctor know if you are taking medicines to treat high cholesterol while taking eltrombopag, as this may increase the risk of side effects of 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
- Feeling dizzy or lightheaded
- Blurred vision or other changes in eyesight
- Headache that does not go away
- Easy bleeding or bruising while you are taking the medicine, and after you stop taking the medicine
- Wheezing and/or trouble breathing
- Cough that is bothersome
- 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.**
- 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.**
- 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
- Throwing up more than 3 times a day
- Pain in your abdomen that does not go away
- Signs of possible liver problems: dark urine, pale bowel movements, pain in your abdomen, feeling very tired and weak, unusual itching, or yellowing of the eyes or skin



- Your leg is swollen, red, warm and/or painful
- If you think you may be pregnant

Reproduction Warnings

- **Pregnancy warning:** This medicine 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.
- **Breastfeeding warning:** Women should not breastfeed during treatment because this medicine could enter the breast milk and cause harm to a breastfeeding baby.
- **Fertility warning:** Fertility studies have not been done with this medicine. Talk with your doctor or nurse if you plan to have children.

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