

Pharmacy

DRUG INFORMATION

Lurbinectedin (Zepzelca®) Injection



What is Lurbinectedin?

- Lurbinectedin is usually used to treat small cell lung cancer.

How Is Lurbinectedin Administered?

- Lurbinectedin is usually given by injection into a vein (an intravenous infusion) over an hour every three weeks.

Can Lurbinectedin Be Administered / Taken With Other Medications?

- Please inform your doctor or pharmacist if you are taking other medications, including Traditional Chinese Medicines, Jamu medicines or supplements.
- Avoid grapefruit, starfruit and seville oranges. They may increase the amount of Lurbinectedin in your blood to a harmful level.

What Are The Important Side Effects Of Lurbinectedin?

- Allergic reactions
Lurbinectedin may rarely cause an allergic reaction while it is being given. Signs of a reaction can include rashes, flushing or shortness of breath, swelling of your face or lips, feeling dizzy, having abdominal, back or chest pain or feeling unwell.
- Drug leakage
Lurbinectedin may leak out of the veins and damage the tissue around the vein. This is called extravasation. Inform the nurse immediately if you experience any stinging, pain, redness or swelling around the vein. Extravasation is not common but if it happens it is important that it is managed quickly.

- Medications prescribed by your doctor should be beneficial for your condition even though they may result in some inevitable side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Risk of infection can occur as Lurbinectedin can reduce the number of white blood cells in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of infection: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wash your hands after toileting. - Avoid crowds and people who are sick. - Avoid raw food. • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience signs of infection such as fever with a temperature of 38°C and above, chills and shivering. Avoid taking Paracetamol (Panadol®) to relieve fever. Be aware that taking Paracetamol may mask your fever and hence delay treatment of infection.
Bruising or bleeding can occur as Lurbinectedin can reduce the number of platelets in your blood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To reduce risk of bleeding problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Do not pick your nose. - Brush your teeth gently with a soft toothbrush. - Be aware that bleeding may take a longer time to stop. • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience any severe or persistent bleeding (e.g., passing a large amount of fresh blood in urine or stools, or passing black sticky stools) or significant bruising.
Nausea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take small, frequent meals. • Avoid smells that precipitate nausea. • Take medicines for nausea or vomiting prescribed by your doctor. • Avoid tight-fitting clothes around the waist.

Side Effect	Management
Fatigue or tiredness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not drive or operate machinery if you are feeling tired. Inform your doctor if fatigue is persistent or worsens.
Muscle Injury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience unusual weakness or fatigue, muscle pain, dark yellow or brown urine, decrease in amount of urine.
Numbness and tingling sensation in the hands or feet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if you have this symptom or trouble buttoning up shirts or if you are unable to pick up objects.
Diarrhoea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform your doctor if this is severe and/or does not improve with medicine use. • Drink at least two litres of fluids every day when you are having diarrhoea. • Avoid milk, dairy products, high fibre food or spicy food while you are having diarrhoea.
Constipation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain adequate hydration (at least two litres) of fluids per day unless informed otherwise by your doctor. Your doctor may prescribe you stool softeners to prevent constipation.
Changes in the way the liver works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience any yellowing of eye white and skin or tea-coloured urine, pale stools, or severe abdominal pain.

Side Effect	Management
Changes in the way the kidney works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please proceed to the A&E department immediately if you experience problems like being unable to pass urine, change in how much urine is passed, blood in the urine or a big weight gain.
Risk of blood disorders/leukemia and secondary cancers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This occurs very rarely. Please discuss with your physician if you have concerns.

If you develop rashes, facial swelling or shortness of breath after taking the medication, you could be allergic to the medication. Please seek medical attention immediately.

Are There Any Special Precautions That I Need To Take?

- You must not become pregnant during treatment with Lurbinectedin and must use an effective method of contraception. You should take appropriate contraceptive measures during and up to 6 months after stopping treatment. If pregnancy occurs during your treatment, you must inform your doctor immediately.
- Lurbinectedin may have an anti-fertility effect, which could be irreversible. You should discuss with your doctor regarding fertility preservation prior to starting treatment.
- You should not breastfeed during treatment and for at least 2 weeks after the final dose of Lurbinectedin.

What Else Can I Do To Help My Condition?

- Exercise
Light exercise is recommended as it helps to improve mobility, balance and even emotional well-being. Avoid strenuous exercise, and rest when you are feeling tired.
- Stay positive
Understand your condition and take an active role in managing it. Do not be afraid to talk about it with your doctor/ pharmacist/ family members.

Repressed feelings can be harmful to your immediate well-being and long-term health.

- Adequate hydration
Maintain adequate hydration with 2 to 3 litres of fluids per day unless informed by your doctor to restrict fluids. This will decrease your chances of getting constipation and also prevent dehydration.
- Medical and dental treatment
If you need to go into hospital for any reason other than cancer, always inform the doctors and nurses that you are receiving anti-cancer treatment.
Talk to your cancer doctor if you think you need dental treatment. Always inform your dentist that you are receiving anti-cancer treatment.

If you have any problem with your treatment, please contact your doctor, pharmacist or nurse clinician.

You can also find useful information with regards to your medication on this website:

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/information-and-support>

You may also scan the QR code below to watch the video on an introductory guide to chemotherapy treatment. This will provide you more information on the side effects and side effects management during your chemotherapy.

• English Version



<https://for.sg/chemo-counselling>

• Chinese Version



<https://for.sg/chinese-chemo-counseling>



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