

PHARMACY

Drug Information

Nintedanib (Ofev®) Capsules



What is Nintedanib Used to Treat?

- Lung (pulmonary) fibrosis is a condition where the tissues around the air sacs in your lungs becomes scarred (thick and stiff) over time. This scarring makes it difficult for the lungs to transfer oxygen into the bloodstream. This results in symptoms such as breathlessness, dry cough and tiredness.
- Nintedanib is an anti-fibrotic agent that can slow down the rate of scarring in the lungs. Nintedanib is used to treat adults with:
 - Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (IPF), where the cause of scarring in the lungs is unknown.
 - Systemic sclerosis (scleroderma) associated interstitial lung disease (SSc-ILD). Scleroderma is a rare condition where the body's immune system produces too much fibrous tissue. This causes scarring of the skin and other organs including the lungs.
 - Chronic fibrosing interstitial lung diseases, meaning that there will be more and more scarring in the lungs over time.

How is Nintedanib Taken?

- Nintedanib is taken in the form of capsules with or after food to reduce stomach upset. The capsules should be swallowed whole with water. Do not chew or crush the capsules, as doing so can give you a stomach ache or diarrhoea.
- Do not take Nintedanib if you are allergic to Nintedanib, peanut, soya or any other ingredients used to make this medicine.
- If you miss a dose, take the missed dose as soon as you remember. If it is almost time for your next dose, take only the usual dose. Never take a double dose to make up for the missed dose.
- This drug does not work immediately. It may take a few weeks or months before you notice any benefit. Thus it is important that you take your medication regularly as prescribed.

Can Nintedanib be Taken With Other Medications?

- It is important that you inform your doctor, pharmacist or nurse about other medications including over-the-counter medications, supplements and traditional / herbal remedies that you are currently taking, as they may affect the way you benefit from Nintedanib.

What are the Important Side Effects of Nintedanib?

- Serious side effects are not common, but it is important that you recognise the side effects of Nintedanib and know how to manage them.
- Always inform your doctor if you experience any side effects.

Side Effect	Management
Nausea, vomiting, loss of appetite, abdomen pain (very common)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take medications with or after food. Do not chew or crush the capsule.
Diarrhoea (very common, affects as many as 50% of patients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The first sign of diarrhoea is when you experience one to three times of watery stools that is more than that of a usual day. You can start taking anti-diarrhoeal medication prescribed by your doctor (e.g. loperamide) and drink plenty of water. Contact your doctor or pharmacist immediately if diarrhea becomes severe or does not get better with medication.
Liver problems (e.g. yellowing of eye whites, severe abdominal pain, tea-coloured urine) (may affect up to 10% of patients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stop eating Nintedanib. Contact your doctor or pharmacist if these side effects occur. Your doctor will monitor your liver function through regular tests done during your appointments.

Side Effect	Management
Increase in blood pressure (may affect up to 5% of patients)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your blood pressure will be monitored regularly during your appointments.
Increase risk of bleeding (uncommon)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise the risk of bleeding by using a soft toothbrush or an electric razor. Please proceed to the Accident & Emergency (A & E) department immediately if there are unusual signs of bleeding e.g. coughing up of blood, vomit that looks like coffee grounds, unusual bruising, continuous nosebleeds, blood in urine, black, tarry stools (blood in stools) or severe bleeding that cannot be stopped. Please inform your doctor if you are starting on blood thinning medications e.g. antiplatelet or anticoagulation medication (medication that prevents blood clot).

Side Effect	Management
<p>Symptoms of heart attack, stroke or blood clot formation</p> <p>(uncommon, may affect one to two per 100 patients)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department if you experience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Symptoms of heart attack e.g. Shortness of breath and / or chest pain ○ Symptoms of stroke e.g. sudden onset of severe headache, sudden difficulty seeing in one or both eyes, slurred speech, loss of coordination (difficulty walking or balancing), weakness or numbness in arm or leg ○ Symptoms of blood clot formation: sudden swelling of your hands, calf or feet, pain or soreness when touching your vein.
<p>Gastrointestinal perforation injury (tears in your stomach or intestines)</p> <p>(very uncommon)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please proceed to the A & E department immediately if your stomach swells or if there is very severe stomach pain.

Please check with your doctor or pharmacist if you have any other side effects that you think are caused by Nintedanib.

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

Are There any Special Precautions That I Need to Take?

- Please inform your doctor if you intend to conceive or breastfeed while taking Nintedanib, as the treatment may cause harm to your unborn child or baby.

- You should avoid getting pregnant while you are receiving Nintedanib. Use an effective birth control method while you are taking Nintedanib and up to 3 months after stopping Nintedanib.
- Inform your doctor immediately if pregnancy occurs while you are receiving Nintedanib.
- As Nintedanib can affect the ability to have children, you may wish to discuss plans to protect your reproduction tissues with your doctor before starting medication. Such plans give you the option of having children if you would like to in the future.
- You should not breastfeed while you are receiving Nintedanib.
- If you are smoking, you need to stop smoking before you start receiving Nintedanib and avoid smoking while you are receiving Nintedanib. Smoking will reduce the effectiveness of Nintedanib. Please speak to your doctor or pharmacist if you need help to quit smoking.

How do I Store Nintedanib?

- Store your medication in a cool, dry place away from heat, moisture and direct sunlight.

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

Please keep all medications out of reach of children.

