

Patient advice sheet

Information for Patients treated with the Antibiotic Linezolid: what you need to know about monitoring for side effects

Introduction

This leaflet has been prepared to give you more information about treatment with Linezolid. You should read this leaflet alongside the Manufacturer's Patient Information Leaflet.

Read it carefully and if you have any questions, or if there is anything that is unclear, then ask your doctor or pharmacist to explain things to you.

You must always carry this leaflet while receiving Linezolid and show it to any doctor, dentist, pharmacist, or nurse who is treating you, so they know what medicine you are taking.

You will need to be monitored if you are receiving Linezolid for more than a week. This medicine can only be prescribed by a hospital doctor (not your GP) and can only be dispensed by a hospital pharmacy (not your community pharmacy).

What is Linezolid and what are the benefits?

Linezolid is an antibiotic that is used to treat infections caused by germs known as Gram Positive organisms such as Staphylococcal infection. The main benefit of being prescribed this treatment is that it can be given to you as a tablet or liquid. This means that there is no need to have an intravenous drip to receive the antibiotic and you may be able to have part of your treatment at home.

How do you 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.

How will you be monitored?

Linezolid can reduce the production of blood cells, making you susceptible to infections and anaemia, making you feel tired and short of breath. Blood tests will show if you are developing any side effects. If you are being affected, your treatment will be reviewed.

Weekly blood tests

Your blood will need to be checked just before you start treatment and WEEKLY during treatment. This can be with blood tests at the Phlebotomy Department at the hospital or by appointment with your GP practice.

Taking other medicines

Always check with your doctor or pharmacist before taking any other medicines, herbal remedies or supplements. This includes medicines you can buy at a garage, newsagents, supermarket or chemist.

If you have any of the following symptoms tell your doctor or speak to the OPAT team immediately (contact details below)

Outpatient Parenteral Antimicrobial Therapy (OPAT) service:

01296 315485 or 07810 181584

7 days 8.30am - 4.30pm

- Infections including fever, chills or a sore throat
- Unexplained skin rash, ulceration or soreness of the skin
- Yellowing of the skin or generalised itching
- Bleeding gums, black tarry stools or unexpected bleeding or bruising
- Severe or recurrent diarrhoea, vomiting or stomach pain
- Any changes to your eyesight e.g. blurred vision, colour changes or problems with peripheral vision

Outside these hours, please contact your Doctor or attend the Emergency Department (A&E).

Please remember that this leaflet is intended as general information only. We aim to make the information as up-to-date and accurate as possible, but please note it is subject to change. Please therefore always check specific advice on any concerns you may have with your doctor.

How can you help reduce healthcare associated infections?

Infection prevention & control is important to the well-being of our patients and for that reason we have infection prevention & control procedures in place. Keeping your hands clean is an effective way of preventing the spread of infections. Please follow our infection prevention and control guidelines when visiting our healthcare sites. Further information is available on our website.

Patient Advice Sheet

If you would like a copy of this information on audiotape, in large print or translated, please call the Patient Advice Liaison Service on 01296 831120 or email bht.pals@nhs.net

