

Patient information

Avatrombopag for Refractory Chronic Immune Thrombocytopenia Purpura ITP

Clinical Haematology

What is avatrombopag?

Avatrombopag belongs to a group of medicines called thrombopoietin (TPO) receptor agonists. They work by stimulating the cells in the bone marrow to produce more platelets in your blood. This should help reduce your risk of bleeding. Avatrombopag may not return your platelets to normal levels, but it may increase them and improve your symptoms.

Romiplostim is only available from the hospital team and must be collected from the Lloyds pharmacy in the hospital.

Who should not take avatrombopag?

• if you are allergic to avatrombopag or any of the other ingredients of this medicine

Warnings and precautions

Talk to your doctor or pharmacists about all your health conditions before starting romiplostim, particularly if:

- You or if you are at risk of having blood clots.
- You are pregnant or trying to get pregnant.
- You are breastfeeding or plan to breastfeed.
- If you have another blood condition known as myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS);
 taking avatrombopag may worsen MDS.
- If you have liver problems

Side effects

As with any medication, avatrombopag is associated with side effects, although not everyone gets them. The most common side effects are:

- Tiredness
- Bruising or purple/red spots on your skin

- Headaches
- Nosebleeds
- Stomach upset or nausea.

In some cases, more serious side effects can occur, such as blood clots.

The signs of a blood clot include:

- swelling, pain, heat, redness, or tenderness in your leg.
- sudden shortness of breath, especially with sharp pain in the chest or rapid breathing.
- pain in the tummy, swollen tummy or blood in your stools.

If notice any of these symptoms, please contact your doctor immediately or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

These are not the only possible side effects, and a more detailed list is available in the patient information leaflet in your tablet packet.

Reporting of side effects

If you have any side effects, talk to your doctor, pharmacist or nurse. This included any possible side effects not listed in the package leaflet. You can report side effects directly via the Yellow Card Scheme at www.mhra.gov.uk/yellowcard.

Taking other medications

Tell your doctor or pharmacist if you have been taking, have recently taken or might take other medications including over the counter medications, vitamins and herbal supplements.

In particular, tell your doctor if you are taking any of the following:

- Amiodarone, typically used to treat various heart conditions.
- Enzalutamide, typically used to treat prostate cancer.
- Fluconazole and Miconazole, typically used to treat fungal infections.
- Rifampicin, typically used to treat bacterial infections.
- Anticoagulants or antiplatelets, used to prevent blood clots.
- The contraceptive pill or hormone replacement therapy

If you are taking other medications for ITP e.g. steroids, these may be stopped or reduced when given together with avatrombopag.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

Pregnancy

Avatrombopag is not recommend during pregnancy. If you are pregnant or trying to get pregnant, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before starting avatrombopag. If you are a woman who could get pregnancy, you must use reliable contraception whilst this medicine. Contact your doctor straight away if you get pregnant whilst taking avatrombopag.

Breastfeeding

Avatrombopag is not recommend whilst breastfeeding. If you are breastfeeding or plan on breastfeeding, ask your doctor or pharmacist for advice before taking this medicine.

How to take avatrombopag

Avatrombopag should be swallowed whole with water and taken with food at the same time each day.

Before starting treatment, your doctor will measure your platelet count. The usual recommended starting dose is 20mg (one tablet) once a day. Your doctor will regularly check your platelet count and adjust your dose as needed.

A maximum dose of 40mg (two tablets) daily must not be exceeded. If you do not respond to treatment with avatrombopag, your doctor will stop treatment. Always use avatrombopag exactly how your doctor has told you.

Missed doses

If you forget to take avatrombopag, take your missed dose as soon as you remember, then take your next dose at the usual time. Do not double dose to make up for a forgotten dose.

If you take more avatrombopag than you should, call your doctor or pharmacist straight away or go to the nearest hospital emergency department.

Stopping treatment

Do not stop this medication unless your doctor tells you to. If you want to stop for any reason, please discuss this with your doctor. Be aware if you stop avatrombopag, a low platelet count may reoccur.

If you have any further questions about the use of this medicine, ask your doctor, pharmacist or nurse.

Feedback

Your feedback is important to us and helps us influence care in the future.

Following your discharge from hospital or attendance at your outpatient appointment you will receive a text asking if you would recommend our service to others. Please take the time to text back, you will not be charged for the text and can opt out at any point. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Further information

For Further information please contact **Clinical Haematology**

Contact Details: 0151 706 3397

Text phone number: 18001 0151 706 3397

Author: Clinical Haematology

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All Trust approved information is available on request in alternative formats, including other languages, easy read, large print, audio, Braille, moon and electronically.

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