

This factsheet provides more information about your treatment. You should read this alongside the Manufacturer's Patient information leaflet.

What is Linezolid and what is it used for?

Linezolid is an antibiotic that works by stopping the growth of certain bacteria (germs), such as staphylococcal bacteria, that can cause infections. It is used to treat a variety of infections such as skin infections or bone infections.

How do I take Linezolid?

The usual dose is one 600mg tablet to be taken twice daily (approximately 12 hours apart). Linezolid can be taken before, during or after food. How long you will need to take linezolid will depend on what infection you have, how well you respond to this antibiotic and your blood test results

Do I need to change my diet whilst on Linezolid?

Please try to avoid the food listed below (which naturally contains a substance called tyramine) during your course of treatment. Linezolid can interact with tyramine causing an increase in blood pressure

- Mature or aged cheeses, sour cream, yoghurt
- Liver, kidney, caviar, pickled herring, wild game e.g. venison, rabbit
- Yeast extracts, for example Marmite, Vegemite, Bovril, Oxo
- Fermented soya bean products, for example soy sauce
- Fermented or air dried meats, for example salami, pepperoni, Lebanon bologna
- Over-ripe fruits especially avocados and bananas, canned figs or dried fruits (raisins, prunes)
- Broad beans, peanuts
- More than 500g dark chocolates
- Draughts, beer, wine, sherry or liqueurs
- Protein supplements

If you suffer from a throbbing headache after eating, please inform the your OPAT team, GP or pharmacist

Can I take all of my current medicines with Linezolid?

The hospital team will check your regular medications to make sure they are safe to take alongside linezolid. Please ensure the hospital team are aware of all the medications you take or have recently taken, including those bought without a prescription including herbal or alternative medicines. It is important to mention if you are taking antidepressants, antiepileptics or antipsychotics

Before starting any new medication whilst taking linezolid, please check with either your GP, pharmacist or the OPAT team. Do not buy and use decongestant products e.g. Sudafed® or Otrivine® without consulting with a member of the healthcare team

Please also inform your GP and all other clinics you visit that linezolid treatment has started

What side effects could I experience on Linezolid?

Like all medicines, Linezolid has side effects. Common side effects of linezolid could include

- Fungal infections, especially vaginal or oral thrush
- Headaches
- Metallic taste in mouth
- Discolouration of tongue
- Diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting or stomach upset- *if this is severe or persistent, contact OPAT team immediately*
- Difficulty sleeping
- 'Pins and needles'-- *if this is severe or persistent, contact OPAT team immediately*
- Rashes

You may not suffer from any of these side effects but please inform the OPAT team or GP if you do experience any of the above.

In rare cases, **more serious side effects** can occur; these are more likely in prolonged treatment courses. If you notice any of the following symptoms, please contact the hospital team immediately:

- Changes to your eyesight, for example blurred vision, colour changes, difficulty in seeing detail or if your field of vision becomes restricted
- Severe allergic reaction, for example widespread rash, swelling, difficulty breathing or fast heartbeat
- Unexplained bleeding or bruising or blood in your stools; which may be due to changes in the numbers of certain cells in the blood which may affect blood clotting or lead to anaemia
- Severe throbbing headache

Whilst on Linezolid, how will I be monitored?

If you are on a prolonged course > 7days, you will need to attend the hospital for a weekly review, so that the OPAT team can take blood tests, assess your progress and ensure you are not experiencing any side effects

Why do I need a weekly blood test?

Linezolid can reduce the production of blood cells. This reduction in blood cells can make you more likely to have anaemia and may affect blood clotting. Having a weekly blood test will show up any reduction in blood cells. Again, this is usually the case if you are on a prolonged course >7 days

Where will I get further supplies of Linezolid from?

The OPAT team will organise weekly supplies of linezolid (This is usually for prolonged course >7 days)

What if I'm pregnant or breastfeeding?

You must inform your GP or OPAT team if you are, or think you could be, or are trying to get pregnant, or if you are breastfeeding