

Eltrombopag

Names	The generic name is eltrombopag (el-TROM-boe-pag) Promacta [®] . There may be other names for this medication.
How is Administered?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Eltrombopag comes as a tablet, which is taken by mouth once a day.• Take this medication on an empty stomach. Take it 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.• Swallow the tablets whole. Do not chew, crush, or break them.
Why am I Taking Eltrombopag?	This medication increases the platelet count in patients with chronic ITP (immune thrombocytopenic purpura).
How Does it Work?	<p>Eltrombopag is in a class of medications called <i>thrombopoietin receptor agonists</i>. Thrombopoietin is a protein that is made in the liver. It plays an important role in maturing platelet precursor cells into platelets.</p> <p>Eltrombopag binds to thrombopoietin and causes bone marrow cells to produce more platelets. Patients with ITP may see an increase in their platelet count 1-2 weeks after starting eltrombopag. It may take longer for patients taking it for an off-label use.</p>
What Should I Tell My Doctor Before I Begin?	<p>Tell your doctor if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• have had an allergic reaction to eltrombopag in the past• are taking any antacid medications (Maalox[®], Mylanta[®], Tums[®], Roloids[®], sucralfate /Carafate[®]) to prevent or manage heartburn or acid reflux (GERD)• are taking multivitamins or supplements that contain iron, calcium, aluminum, magnesium, selenium, or zinc• have, or have ever had, liver disease, a cataract, blood clots, bleeding problems, or kidney disease• are of East Asian ancestry (Chinese, Korean, Taiwanese, Japanese) – you may be started at a lower dose• had surgery to remove your spleen• use tobacco products• are pregnant or breastfeeding <p>This drug may interact with other medications or cause harmful side effects. Tell your doctor and pharmacist about <u>all</u> prescription or over-the-counter medications, vitamins, herbal, or diet supplements that you are taking.</p>

What Are Some Possible Side Effects?

- Nausea, vomiting, and/or diarrhea
- Increase in liver function tests – blood tests that monitor how well your liver is working
- Muscle or back pain
- Sore mouth or throat
- Headache
- Rash

Rare but serious side effects may include:

- Liver failure
- Bone marrow fibrosis is scarring of the bone marrow, which can theoretically increase your risk of leukemia later in life. If your blood counts worsen throughout treatment, a bone marrow biopsy may be done to look for marrow fibrosis.
- Blood clots were reported in patients taking higher doses and patients whose dose was not reduced based on platelet counts.
- Cataracts were seen in animal studies. A definite link between eltrombopag and cataracts has not been demonstrated in humans.

How Can I Manage These Side Effects?

- If you develop nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea, ask your doctor about medication to help prevent or treat these side effects.
- If you have a low platelet count, be aware that intercourse and other sexual activities may cause bleeding. Talk to your doctor or nurse about whether sexual activity is safe for you at this time. If intercourse is permitted, use a water-based lubricant and avoid forceful thrusting.
- Acetaminophen (Tylenol®) and ibuprofen (Motrin®) may help with discomfort from headache, and/or aches and pain **but talk to your doctor before taking any of these medications.**
- Do not put anything on a rash until your doctor gives permission.

Are there Medications and/or Foods I Should Avoid While Taking Eltrombopag?

- The following foods, vitamins, supplements, and medications must be taken more than 4 hours before or more than 4 hours after taking eltrombopag:
 - calcium rich foods (examples: dairy products such as milk, cheese, yogurt; sardines; dark leafy greens):
 - multivitamins and supplements that contain iron, calcium, aluminum, magnesium, selenium, or zinc
 - antacids
- Tell your doctor and pharmacist before starting any new medications

(prescription or over-the-counter), vitamins, or supplements.

- Acetaminophen should be used with caution while on eltrombopag due to risk of liver damage. Talk to your doctor.
- Alcohol should be limited or avoided altogether
- Remember, eltrombopag should be taken on an empty stomach so take it 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.

When Should I Call the Doctor?

Report any of the following to your doctor right away:

- any signs of liver failure: yellowing of the skin or the whites of the eyes (jaundice), unusual darkening of the urine, unusual tiredness, and/or pain in the right upper stomach area
- any signs of bleeding: abnormal bruising, dark colored stools, blood in the urine, or heavy menstrual periods
- nausea that is not relieved by prescribed medication and that interferes with your ability to eat
- vomiting more than 4-5 times in a 24 hour period
- diarrhea, 4-6 episodes in a 24-hour period

What Else Should I Know About Eltrombopag?

- The goal of eltrombopag therapy is not raise your platelet count to normal level; the goal is to increase platelets to a high enough level to minimize the risk of bleeding and the need for transfusions.
- Your doctor will make dosage adjustments depending on your platelet count. If your platelet count gets too high, your eltrombopag may be stopped, at least temporarily.
- Take eltrombopag at the same time every day. If you miss a dose, return to the usual schedule. Do **NOT** take two doses at the same time.
- If you develop heartburn, you may take over-the-counter antacid medications **but you must take them more than 4 hours before or 4 hours after taking eltrombopag**. Other options for managing heartburn that do not interact with eltrombopag include famotidine (Pepcid[®]) or ranitidine (Zantac[®]). Ask your doctor before taking any new medications.
- Use of eltrombopag is not recommended in pregnancy. If you are able to get pregnant, you are advised to use 2 separate methods of birth control during treatment.
- A program called Promacta CARES has been set up to be sure that eltrombopag is used safely. You, your doctor, and your pharmacy will need to enroll in this program. As part of the program, you will receive written information about the risks of taking eltrombopag, and you will need to sign a consent form.
- You will have regular blood tests during your treatment:
 - Initially, blood tests including platelet counts will be done every week. Once your platelet count is stable, you will need blood tests every month, at a minimum.

What Else Should
I Know About
Eltrombopag?
(cont)

- Your liver function will be assessed before starting eltrombopag and periodically throughout treatment. Though rare, this medication can cause serious liver damage. You must tell your doctor if you have any history of liver disease *before* you start eltrombopag.
- If you have questions about eltrombopag, talk to your doctor.