

Medical Oncology

Drug Information Sheet

Venetoclax (Venclexta): a drug to treat your cancer.

What should I avoid while receiving *Venetoclax (Venclexta)*?

- Do not eat Seville oranges (often used in marmalades).
- Do NOT use Echinacea.
- Do not eat grapefruit or drink grapefruit juice while taking *Venetoclax (Venclexta)*.
- Do not eat Star fruit.

Dose and Schedule:

- You will take this medicine by mouth.
 - Your doctor will start *Venetoclax (Venclexta)* at a low-dose. Your dose will be slowly increased up to the full dose. Read the Quick Start Guide that comes with *Venetoclax (Venclexta)* before your first dose.
 - *Venetoclax (Venclexta)* should be taken at the same time every day (morning or evening) with food and water.
 - Swallow the tablets whole with water. Do not crush, open, break, chew or dissolve the medicine in water.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.
 - If you have any unused *Venetoclax (Venclexta)*, do not throw it in the trash and do not flush it down the sink or toilet. Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about proper disposal of *Venetoclax (Venclexta)*.
 - *Venetoclax (Venclexta)* has many drug interactions. Tell your doctor all the prescription medicines, over-the-counter medicines, vitamins, and herbal products you are taking.
 - Your doctor may change your dose, briefly stop or completely stop treatment with *Venetoclax (Venclexta)* if you have side effects.
 - **DO NOT START A NEW CYCLE WITHOUT TALKING TO YOUR DOCTOR FIRST.**

If you miss a dose of *Venetoclax (Venclexta)*:

- Only take the missed dose if it has been less than eight hours since you were supposed to take it. Return to normal schedule the following day.
- If it has been more than 8 hours from the scheduled time you should have taken *Venetoclax (Venclexta)*, do NOT take the missed dose. Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time the next day.
- **Do not** take two doses at one time.
- If vomiting occurs after taking a dose, take the next dose at the scheduled time.
- Write down if you miss a dose and let your doctor know about any missed doses.

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Storage and Handling:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You will get this drug from a special pharmacy through the mail. We will help you through the process. • The drug must be kept in a secure place out of reach of children and pets, so no one else can take this drug. Never share <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> with anyone else. • Store <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> at room temperature in a dry place and away from light. Do not store in a bathroom. • Keep in original bottle: do NOT place tablets in a pill box. 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whenever possible, give <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> to yourself and follow the steps below. If a family member, friend or caregiver gives <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> to you, they also need to follow these steps ○ Wash hands with soap and water ○ Put on gloves to avoid touching the medicine (gloves are not needed if you give <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> to yourself). ○ Do not let women who are pregnant or who may get pregnant touch the tablets without wearing gloves. ○ Carefully remove <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> from its package to a small disposable cup. ○ Do not lay the medicine on the counter. ○ Take the medicine immediately by mouth with water. ○ Remove gloves and do not use them for anything else. ○ Throw gloves and disposable cup in household trash. ○ Wash hands with soap and water. ○ Do not touch or handle crushed or broken tablets. 	

You **MAY OR MAY NOT** experience the side effects listed below

Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<p>Increased risk for infection due to decreased blood counts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid contact with people who have infections, colds or flu. • Wash your hands often. • Report chills or a fever of 100.4° or higher to your doctor right away, day or night. • Report any signs or symptoms of infection, such as cough, burning with urination, skin redness or sores. • Call your doctor before taking any medicine for a fever or chills.
<p>Lower than normal red blood cells Anemia</p>	<p>Call you doctor if you have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ shortness of breath with activity ○ fatigue ○ dizziness ○ fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ headache

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
Increased risk for bleeding due to decreased blood counts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Report signs of bleeding or bruising. • Avoid taking aspirin or aspirin products unless your doctor tells you to take it. • Use soft toothbrush. • Use electric razor. • Talk to your doctor before any scheduled medical or dental procedures. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Severe headache. ○ Blood in stools or urine. ○ Bleeding for a long period. ○ Uncontrolled bleeding ○ Bruising
Fatigue or weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You may be more tired than usual or have less energy. • Stay as active as possible, but know it is okay to rest as needed. • Try to do some activity every day. • Plan your activities, and do them at a time of day when you feel more energetic. • Avoid driving or doing other tasks that call for you to be alert.
Nausea/vomiting Decreased appetite	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take nausea medicine as instructed. Let your doctor know if it is not working for you. • Eat smaller, frequent meals. • Try liquid nutrition supplements (Boost, Ensure). • A dietitian is available to talk with you.
Diarrhea	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep well hydrated with water or fluids. • Take over the counter anti-diarrhea medicine (Immodium A-D™ or loperamide HCL). Use the “<i>Helpful Tips for Diarrhea after Chemotherapy or Radiation Therapy</i>” instruction sheet. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ More than 4 loose stools in 24 hours ○ A fever of 100.4° or higher ○ bad stomach pain or cramps ○ dizziness or feel faint • bloody stools (dark, tarry or sticky)
Digoxin (lanoxin) dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are taking <i>Digoxin (lanoxin)</i>, talk with your doctor. You may need to have your blood work checked more closely while you are taking it with this medicine. • <i>Digoxin (Lanoxin)</i> must be given 6 hours before <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i>.
Coumadin (Warfarin) dosing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are taking Coumadin (warfarin), talk with your doctor. You may need to have your blood work checked more closely while you are taking it with this medicine.

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<p>Changes in electrolytes and other lab values</p> <p>Low albumin levels Low calcium levels High potassium levels Low sodium levels High glucose levels Low phosphorus level</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your lab values will be checked. • Call you doctor if you: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ have feelings of confusion ○ trouble focusing ○ have mood changes ○ are feeling more sleepy than normal ○ are more thirsty than normal ○ are more hungry than normal ○ pass urine more often than usual ○ have fast breathing ○ have breath that smells like fruit ○ have spasms, twitches or cramps of your muscles. ○ numbness or tingling in your fingers, toes or around your mouth ○ have changes in eyesight ○ have muscle pain or weakness ○ have shortness of breath or other breathing problems ○ have trouble swallowing ○ have a fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal ○ have nausea ○ have swelling in your legs or face ○ have skin that looks yellow ○ have a loss of appetite ○ have more than 4 loose stools in 24 hours ○ have a headache ○ have a change in balance
<p>Liver problems</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lab results will be monitored. • Call your doctor if you have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ dark urine (tea colored) ○ severe right sided stomach pain ○ light colored stools ○ bruising or if you start to bleed easily ○ yellowing of skin or eyes ○ severe nausea or throwing up ○ unexplained weight gain ○ your belly feels big or bloated

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Possible Side Effects:	What to do:
<p><i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i> will be in urine and stool for 48 hours.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caregivers will need to handle soiled linens and clothing wearing gloves or using a bag as a barrier. • Keep your soiled items separate from others' dirty laundry and wash right away. • Women who are pregnant should not handle your soiled clothing or linens. • Wash any skin that body waste has touched with soap and water. • You may use the same toilet that you normally use. • If the toilet or toilet seat becomes dirty with urine, stool or vomit, clean the surfaces before other people use the toilet • Wash hands with soap and water after using the toilet. • It is safe to hug and kiss.
<p>Avoid pregnancy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant. If you are pregnant or you get pregnant while taking this drug, call your doctor right away. • Use birth control that you can trust to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for one month after stopping this drug. • If you or your sex partner gets pregnant while taking this drug or within one month after stopping this drug, call your doctor right away. • May cause fertility problems.

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Less common side effects that may happen

Less common side effects	What to do:
Tumor Lysis Syndrome Caused by rapid tumor cell death	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drink 6 to 8 glasses (about 56 ounces total) of water each day. Start drinking this much 2 days before your first dose, on the day of your first dose of <i>Venetoclax (Venclexta)</i>. Do this each time your dose is increased.• Call your doctor right away if you:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ have a fast heartbeat or a heartbeat that does not feel normal○ pass out○ have trouble passing urine○ have muscle weakness or cramps○ have an upset stomach○ are throwing up○ have loose stools○ fever○ chills○ confusion○ shortness of breath○ seizure○ dark or cloudy urine○ unusual tiredness
These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your doctor.	