



## PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Eltrombopag

This information from Lexicomp® explains what you need to know about this medication, including what it's used for, how to take it, its side effects, and when to call your healthcare provider.

### **Brand Names: US**

Promacta

### **Brand Names: Canada**

Revolade

### **Warning**

- Very bad and sometimes deadly liver problems have happened with this drug. Call your child's doctor right away if your child has signs of liver problems like dark urine, feeling tired, not hungry, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- This drug may raise the risk of liver failure when taken with interferon and ribavirin in patients with hepatitis C. If your child's doctor tells you to stop giving your child interferon and ribavirin, your child will also need to stop taking this drug.

### **What is this drug used for?**

- It is used to raise platelet counts.
- It is used to treat immune thrombocytopenia (ITP).
- It is used to treat aplastic anemia.

### **What do I need to tell the doctor BEFORE my child takes this drug?**

- If your child has an allergy to this drug or any part of this drug.
- If your child is allergic to any drugs like this one or any other drugs, foods, or other substances. Tell the doctor about the allergy and what signs your child had, like rash; hives; itching; shortness of breath; wheezing; cough; swelling of face, lips, tongue, or throat; or any other signs.
- If your child has a low platelet count caused by some other health problems.

### **If your child is breast-feeding a baby:**

- Be sure your child does not breast-feed a baby while taking this drug.

This is not a list of all drugs or health problems that interact with this drug.

Tell the doctor and pharmacist about all of your child's drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for your child to take this drug with all of his/her drugs and health

problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug your child takes without checking with the doctor.

## **What are some things I need to know or do while my child takes this drug?**

- Tell all of your child's health care providers that your child is taking this drug. This includes your child's doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have blood work checked as you have been told by the doctor. Talk with the doctor.
- Do not stop giving this drug to your child without calling the doctor. Your child may have a greater risk of very low platelets and bleeding. If your child needs to stop this drug, talk with the doctor.
- This drug may make cataracts worse or may raise the chance of new cataracts. Talk with the doctor.
- Get your child an eye exam as you have been told by the doctor.
- If your child is of East Asian descent, talk with the doctor.
- Blood clots have happened with this drug. Sometimes, blood clots like heart attack and stroke have been deadly. Talk with the doctor.
- Use care to prevent your child from getting hurt and have your child avoid falls or crashes.
- This drug is not for use in people with a certain bone marrow problem called myelodysplastic syndrome (MDS). If

your child has MDS and takes this drug, MDS may get worse and turn into a type of blood cancer called acute myelogenous leukemia (AML). If MDS turns into AML, your child could die sooner from AML. If your child has MDS, talk with your child's doctor.

### **If your child is or may be sexually active:**

- Have your child use birth control to prevent pregnancy while taking this drug and for 1 week after stopping this drug.

### **If your child is pregnant:**

- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby if your child takes it during pregnancy.
- If your child gets pregnant while taking this drug or within 1 week after her last dose, call the doctor right away.

### **What are some side effects that I need to call my child's doctor about right away?**

**WARNING/CAUTION:** Even though it may be rare, some people may have very bad and sometimes deadly side effects when taking a drug. Tell your child's doctor or get medical help right away if your child has any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

- Signs of an allergic reaction, like rash; hives; itching; red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin with or without fever; wheezing; tightness in the chest or throat; trouble

breathing, swallowing, or talking; unusual hoarseness; or swelling of the mouth, face, lips, tongue, or throat.

- Signs of a urinary tract infection (UTI) like blood in the urine, burning or pain when passing urine, feeling the need to pass urine often or right away, fever, lower stomach pain, or pelvic pain.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Very bad belly pain.
- Weakness on 1 side of the body, trouble speaking or thinking, change in balance, drooping on one side of the face, or blurred eyesight.
- Change in eyesight, eye pain, or very bad eye irritation.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not normal.
- Very upset stomach or throwing up.
- Severe diarrhea.
- Any bruising or bleeding while you take and after you stop taking this drug.
- Very bad mouth pain or irritation.
- Feeling confused.
- Swelling of belly.
- Swelling in the arms or legs.
- Fever or chills.
- Call the doctor right away if your child has signs of a blood

clot like chest pain or pressure; coughing up blood; shortness of breath; swelling, warmth, numbness, change of color, or pain in a leg or arm; or trouble speaking or swallowing.

### **What are some other side effects of this drug?**

All drugs may cause side effects. However, many people have no side effects or only have minor side effects. Call your child's doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother your child or do not go away:

- Headache.
- Not able to sleep.
- Itching.
- Not hungry.
- Flu-like signs.
- Upset stomach or throwing up.
- Diarrhea.
- Feeling tired or weak.
- Cough.
- Muscle or joint pain.
- Runny nose.
- Stuffy nose.
- Sneezing.
- Hair loss.
- Dizziness.

- Muscle spasm.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Belly pain.
- Tooth pain.
- Change in color of skin.

These are not all of the side effects that may occur. If you have questions about side effects, call your child's doctor. Call your child's doctor for medical advice about side effects.

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

### **How is this drug best given?**

Give this drug as ordered by your child's doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

### **All products:**

- Give this drug on an empty stomach. Give at least 1 hour before or 2 hours after a meal.
- Give this drug at least 2 hours before or 4 hours after any antacids; dairy products or other foods with calcium in them; or products that have calcium, iron, aluminum, magnesium, selenium, or zinc.

### **Tablets:**

- Have your child swallow whole. Do not let your child chew, break, or crush.

- Do not mix with food or drinks.

## **Powder for suspension:**

- Before using, be sure you know how to mix and measure the dose of this drug. Talk with the doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- This drug comes with oral dosing syringes. Each syringe is for one use only. Throw syringe away after use. Do not use the same syringe more than one time.
- Mix powder with water only as you have been told.
- Do not use hot water to mix this drug.
- Give your child the dose within 30 minutes after mixing. Throw away any part not used within 30 minutes of mixing.

## **What do I do if my child misses a dose?**

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your child's normal time.
- Do not give 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

## **How do I store and/or throw out this drug?**

### **All products:**

- Store at room temperature.
- Store in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep all drugs in a safe place. Keep all drugs out of the reach of children and pets.



- Throw away unused or expired drugs. Do not flush down a toilet or pour down a drain unless you are told to do so. Check with your pharmacist if you have questions about the best way to throw out drugs. There may be drug take-back programs in your area.

## **Tablets:**

- Store in the original container. Do not take out the antimoisture cube or packet.

## **General drug facts**

- If your child's symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your child's doctor.
- Do not share your child's drug with others and do not give anyone else's drug to your child.
- Keep a list of all your child's drugs (prescription, natural products, vitamins, OTC) with you. Give this list to your child's doctor.
- Talk with your child's doctor before giving your child any new drug, including prescription or OTC, natural products, or vitamins.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your child's doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- If you think there has been an overdose, call your poison

control center or get medical care right away. Be ready to tell or show what was taken, how much, and when it happened.

## **Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer**

This information should not be used to decide whether or not to take this medicine or any other medicine. Only the healthcare provider has the knowledge and training to decide which medicines are right for a specific patient. This information does not endorse any medicine as safe, effective, or approved for treating any patient or health condition. This is only a brief summary of general information about this medicine. It does NOT include all information about the possible uses, directions, warnings, precautions, interactions, adverse effects, or risks that may apply to this medicine. This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from the healthcare provider. You must talk with the healthcare provider for complete information about the risks and benefits of using this medicine.

## **Last Reviewed Date**

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If you have any questions, contact a member of your healthcare team directly. If you're a patient at MSK and you need to reach a provider after 5:00 PM, during the weekend, or on a holiday, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit [www.mskcc.org/pe](http://www.mskcc.org/pe) to search our virtual library.

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