Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Lenacapavir

This information from UpToDate® Lexidrug™ 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

Sunlenca; Yeztugo

Brand Names: Canada

Sunlenca

Warning
For HIV negative patients taking this drug to lower the chance of getting HIV through sex:

- You must have a negative HIV test before taking this drug and before every injection. Tell your doctor if you think you have been exposed to HIV. Call your doctor right away if you have flu-like signs, fever, headache, tiredness, joint or muscle aches, throwing up, diarrhea, sore throat, rash, night sweats, or swollen glands. Call your doctor right away if you had any of these signs within 1 month before you start taking this drug.

What is this drug used for?

Sunlenca:

- It is used to treat HIV infection.
- It is used when starting treatment with another HIV drug called *Bixlenvo* (bictegravir and lenacapavir).

Yeztugo:

- It is used in HIV negative patients to lower the chance of getting HIV infection through sex.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take this drug?
For all patients taking this drug:

- If you are allergic to this drug; any part of this drug; or any other drugs, foods, or substances. Tell your doctor about the allergy and what signs you had.
- If you take any drugs (prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) that must not be taken with this drug, like certain drugs that are used for HIV, infections, seizures, and others. There are many drugs that must not be taken with this drug.

For patients taking this drug to treat HIV infection:

- If you are pregnant, may become pregnant, or are breast-feeding. Before taking this drug, you will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby. You will also need to talk about the best way to prevent passing HIV to the baby.

For HIV negative patients taking this drug to lower the chance of getting HIV through sex:

- If you have not been tested for HIV.

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

Tell your doctor and pharmacist about all of your drugs

(prescription or OTC, natural products, vitamins) and health problems. You must check to make sure that it is safe for you to take this drug with all of your drugs and health problems. Do not start, stop, or change the dose of any drug without checking with your doctor.

What are some things I need to know or do while I take this drug?

For all patients taking this drug:

- Tell all of your health care providers that you take this drug. This includes your doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists.
- Have your blood work and other lab tests checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- If you stop taking this drug, it will stay in your body for up to 9 months after your last dose. Before you start, stop, or change the dose of any other drug, tell your doctor when you stopped taking this drug.

For patients taking this drug to treat HIV infection:

- This drug is not a cure for HIV. Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well. Be sure to stay under the care of your doctor and have regular appointments.
- This drug helps to lower how much HIV is in the blood.

Lowering the amount of HIV in the blood until it is not detected on blood tests can help lower the risk of spreading HIV to others. There are also other ways to help prevent the spread of HIV to others. This includes using condoms during sex and not sharing needles and other injection equipment. Talk with your doctor or other health care provider about the best way to prevent spreading HIV to others.

- Changes in your immune system can happen when you start taking drugs to treat HIV. If you have an infection that you did not know you had, it may show up when you take this drug. Tell your doctor right away if you have any new signs after you start this drug, even after taking it for several months. This includes signs of infection like fever, sore throat, weakness, cough, or shortness of breath.

For HIV negative patients taking this drug to lower the chance of getting HIV through sex:

- This drug does not always prevent HIV. It needs to be used as part of a program that has other measures to help prevent HIV. This includes safer sex habits like using condoms, testing for diseases passed by having sex, and talking with sex partners who have HIV about their HIV treatment. Talk with the doctor for more information.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant, plan on getting

pregnant, or are breast-feeding. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks to you and the baby.

What are some side effects that I need to call my 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 doctor or get medical help right away if you have any of the following signs or symptoms that may be related to a very bad side effect:

All products:

- 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.

Injection:

- Reactions may happen where the injection is given. These include pain, redness, itching, swelling, a hard area, or a small lump. Hard skin or lumps may take longer to go away than other reactions and may not get better on their own. Tell your doctor if you have a reaction where the injection is given.
- Tell your doctor right away if you get an open sore or

your skin changes color where the injection was given.

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 doctor or get medical help if any of these side effects or any other side effects bother you or do not go away:

- Upset stomach.
- Headache.

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

You may report side effects to your national health agency.

You may report side effects to the FDA at 1- 800-332-1088. You may also report side effects at https://www.fda.gov/medwatch.

How is this drug best taken?

Use this drug as ordered by your doctor. Read all information given to you. Follow all instructions closely.

Tablets:

- Take with or without food.
- Be sure you know how to take this drug. Talk with your doctor if you have questions.

Injection:

- It is given as a shot into the fatty part of the skin in the belly area.

All products:

- It is important that you do not miss or skip a dose of this drug during treatment.

What do I do if I miss a dose?
All products:

- If you are not sure what to do if you miss a dose, call your doctor.

Injection:

- If you know you will need to miss your planned appointment, talk with your doctor about your treatment options.

If taking Sunlenca tablets at the start of treatment with Bixlenvo:

- If you miss a dose of *Sunlenca* on Day 1 or Day 2, take the missed dose as soon as possible. Do not take the Day 1 and Day 2 doses of *Sunlenca* on the same day.

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

Tablets:

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Store this drug in the original bottle or blister pack that it comes in.
- The blister pack may also have a desiccant in it to help keep the drug dry. Do not eat or swallow the desiccant.
- If this drug comes in a bottle, keep the lid tightly closed. The bottle has a desiccant packet in it to keep the drug dry, and also a polyester coil. Do not eat these. Keep the desiccant in the bottle.

Injection:

- If you need to store this drug at home, talk with your doctor, nurse, or pharmacist about how to store it.

All products:

- 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.

General drug facts

- If your symptoms or health problems do not get better or if they become worse, call your doctor.
- Do not share your drugs with others and do not take anyone else's drugs.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or other health care provider.
- Some drugs may have another patient information leaflet. Check with your pharmacist. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with your 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 generalized information is a limited summary of diagnosis, treatment, and/or medication information. It is not meant to be comprehensive and should be used as a tool to help the user understand and/or assess potential diagnostic and treatment options. It does NOT include all information about conditions, treatments, medications, side effects, or risks that may apply to a specific patient. It is not intended to be medical advice or a substitute for the medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment of a health care provider based on the health care provider's examination and assessment of a patient's specific and unique circumstances. Patients must speak with a health care provider for complete information about their health, medical questions, and treatment options, including any risks or benefits regarding use of medications. This information does not endorse any treatments or medications as safe, effective, or approved for treating a specific patient. UpToDate, Inc. and its affiliates disclaim any warranty or liability relating to this information or the use thereof. The use of this information is governed by the Terms of Use, available at https://www.wolterskluwer.com/en/know/clinical-

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If you have questions or concerns, contact your healthcare provider. A member of your care team will answer Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Outside those hours, you can leave a message or talk with another MSK provider. There is always a doctor or nurse on call. If you're not sure how to reach your healthcare provider, call 212-639-2000.

For more resources, visit www.mskcc.org/pe to search our virtual library.

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