Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Lomitapide

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

Juxtapid

Brand Names: Canada

Juxtapid

Warning

- This drug may cause liver problems in some patients. Blood tests will be needed to watch for any liver problems. Talk with the doctor.

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to lower cholesterol.

What do I need to tell my doctor BEFORE I take 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 have liver disease or raised liver enzymes.
- If you have been told that your body has problems with certain sugars (lactose, glucose, galactose).

- 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, depression, and others. There are many drugs that must not be taken with this drug. Your doctor or pharmacist can tell you if you are taking a drug that must not be taken with this drug.
- If you are pregnant or may be pregnant. Do not take this drug if you are pregnant.
- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug.

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?

- 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.
- Follow the diet and exercise plan that your doctor told you about.
- A low-fat diet may help lower the risk of stomach problems. Keep to a diet of less than 20% energy from fat or less than 30 grams of fat, whichever is less. Talk with your doctor.
- You may need to take certain supplements like vitamin E and fatty acids while taking this drug. Be sure to follow what your doctor has told you.
- Avoid grapefruit and grapefruit juice.
- Talk with your doctor before you drink alcohol. Do not drink more than 1 alcoholic drink per day.

- Do not take colesevelam, colestipol, or cholestyramine within 4 hours before or 4 hours after taking this drug.
- If you have diarrhea or are throwing up, other drugs taken by mouth may not get into your body as well. If you take birth control pills, you will need to use an extra kind of birth control like a condom for 7 days after diarrhea or throwing up stops. If you have questions, talk with your doctor.
- If you are 65 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- If the patient is a child below the tenth percentile of height, weight, or body mass index (BMI), they may need regular growth checks. Talk with the doctor.
- This drug may cause harm to an unborn baby. A pregnancy test will be done before you start this drug to show that you are NOT pregnant.
- If you may become pregnant, use birth control while taking this drug and for 2 weeks after the last dose unless you have been told otherwise. Be sure you know how long to use birth control. If you get pregnant, call your doctor right away.

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:

- 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 liver problems like dark urine, tiredness, decreased appetite, upset stomach or stomach pain, light-colored stools, throwing up, or yellow skin or eyes.
- Chest pain.

- Abnormal heartbeat.
- Flu-like signs.
- Feeling of needing to have a bowel movement often.
- Feeling of having an urgent need to have a bowel movement.
- Sometimes, very bad diarrhea has led to the need to go to the hospital. Call your doctor right away if you have very bad diarrhea or diarrhea that will not go away. Call your doctor right away if you have signs of dehydration like very bad dizziness or passing out, not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed, or feeling very tired.

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:

- Stomach cramps.
- Bloating.
- Feeling dizzy, tired, or weak.
- Gas.
- Constipation.
- Heartburn.
- Weight loss.
- Back pain.
- Nose or throat irritation.
- Headache.
- It is common to have diarrhea, upset stomach, throwing up, and stomach pain with this drug. A low-fat diet may help lower the chance of having these side effects. Call your doctor if any of these side effects is severe, bothers you, or does not go away.

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.

- Take at least 2 hours after the evening meal.
- Do not take with food. It may cause an upset stomach.
- Swallow whole with water.
- If you cannot swallow this drug whole, open the capsule and sprinkle the contents on 1 tablespoon (15 mL) applesauce or mashed banana.

What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.
- If the drug is stopped for more than 1 week, talk with the doctor.

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

- Store at room temperature in a dry place. Do not store in a bathroom.
- Keep lid tightly closed.
- 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.
- This drug comes with an extra patient fact sheet called a Medication Guide. Read it with care. Read it again each time this drug is refilled. If you have any questions about this drug, please talk with the doctor, 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.

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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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