PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

# Teriflunomide

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

Aubagio

## Brand Names: Canada

ACH-Teriflunomide [DSC]; APO-Teriflunomide; Aubagio [DSC]; JAMP-Teriflunomide; M-Teriflunomide; MAR-Teriflunomide [DSC]; NAT-Teriflunomide; PMS-Teriflunomide; SANDOZ Teriflunomide; TEVA-Teriflunomide

## Warning

- Severe liver problems have happened with this drug. Sometimes, this has been life-threatening and needed a liver transplant. Tell your doctor if you have liver problems. This drug must not be used in people with certain liver problems. Have your liver function

checked as you were told by your doctor.

- Tell your doctor if you are taking any drugs that can raise the chance of liver problems. There are many drugs that can do this. Ask your doctor or pharmacist if you are not sure.
- This drug may cause harm to the unborn baby or loss of the unborn baby if you take it while you are pregnant.
- Do not take this drug if you are pregnant. A pregnancy test will be done to show that you are NOT pregnant before starting this drug.
- Do not take this drug if you are able to get pregnant and are not using effective birth control to prevent pregnancy. You must use birth control while taking this drug and for 2 years after the last dose. You will need to have blood tests showing that your body is free of teriflunomide before you stop taking birth control. If you get pregnant while taking this drug or within 2 years after your last dose, call your doctor right away.
- If your sex partner may get pregnant, you must use birth control while taking this drug and for 2 years after the last dose. You will need to have blood tests showing that your body is free of teriflunomide

before you stop using birth control. Call the doctor right away if your partner gets pregnant.

- If you or your sex partner plan to get pregnant within 2 years after you stop taking this drug, talk with your doctor. There is a process that can be used to lower levels of teriflunomide in your body more quickly.

## What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat MS (multiple sclerosis).

## 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 a weak immune system.
- If you have any of these health problems: Bone marrow disease (like low white blood cell count, low platelet count, or anemia).
- If you have an infection.
- If you are taking leflunomide.
- 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.
- High blood pressure has happened with this drug. Have your blood pressure checked as you have been told by your doctor.
- You may have more of a chance of getting an infection. Some infections have been severe or deadly. Wash hands often. Stay away from people with infections, colds, or flu.
- You may bleed more easily. Be careful and avoid injury. Use a soft toothbrush and an electric razor.

- You will need a TB (tuberculosis) test before starting this drug.
- Talk with your doctor before getting any vaccines while you take this drug and for 6 months after you stop taking it. Vaccine use with this drug may either raise the chance of an infection or make the vaccine not work as well.
- This drug may affect how wounds heal. If you need to have surgery, you may need to stop this drug before surgery. Start taking it again after surgery as you have been told by your doctor. Call your doctor right away if you have a wound that does not heal or any other wound problems.
- This drug may lower how well the immune system works. Drugs that do this may raise the risk of certain types of cancer. If you have questions, talk with the doctor.
- Nerve problems have happened with this drug. Most of the time, these nerve problems went away after this drug was stopped. Sometimes, people had nerve problems that did not go away even after this drug was stopped. Talk with the doctor.
- A pancreas problem (pancreatitis) has rarely happened with this drug. The risk of pancreatitis may be higher in children. This drug is not approved for use in children. If you have questions about the risk of pancreatitis, talk

with the doctor.

- If you are 60 or older, use this drug with care. You could have more side effects.
- If your sex partner plans to get pregnant, talk with your doctor.
- If you miss a period, have unprotected sex, or think that your birth control has not worked, 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.
- Signs of high blood pressure like very bad headache or

dizziness, passing out, or change in eyesight.

- Signs of bleeding like throwing up or coughing up blood; vomit that looks like coffee grounds; blood in the urine; black, red, or tarry stools; bleeding from the gums; abnormal vaginal bleeding; bruises without a cause or that get bigger; or bleeding you cannot stop.
- Signs of infection like fever, chills, very bad sore throat, ear or sinus pain, cough, more sputum or change in color of sputum, pain with passing urine, mouth sores, or wound that will not heal.
- Signs of low phosphate levels like change in eyesight, feeling confused, mood changes, muscle pain or weakness, shortness of breath or other breathing problems, or trouble swallowing.
- Signs of lung or breathing problems like shortness of breath or other trouble breathing, cough, or fever.
- Feeling very tired or weak.
- Very bad muscle pain.
- Not able to pass urine or change in how much urine is passed.
- Shortness of breath, a big weight gain, or swelling in the arms or legs.
- A burning, numbness, or tingling feeling that is not

normal.

- Ulcer of the skin, eyes, nose, mouth, lips, or genitals.
- Severe skin reactions may happen with this drug. These include Stevens-Johnson syndrome (SJS), toxic epidermal necrolysis (TEN), and other serious reactions. Sometimes, body organs may also be affected. These reactions can be deadly. Get medical help right away if you have signs like red, swollen, blistered, or peeling skin; red or irritated eyes; sores in your mouth, throat, nose, eyes, genitals, or any areas of skin; fever; chills; body aches; shortness of breath; or swollen glands.

**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:

- Headache.
- Upset stomach.
- Diarrhea.
- Hair thinning or loss.
- Joint pain.

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 with or without food.
- Keep taking this drug as you have been told by your doctor or other health care provider, even if you feel well.

## What do I do if I miss a dose?

- Take a missed dose as soon as you think about it.
- If it is close to the time for your next dose, skip the missed dose and go back to your normal time.
- Do not take 2 doses at the same time or extra doses.

## 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 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.

## 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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## Last Reviewed Date

2026-03-16

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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.

Teriflunomide - Last updated on December 12, 2022
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