



PATIENT & CAREGIVER EDUCATION

Tegaserod

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

Zelnorm

What is this drug used for?

- It is used to treat irritable bowel syndrome with constipation (IBS-C).

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 any of these health problems: Kidney disease or liver disease.
- If you currently have diarrhea or you have diarrhea often.
- If you have ever had any of these health problems: Chest pain (angina), heart attack, stroke, or transient ischemic attack (TIA).
- If you have ever had any of these health problems: A problem with your sphincter of Oddi (the part of your body that controls the flow

of bile and pancreas juice to the bowel), blood flow problems in the bowel, bowel block, gallbladder disease, or scar tissue in the abdomen.

- If you are breast-feeding. Do not breast-feed while you take this drug.
- If you are a male. This drug is not approved for use in males.

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.
- Tell your doctor if you are pregnant or plan on getting pregnant. You will need to talk about the benefits and risks of using this drug while you are pregnant.

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.
- Diarrhea is common with this drug. Severe diarrhea can cause dehydration, low blood pressure, and passing out. Sometimes, people have had to go to the hospital. Call your doctor right away if you have severe diarrhea, dizziness, or passing out.
- Severe bowel problems caused by low blood flow to the bowels (ischemic colitis) have happened with this drug. Sometimes, people have had to go to the hospital. Call your doctor right away if you have rectal bleeding, bloody diarrhea, or stomach pain that is new or worse.
- Heart attacks and strokes have happened with this drug. Sometimes, these have been deadly. The chance may be higher if you have heart problems, high blood pressure, high cholesterol levels, or if you have ever had diabetes. The chance may also be higher if you are 55 years of age or older, overweight, or smoke. Get medical help right away if you have chest pain or pressure; shortness of breath; sweating; upset stomach or throwing up; numbness or weakness on 1 side of the body; severe headache; trouble speaking or thinking; change in balance; drooping on 1 side

of the face; or change in eyesight.

- This drug may raise the risk of suicidal thoughts or actions. The risk may be greater in people taking drugs for depression. Watch people who take this drug closely. Call your doctor right away if you have new or worse behavior or mood changes like depression or thoughts of suicide.

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:

- Dizziness or headache.
- Stomach pain or diarrhea.
- Upset stomach.
- Gas.

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 this drug at least 30 minutes before meals.
- 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

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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 to search our virtual library.

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